

West Australian Rails

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MRLs 001 & 004 roll through Stratton with 7035 empty hoppers to Mt Walton in the final days of operation, April 28th.

Photo: Simon Barber

Koolyanobbing ore trains are in their final days, with the final working to be 7419 ex Kooly late Saturday 9/6, through Kalgoorlie early Sunday morning. The 6020s will be hauled to Newcastle soon after by SCT for Hunter coal traffic, 6022 and 6023 apparently slated to be moved in the week commencing Sun 10/6. Around 750 of the ore hopper fleet (WOE type) will be purchased by Cliffs as part of the termination of the contract; the remaining 150 (consisting of older types) will be disposed of, including the remaining AOPs which are expected to commence scrapping this week.

Strong rumours abound regarding another mining company taking over the Kooly operations shortly and resuming export of iron ore through Esperance; the front runner is suspected to be Mineral Resources but in reality it could be any one of several options. If it is Mineral Resources, PN would likely be the preferred operator of the rail services. Hopefully any takeover occurs quickly and smoothly to minimise disruption to the livelihoods of the many direct and indirect workers affected by this.

Q4006 returned from its Port Augusta overhaul at the end of May; Q4018 has been stored at Forrestfield for about three months now; as of several weeks back, bogies, front horns and a few other bits and pieces had already been taken for other units. It'll be interesting to see if it ever runs again. AC4302 remains out of service at Esperance, it too has been stored for the past few months, whilst AC4303 has been stored at Forrestfield for the past four weeks or so.



7PM5 passes through Stratton behind NRs 29 & 92 on 28th April.

Photo: Simon Barber



Roy Hill's RHA1010 and 1019 unloading an ore train on Finucane Island branch, 1st May.

Photo: Mark Bennett



4416 & 4315 on an empty BHP hopper rake at Finucane Island, 1st May.

Both photos: Mark Bennett



4416 & 4315 on an empty rake at Boodarie after tipping, 1st May. The locos will be exchanged for a fresh pair before the train sets off for another trip to the mines.



Qs 4012 & 4008 at Leonora on a rake of WNs containing BHP nickel concentrate and flat wagons with containers of Lynas rare earths, forming 3478 to Hampton (with the containers to be removed at West Kal), 1st May Both photos: Walter Rowe





NRs 85 & 87 on 1MP2 steel, Midland, 2nd May.

Both photos: Jim Bisdee



NR14 and MRL003 haul 3030, the final loaded Polaris ore, through Thornlie, 2nd May.



MRLs 001 and 004 on 4033, the second-last empty Polaris ore at Thornlie, en route to storage, 2nd May. Photo: Jim Bisdee



TransPerth B set 118 sits at Kewdale, 2nd May, having arrived on SMP2 three days earlier. Photo: Evan Jasper



TransPerth B set 118 at Kewdale, awaiting transfer to Midland for bogie exchange.

Photo: Charles De Bruin



NRs 121 & 7 work 6P31 shuttle, conveying set B118 for gauge transfer, 3rd May.
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Photo: Simon Barber



NRs 5 & 16 run 6P23 light engine past a pair of NRs on empty rail wagons at Midland, 4th May. Both photos: Simon Barber



MRL005, NRs 5 & 16 on 6P24 at Bassendean, 4th May. The MRL was being collected after work at UGL Rail.
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SCT008 leading 5PM9 failed en route to Kalgoorlie; the train was divided at West Kal and taken to Golden Ridge in two parts to stable until late the following morning to await a replacement loco ex 6PM9. SCTs 008 (dead) and 011 depart West Kalgoorlie late afternoon with the second portion, the first half ran as 8855s, locos returned as D856s, 4th May. Photo: Peter Donaghy



After several weeks on MRL ore trains, NR14 returned east on 7PX4, seen at Bellevue, 5th May. Note the fuel tank wagon being returned to Kalgoorlie for the Esperance line fuel traffic following workshops attention. Photo: Jim Bisdee



Ps 2517, 2505 & 2513 lead 7720 ore through the roller coaster at Kojarena, 5th May.

Photo: Phil Melling



Another to receive Indian Pacific mark III signage recently, NR86 leads 5AP8 through Herne Hill, 5th May. Photo: Simon Barber



NRs 27, 108 and 38 stabled at Perth Freight Terminal, Kewdale, 7th May.

Photo: Evan Jasper



SCT010 & LDP005 on 6MP9, Herne Hill, 7th May.

Photo: Simon Barber



LDP005 leads SCTs 010 and 002 on a very late 2PM9, Woodbridge, 8th May.

Both photos: Jim Bisdee

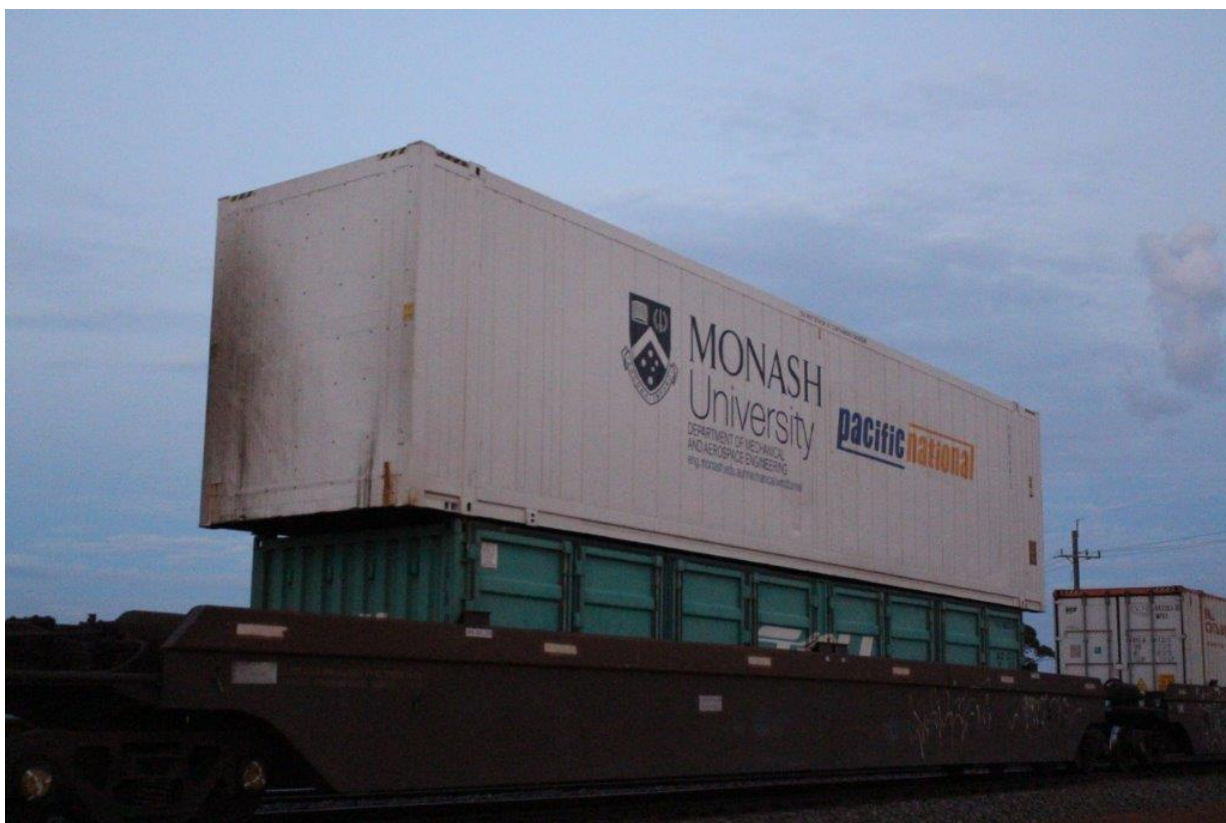


A late 7SP5 passes through Midland behind NRs 92 and 2 in rare (for PN) “elephants” formation, 8th May.
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AC4305 works 3158 Forrestfield-Kwinana shunt with loaded fuel tanks from BP's terminal, May 8th.

Photo: Jim Bisdee



Former PN reefer PNXR4818 has had the refrigeration unit removed, and is now recoded as PNXX4818, fitted out for a Monash University study into train aerodynamics, 8th May. It has made several trips across the desert this year.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



NRs 49 & 29 wait on a very late 7MP5 at Grass Valley to be overtaken by the Prospector, 8th May. Photo: Charles De Bruin



ACN4175 leads an empty alumina train through smoke from controlled burns, Yarloop, 11th May.

Photo: Phil Melling



An empty alumina rake led by ACN4147 arrives at Brunswick Junction, 11th May.

Both photos: Phil Melling



ACN4143 with its “RUOK?” mental health signage leads a load of alumina through Burekup to Bunbury Port, 11th May.



P2502 on a loaded caustic soda train at Roelands, 11th May.



DFZ2405 heads an empty caustic train through Waterloo, 11th May.

Both photos: Phil Melling



CBH016 at Midland with train 6WL2, consisting of the regauged TransPerth B set 118.

Photo: Simon Barber



Q4008 works 7405 empty acid shuttle from West Kalgoorlie to Hampton past the 7km peg, 12th May.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



G511 & HL203 work 7142 container service through South Fremantle, 12th May.

Photo: Phil Melling



SCT070 refrigerated truck eastbound aboard 6PM9, 12th May.
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Photo: Peter Donaghy



ADPs 102 and 103 form 7150 Australind at Bunbury station, 12th May.



MRLs 005 and 003 stabled at Forrestfield on a stored ore rake, 13th May.

Both photos: Evan Jasper



CBHs 003 & 007 with 2K55 grain train at Middle Swan, 14th May.



A very late 6MP9 passes through Middle Swan behind SCT002 & LDP005, 14th May.

Both photos: Simon Barber



ACB4406, Q4015 & Q4002 at Forrestfield, 14th May.



Long-stored DC2208 and AB1504, Forrestfield, 14th May.
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Both photos: Peter Chandler



Much-travelled former Queensland 2800 class, PA2819 and AB1504, Forrestfield, 14th May.



ACB4406 and Q4015, Forrestfield, 14th May.

Both photos: Peter Chandler



PA2819, DC2204, AB1504 at Forrestfield, 14th May.

Photo: Peter Chandler



8121 on shunt duties beside a stored MRL train, Forrestfield Long Arrivals, 14th May.

Photo: Charles De Bruin



BHP's Quarry 8 at Shaw has no more rock for ballast, so Boral has taken over supply, using Flashbutt yard at Bing. Many disused wagons were cleared out of Flashbutt and moved to the closed Yarrie line for further storage. 4368 led the lineup with a railset.



4349 was positioned mid-train, a railset in front and side-tippers behind, 17th May.

Both photos: Mark Bennett



One of nine withdrawn side-tippers in the BHP obsolete wagon movement, 17th May. Both photos: Mark Bennett



Obsolete cable car 670 and flat car 665 which used to carry an ATCO “donga” as a crib room for track workers, formerly used during duplication works – each is a former ore car chassis, 17/5.



A little out of gauge for most railways – “Jumbo” car 6000, built by Gemco in Perth for hauling bridge sections during duplication works. 17th May. Both photos: Mark Bennett



Old “Jumbo” car 6004 built by Vickers Hoskins in Perth in 1969 – note the 6-wheel bogies.



Ex-AQPY2916V, converted from a CR/AN AOOX “gondola” wagon prior to sale to BHP.



Shunting the rake of obsolete wagons, 17th May.

Both photos: Mark Bennett



Several more RTHY tank wagons have been transferred west in recent weeks for Esperance-Cook fuel traffic, five or six have now arrived. Three are in West Kalgoorlie yard with noticeable upper body modifications, 18th May. Photo: Peter Donaghy



Shunt loco 8121 at Perth Freight Terminal, Kewdale, 18th May.

Photo: Evan Jasper