

Western rails electronic edition

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New SD70MACel/c locomotive 4340 following unloading at the port swings off Gilbert Road and heads into BHPBIO Nelson Point yard through gate# 9 for placing onto rails 14th January.

Photo Toad Montgomery

The 13 new EMD SD70MACel/c locomotives for BHP Billiton Iron Ore were unloaded at berth PH2 Port Hedland from Heavy lift ship Jumbo Vision commencing on afternoon of 12th with one locomotive unloaded.

Tuesday 13th seven locomotives were unloaded with final four off in the afternoon being 4335, followed by 4338 and 4345 with 4339 the last unloaded that remained on the float overnight. Wednesday 14th had 4340 unloaded about 0700, 4355 around 0800, 4342 approx 0930, with 4341 around 1100 and 4346 the final unit unloaded around 1200.

Kingston heavy haulage used two Mack prime movers and two 128 wheel heavy haulage floats to haul these locomotives the short distance from the ships berth to hard stand unloading area in Nelson Point yard.

Following railing the SD70MACel/c then hauled to workshop for commissioning and fitting radios etc to be undertaken prior them to entering service. TM

Recently three BHPBIO SD40-2/SD40R have suffered failures were then stored being SD40-2 3083 and 3084 are former Union Pacific units that have operated in undercoat as slave units the whole time since entering service. SD40R 3092 former Southern Pacific unit is also stored. With 13 new locomotives just delivered and a further nine on order still to be delivered these locomotives may never return to service. TM



4329 and 4345 on #1 road at Nelson Point that shows BNSF colour scheme on 4329 while new 4345 has BHPBIO bubble scheme. Photo Toad Montgomery



The last locomotive to be unloaded 4346 and last locomotive of this order coming off Gilbert Street as it enters Nelson Point yard through gate 9. Photo Toad Montgomery



Rear view of SD70MACel/c 4339 the final unit unloaded for the day enters gate #9 of BHPBIO Nelson Point complex at 1750 on 13th this locomotive will not be railed till the next morning. Photo Toad Montgomery



Side on shot of 4341 as it turns off Gilbert Street and enters the Nelson Point complex through gate #9 note wooden brackets under bogies allowing locomotives to be shipped complete. Photo Toad Montgomery



SD70MACel/c locomotive 4341 is turning off Gilbert Street Port Hedland into gate #9 at Nelson Point on 14th note heavy lift ship Jumbo Vision in background at Port Hedland waterfront. Photo Toad Montgomery

Resleeping of Armadale line in the Kenwick-Maddington section with concrete sleepers is taking place overnight that saw suburban services terminate at Cannington with rail replacement buses running Cannington-Armadale and Cannington-Thornlie during the last week.

Resleeping of South West main line from Brunswick to Pinjarra with concrete sleepers is proceeding with the work having reached about 1km or so south of Yallup Brook turnouts to Alcoa Wagerup refinery by 16th.

Coote Industrial/South Spur Rail recently converted RA212 ran light engine from SSRS yard Bellevue to Yarloop on 18th to re-enter service as a narrow gauge locomotive. RA212 is taking over sleeper laying train from R1902 that then ran light engine back to Bellevue. RA212 has now worked this sleeper train on both standard and narrow gauge as KA212 it ran this train on Eastern Goldfields Railway upgrading in late 2007/early 2008.

Following the usual post Xmas slowdown of interstate rail traffic in January Coote Industrial/SSRS locomotive D49 that had been in use as a third shunting locomotive at SCT Forrestfield complex was returned to SSRS Bellevue on 14th.

DFZ2401 [ex QR2356] rebuild has been completed with it being released from workshop on 13th for trial. DFZ2401 load trail took place at head of 2260 quartz train being attached to AB1504 at Forrestfield on 19th to run to Kwinana.

A varied number of colourful combinations have been running in the last week NR109 solo in on 2SP5, NR109 & NR36 out on 5SP5 both on 15th, NR36 & NR109 in on 6MP4 18th, AC1521 ran 6111 light engine to United Group Rail Bassendean on 16th returning as 6110 with one converted XYA wagon, EL51 & G533 on 7PA1 QR National intermodal, LZ3119 & ALZ3208 on 7056 wheat train on 17th, 4011, 42211 & DC2205 [three different colours/yellow, blue, G&W orange] on 7025 Kalgoorlie freight on 17th, Q4002, Q4004, LZ3117 & DC2206 on 7426 Kalgoorlie freight on 18th, NR27 & NR84 on 5MP7 in on 18th, NR84 & NR64 on 1MP5 out on 18th.