

West Australian Rails

NUMBER 6 A free monthly photo e-Mag of railway happenings in WA during June 2018

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Watco's HL203 with four empty ballast hoppers, 6BT1 from Gemco to flashbutt yard at Woodbridge, 1st June.

Photo: Jim Bisdee

After much speculation, Cleveland-Cliffs and Mineral Resources both announced in mid June that they had reached an agreement for the latter to buy the mothballed Koolyanobbing iron ore project. While the deal is expected to be finalised in the current financial quarter, no timeframe for resumption of services has been raised. Trains are expected to run to Esperance, as Mineral Resources will own two large storage sheds and the rotary ore car tipper at Esperance Port as part of the deal, the unloading facility is apparently being modified to handle the MinRes fleet of bottom-discharge ore hoppers.

Aurizon have stored rakes of WOE ore hoppers at various locations between Esperance and Koolyanobbing and one rake at Forrestfield; all locos have been returned to Perth and six of the former Intermodal 6020s have already been transferred to the Hunter Valley for coal service, joining 6029 which was transferred a few months ago, the final two will follow shortly. Some ACs, ACCs and one or two ACBs have been used on the overnight freight services between Kwinana and West Kalgoorlie, which has seen a number of Q class placed into storage (Q4010 and Q4018 have already been stored some months ago, several others seem to have "disappeared" from regular service in the past few weeks, including Q4004, 4012, 4013, 4015 and 4017). Q4006 sideswiped some fuel tank wagons in Perth only days after its return from overhaul and repaint at Port Augusta and has been out of traffic since.

A healthy Pilbara representation this month as the lads get active again with their cameras up north.



Fresh from overhaul at Port Augusta, Q4006 goes for its first run on 6158 shunter with Q4002 from Forrestfield to Kwinana, through Thornlie. 1st June.

Photo: Jim Bisdee



NR25 races 5AP8 Indian Pacific through Mt Lawley, 2nd June.

Photo: Phil Melling



Late afternoon sun catches NRs 114 & NR48 on 7PM5 at Stratton, 2nd June.



NRs 37, 46 & AN3 lead 1PM5 away from Perth through High Wycombe, 3rd June.

Both photos: Simon Barber



NRs 27 & 76 pass through South Guildford on 6SP5, 3rd June.

Both photos: Simon Barber



Still very clean several months after its overhaul, Q4009 leads Q4015 on 5426 from Kalgoorlie, Middle Swan, 8th June.



The sun dawns on the final day of Kooly ore workings as ACB4405 & ACC6031 (DPU 6022 & AC4308) depart a lightly-foggy Binduli with 7413 ore, 9th June. Both photos: Peter Donaghy



AC4305 smokes through Binduli as 7405 light engine to Hampton, while ACB4406 & 6027 (DPU 6026 & 6023) wait to follow with 7415 ore to Esperance, the third-last loaded train, 9th June.



ACB4406 & 6027 wait at Binduli with 7415 Kooly ore, 9th June.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



5AP8 Indian Pacific passes through Bellevue behind NR29, 9th June.

Photo: Simon Barber



SCT have given several former Aurizon reefers a rough “whitewash” and numbered them into their own fleet. A former AFRD or AFRF reefer is now SCTR171. Both photos: Peter Donaghy



The final empty working from Esperance to Kooly – 7414 departs Binduli at 1600 behind ACs 4307 and 4301 with DPU ACB4401 & ACC6032, 9th June. This train would load at Kooly then depart as 7419 shortly before midnight for the run to Esperance. However, there would be one more “ore train” – ACC6031 departed West Kalgoorlie around noon on 12/6 with ten hoppers – eight overloads cut from trains a few days earlier, with their excess tonnes now removed and placed into two former empties.



NR105, AN2 & NR59 depart Parkeston with SMP5 on sunset, 9th June.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



S3302 leads 2112 wagon transfer, hoppers destined for use in export bauxite traffic, Midland, 11th June. Photo: Simon Barber



A scene becoming common since the demise of the Koolyanobbing ore trains – AC4304 & 6021 on 2426 Kalgoorlie-Kwinana freight at South Guildford, 12th June. Both photos: Jim Bisdee



Qs 4002 & 4019 lead 2430 empty sulphur ex Malcolm, supplemented with containers of lithium ore, Thornlie, 12th June. Page 9 of 28



Having run the previous day from Esperance to West Kal as four locos and three wheelset wagons, 6025 & 6024 join Q4016 on 3426 to Kwinana as drivers and shunters struggle to start Q4014, West Kal, 12th June. Of the other two units from Esperance, ACC6031 led some “overloads” back south, while ACB4405 went west on 4426 the next evening. Photo: Peter Donaghy



After several months’ storage at Esperance, and deemed unsuitable for travel by rail, AC4302 was road-hauled to Forrestfield, photographed at Sawyers Valley, 13th June. Photo: Simon Barber



AC4302 passes through Hazelmere, 13th June.

Photo: Simon Barber



AC4302 on its 118-wheel transport float at High Wycombe, one kilometre from its destination of Forrestfield, 13th June.

Photo: Jim Bisdee



ACN4151 leads 5762 empty Karara ore at Narngulu, 14th June.

Photo: Phil Melling



Sunrise at Port Hedland as BHP's 4427 & 4437 arrive with another loaded ore, 12.6km crossing, 14th June. Photo: Mark Bennett



Two light engine workings ran from Esperance to West Kal on 14th June on empty ore paths – ACC6030 / 6027 / 6028 & ACB4403 (nearest to camera) as 5414, and AC4305, 6023, 6026 & ACB4406 (in the background, beside Q4010) as 5416. 6024 (shunting) and 6021 were also present further along the yard, having returned from Esperance several days/weeks earlier and being used on Perth-Kalgoorlie freight duties since.



ACB4403, 6028, 6027 & ACC6030 in West Kalgoorlie yard, 14th June. Locomotives were reshuffled soon after, with ACB4403, 6028, 6021 & 6024 (hailed dead) running 5426 to Perth that evening, and 6027 & ACC6030 hauling 5430 empty sulphur. 6024 & 6021 were hailed east on 1PM9 ex Perth 17th June, to join the Hunter Valley coal fleet. Both photos: Peter Donaghy



ACB4406, 6026, 6023 & AC4305 in West Kalgoorlie yard, 14th June. All four were forwarded to Perth the following night - ACB4405 led the first three on 6426, and AC4305 worked 6430 sulphur solo. Photo: Peter Donaghy



A Roy Hill loaded ore passes the 80.3km crossing, with 1007 & 1010 leading, 1014 & 1004 DPU, 14th June. Photo: Mark Bennett



DPU 1014 & 1004 on a loaded Roy Hill ore train at the 80.3km crossing, 14th June.



An empty Roy Hill ore train passes the 80.3km, led by 1101 & CD4305, with DPU 1002 & 1005, 14th June.

Both photos: Mark Bennett



Roy Hill empty ore DPUs 1002 & 1005, 80.3km crossing, 14th June.



A loaded FMG ore train with stained 717 & clean 007 near the 80.3km crossing, 14th June.

Both photos: Mark Bennett



Formerly Aurizon Intermodal, then Kooly ore locos, 6027 and 6025 sandwich ACC6030 at the head of 5430 empty sulphur ex West Kalgoorlie through Middle Swan, 15th June. 6025 was hauled east with 6022 on SCT's 2PM9 ex Perth on 25/6, and 6027 departed Perth 8/7 with 6023, hauled on 1PM9. All nine 6020s are destined for Hunter Valley coal. Photo: Simon Barber



P2513 approaches Narngulu with 6Q15 wagon transfer ex Narngulu East, 15th June.

Photo: Phil Melling



4432 & 4411 lead a loaded ore through Bing, 15th June.



4455 & 4356 power another load of ore through Bing South, 15th June.

Both photos: Roland Depth



1007 & 1010 on a Roy Hill loaded ore, Indee Rd, 15th June.



Roy Hill DPUs, 1014 & 1004, Indee Rd, 15th June.

Both photos: Roland Depth



4478 & 4467 on a load of ore through Walla, 15th June.



4396 & 4436 mid-train DPU, Walla, 15th June.

Both photos: Roland Depth



The late afternoon sun gleams on 4360 with the “steel train”, a load of rails, at Goldsworthy Junction, 15th June.



9103 and 9108 lead a loaded Mesa A train at the 38.5km on the Deepdale line, 16th June.

Both photos: Roland Depth



8142, 8158 & 9426 on the east mainline overtake disabled 9103 & 9108 on the west mainline at the 32km, Deepdale line.



Empty Mesa A-bound hoppers led by 9109, 9128 & 9106 at 38km on Deepdale line, 16th June. Both photos: Roland Depth
Page **22** of **28**



A loaded ore departs Emu at Western Creek behind 7043, 8108 & 7058, to Cape Lambert, 16th June.



8133 & 9431 at the 81km on the west mainline approach Emu, bound for Dampier, 16th June. Both photos: Roland Depth
Page **23** of **28**



7056, 7047 & 8115 at the 81km on the west mainline to Dampier, 16th June.

Both photos: Roland Depth



8149, 8193 & 7089 power an empty off the Deepdale line up the grade from Emu; a loaded holds the Dampier-Emu main, 16/6.



Only fifteen minutes later, 8112, 8162 & 8116 lead another empty away from Emu while the loaded still waits, 16th June.



9113 & 9114 top the grade at Maitland with a load of ore from Mesa A, 16th June.

Both photos: Roland Depth



ACNs 4169 & 4142 on 7763 loaded Karara ore at Moonyoonooka, 16th June.

Photo: Phil Melling



ACB4403 & Q4014 lead 7430 empty sulphur through Thornlie, 17th June.

Photo: Jim Bisdee



Some bright colour on the rails – Royal Wolf have taken delivery of several new curtainsiders in June, as seen on 6SP7, June 17th.
Photo: Peter Donaghy



Roy Hill's RHA 1012 leads leased CDCLA unit CD4302 across East Turner River, about 50kms south of Hedland, 17th June.
Photo: Mark Bennett



AC4304 runs 2158 shunt ex BP Kewdale to Kwinana through Thornlie, 18th June.

Photo: Jim Bisdee

***** END PART 1 *****