

# West Australian Railscene e-Mag

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West Australian Railscene e-Mag is published weekly by Jim Bisdee on rail happenings on West Australian Railroads

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Heavy lift ship BBC Nile approaching berth P at Lamberts Point Dock Norfolk Virginia March 28th to load 12 Rio Tinto ES44DCi locomotives with 9 already positioned on the dock. Photo Ian White

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The 85km Karara line from Tilley just north of Morawa to Karara mine site built to standard gauge with dual gauge sleepers has been regauged from 1435mm to 1067mm to enable Karara Mining ore trains to run from mid year. This line could easily be dual gauged when the Oakagee Project comes on stream allowing huge Pilbara size ore trains to run on this heavy duty line.

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The upgrading and rebuilding of Narngulu Mullewa and Mullewa Tilley lines continues with large sections of both lines having been completed being laid with dual gauge concrete sleepers and 60kg rail. On the Mullewa Tilley line tracklaying is well underway on the new alignment in Wilroy area with it proceeding northwards to Monger loop just south of Mullewa. Two ballast trains are working in this section one loading at Tardun the other at Gutha and are operating seven days a week.



6004, 6008 & VL361 its delivery run to Watco on 2MP1 QRN intermodal service at Stratton March 28th.



VL361, 6008 & 6004 on 2MP1 QRN intermodal at Stratton at dawn on 28/03. Both photos Simon Barber



Laying cables and placing signal bases for the CTC to be installed on Geraldton Port, Narngulu and on to the Mullewa line is now underway. Duplication of line out of Geraldton Port and through the tunnel has been completed and commissioned with a third track being laid on the breakwater. Ballasting of balloon loop and building loco sheds and service facilities is well advanced at Narngulu East yard. Upgrading the line from Northern Gully to Narngulu has nearly reached Narngulu and work on upgrading line east of Northern Gully to Eredu some 15kms will commence soon this is the final section of the line to be upgraded as Mullewa to Eredu is already completed.



ACN4141, ACN4146 & DD2357 on 3251 light engines at Mundijong March 20th.

Photo Jim Bisdee

ACA6011 was hauled from UGR Bassendean to QRN Forrestfield by LZ3114 on 5154 light engines March 28th for commissioning following completion of modifications to suit WA conditions.

In an effort to reduce near misses and fatalities on the suburban system where people are taking incredible risks like jumping barriers and running across in front of trains. This campaign on facebook and other social media will concentrate on the effect a near miss or fatality has on train drivers and other railroad staff like security. There are interviews with drivers and others who have been involved in fatalities on the suburban system. A video "Risk of death crossing tracks" is at: [www.thewest.com.au](http://www.thewest.com.au)

ADG612 that had been stored on the line that runs through a car park in Yelverton Street Midland, then on the neck of dual gauge Midland loop has been moved. DAZ1906 ran light engine from Forrestfield and hauled ADG612 to RHWA Museum at Bassendean in early hours of March 26th.





AB1502, AD1521 & DAZ1905 on 1322 grain train at Jandakot March 25th.

Photo Simon Barber



L3113 & DC2213 on 5443 Esperance freight of 9 ballast cars and empty fuel tankers in West Kalgoorlie yard about to depart March 29th, DC2213 and ballast cars will be detached en route. Photo Peter Donaghy





Q4003 & ACB4405 on 5416 empty ore train at Bindulli March 29th.

Photo Peter Donaghy



DBZ2308 & DD2358 stabled in Albany yards March 25th.

Photo DeeJay Page





DBZ2312 & P2509 on 5672 grain about to enter CBH terminal Albany March 22nd. Photo Stew Winston



KA212 on ballast train stabled in Goomalling Yard March 23rd. Photo Alex Mackay





Preparations to install CTC near Northern Gully on Mullewa line March 26th.

Photo Jim Bisdee



New formation and present Mullewa Perenjori line at Wilroy on March 26th.

Photo Jim Bisdee

Rio Tinto HD4R expansion project will see Bellbird Siding Expansion Project commissioned from 3rd to 6th May. This includes extending the current loop by 2.5km and installing mid blocks at the half way point to allow up to four trains to be held there. Rosella expansion will be commissioned in early August that will coincide with the total closure of Rio network south of Western Junction for 36 hours. At this time both car dumpers East Intercourse Island and Parker Point will shut down for five days to undertake maintenance. Lang Hancock Railway to Hope Downs 4 mine is well underway with earthworks being undertaken and bridge building to commence soon.



LDP003 with online fuel tanks runs 7PM1 QRN intermodal at Swan View March 24th. Photo Simon Barber

AB1502 failed at Ballidu March 26th on 2322 grain DAZ1905 and AD 1521 were able to load the grain train at CBH grain bins but would not have been able to haul the train through to Avon Yard. DAZ1906 was stabled at narrow gauge loco Forrestfield a crew worked DAZ1906 as 3323 light engine some 180kms to Ballidu to rescue the service on 27th. Ran as 4322 grain on 28th DAZ1906, DAZ1905, AD1521 dead attached AB1502 with 50 loaded XW grain wagons to Avon where AD and AB were detached. DAZ1906 & DAZ1905 ran 4322 grain to CBH Kwinana terminal to unload.

VL361 was hauled dead behind 6008 & 6004 on QRN intermodal 2MP1 to Forrestfield arriving on morning of March 28th with it being detached and stabled on loco ladder Forrestfield. VL357 was undergoing routine maintenance at Gemco Forrestfield following completion on 29th was coupled with VL361 running 5WG2 light engine to CBH Kwinana. Watco now had two locomotives available for use in WA and with CBH intention to commence operations as soon as possible a 50 wagon [25 CBHS 2xpacks] was assembled. Watco ran its first revenue service from CBH Kwinana to CBH Merredin transfer facility on March 30th departing Kwinana in the morning running to Merredin loading returning late at night to Kwinana to unload.





ACB4403 DPU unit on 5416 empty ore at Binduli on March 29th.

Photo Peter Donaghy



Q4006 on 2474 salt train at Thornlie March 12th.

Photo Brendan Cherry





AC4301 & ACA6002 on 7030 iron ore train at Swan View March 24th.

Photo Brendan Cherry



G534, L3116 & dead LDP003 on 6PM1 QRN intermodal at Herne Hill Match 23rd.

Photo Simon Barber





AB1504 hauls failed DAZ1904 and XU wagon on 7376 at Swan View March 24th. Photo Simon Barber



Earthworks for Lang Hancock Railway to Hope Downs 4 on March 27th. Photo Chris Fitzhardinge





Location of new junction to Hope Downs 4 mine right at yard limit of Hope Downs 1 mine site March 27th.



Location of the 60 metre long Weeli Woli Creek Bridge to be built over the Weeli Woli Creek on the Hope Downs 4 extension on March 27th.

Both photos Chris Fitzhardinge



ACN4170 and ACN4171 final two 4100 type locomotives of the initial allocation of 14 locomotives to come to West Australia was hauled to Acacia Ridge from builders Downer EDI Rail at Maryborough Queensland on March 27th. These two locomotives will be hauled to QR Redbank Workshops for modification to suit West Australian conditions then hauled by road across Australia to QR's WA operations.



VL357 & VL361 haul 6WG3 first Watco grain train at Woodbridge on March 30th.

Photo Jim Bisdee

DBZ2312 & P2509 are working grain fleet between CBH Albany export terminal and Cranbrook each day with the fleet of high capacity XT grain hoppers. DD2356 was in workshops from March 19th with DD2358 and DBZ2308 running the 18 wagon woodchip train to Redmond. These two locomotives worked the woodchip service till the 30th while DD2356 was under repair with DD2356 resuming running on woodchip service with DD2358 on 30th.

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