

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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FMG SD9043MAC 906 on loaded ballast train approaching Barker siding April 27th. Photo Don Copley

An association between grain handler CBH [Cooperative Bulk Handling] and state railway operator which commenced over 80 years ago officially ended on April 30th. This grain haulage at first undertaken by WAGR and refined over the years into a very efficient bulk train operation that continued after freight rail network was sold. CBH put the grain haulage task out to contract that was secured by Watco WA Rail Pty Ltd who took over the grain haulage task on May 1st. QR National ran grain trains out of Geraldton, Albany and Avon Yard on the final day a service running to Mingenew from Geraldton, to Cranbrook from Albany, to Brookton, to York, and to Kalamie with a standard gauge grain train loading at Avon. Following unloading all the narrow gauge grain trains ran to Avon Yard to stable on the 30th with the standard gauge grain train being hauled empty to Avon on the 1st with the Geraldton fleet running empty to Forrestfield then on to Avon also on the 1st. The end of QRN hauling grain for CBH doesn't mean that QRN will no longer haul grain in WA. The CBH monopoly on handling of grain was found to be uncompetitive and CBH was stripped of its monopoly, this is before the courts on appeal. Depending on the outcome of this appeal is the long term future of QRN hauling grain. If CBH losses their appeal QRN will be able to offer its services to other grain traders in the state.



Narrow gauge grain wagon being unloaded from Pine 6 at #4 Bulk Cargo Jetty 26/04.

Photo Jim Bisdee



Narrow gauge grain wagon getting hauled to CBH Kwinana for commissioning 26/4.

Photo Jim Bisdee



LZ3109 on 1142 container train at Thornlie April 29th.

Photo Brendan Cherry



CW44-9W 4072 on loaded ballast train stabled at Wickam April 25th.

Photo Don Copley



4328 & 5656 with DPU units 5354 & 5638 on loaded ore train at Port Hedland 24/4. Photo Don Copley



AC4305 at Thornlie on 1175 empty ore cars to wagon repair Kwinana April 29th. Photo Brendan Cherry



P2511 & P2504 on 1342 grain train at Thornlie April 29th.

Photo Brendan Cherry



LZ3106 on #3 standard gauge shunter shunting 3PM1 QRN intermodal April 24th

Photo Justin Brown



VL361 & VL357 on 4WG3 empty Watco grain at Meckering April 25th.

Photo Justin Brown



G516 & CLP11 on 2MP1 QRN intermodal passing NA1874 & RL309 Parkeston 2/5. Photo Peter Donaghy



AC4303 on 4C74 empty lime cement shunter to West Kalgoorlie passing G516 refuelling on 2MP1 QRN intermodal at Parkeston May 2nd. Photo Peter Donaghy



P2504 & P2511 on 5363 empty grain train at Chitibin April 19th. Photo Simon Barber



LQ3121 on 5474 salt train at Toodyay April 19th.

Photo Simon Barber



P2505 & P2517 on 2302 grain train at Woodbridge April 30th.

Photo Jim Bisdee



P2507 & P2506 on 2342 grain train at Katrine April 30th.

Photo Jim Bisdee



LZ3106 on 7142 container train at North Port Fremantle May 5th.

Photo Matt Hayes



TM740 John Holland 08-16 split head tamper in flashbutt yard Bellevue May 4th.

Photo Matt Hayes



AB1502, DAZ1905 & DAZ1906 on 3362 grain train at Brigadoon March 7th.

Photo Sean McGarraghy

ACN4144 ran to Picton April 27th to enter service on south west block mineral trains.

Two week shutdown at Port of Geraldton commenced on May 1st to enable further work to be undertaken to upgrade iron ore unloading facilities. This shutdown will enable further work to be undertaken to install the two car rotary dumper. Two loaded iron ore rakes have been left in the port with one on grain track that is not seeing use at present.



AB1503, P2516, & P2503 on 2750 empty grain train departing Narngulu April 30th. Photo Phil Melling

SCT015 arrived on 7GP1 at Forrestfield around April 10th under hire to CBH/Watco hauled to Gemco Forrestfield to be modified to suit operating internally in WA. SCT015 ran light engine to CBH Kwinana on May 1st to commence use on CBH grain haulage. VL357, VL361 & SCT015 ran 5WG3 grain to Forrestfield May 3rd where two VLs were detached then ran light engine to Gemco Bellevue for routine maintenance with SCT015 working 5WG3 grain train.

QRN ran 4416 ore train in a different DPU configuration of 2x locomotives 106 ore cars 2x locomotives 53 ore cars as a trial ex Esperance on May 2nd running to Koolyanobbing loading and returning to Esperance as 4417 loaded ore arriving May 3rd.

Former wooden Commonwealth Railways cars AF25 lounge car and ARB13 first class sleeping car purchased minus bogies by original owners of South Spur Rail with intentions of restoring both cars for use on their Spirit of the West Dinner train have been donated by Engemco to Boulder loop line. These cars now in poor condition after long term open storage at Maddington and Bellevue were loaded onto trucks and hauled to Boulder on April 26th. It is believed that Boulder Loop line intend to fully restore these coaches.



Cab profile of Rio Tinto ES44DCi locomotive 8186 final the locomotive of this contract in General Electric yard Erie Pa undergoing acceptance testing March 11th. Photo Ian White END 12 of 12