

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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Further information has come to hand regarding the last trains to run on Merredin Trayning line. DAZ1903 at CBH Nungarin on June 11th loading what was the final train to run on Merredin Trayning line following lines closure on June 16th. DAZ1906 on grain train that arrived back at West Merredin 1110 from Nungarin was the second last train, being crossed at Nungarin by DAZ1903 arriving to load. Photo Geoffrey Higham

WestNet Rail suspended services effectively closing Tambellup to Gnowangerup, Katanning to Nyabing, York to Quairading and West Merredin to Trayning lines on June 16th as they has threatened to do if \$45million funding to re-sleeper and upgrade Avon Yard to Albany line was not forthcoming by June 15th. The government was not pleased having an ultimatum given to them by a private company that at the time of acquiring the long term lease to the freight network advised they would undertake upgrading of narrow gauge grain lines. This action, now with the threatened only running of grain trains on standard gauge network of Eastern Goldfields Railway and Esperance line has caused grain exporter CBH to commence organising hire of trucks to move 2009/2010 harvest. The situation now is where previously some 65% of grain went on rail and some 35% went by road to the export ports next year it could well be over 65% by road and under 35% by rail if all the threats are carried through and any further negotiations fail.

Coote Industrial announced to Australian Securities Exchange on June 17th the appointment of BurnVair Corporate Finance to assist with sale of subsidiary South Spur Logistics. Recently South Spur Rail Services was merged with Coote Logistics [formerly Asset Kinetics and FCD Container logistics] to form South Spur Logistics a rail, road and port logistics company. This sale of South Spur Rail Services is only the business goodwill, accreditation and any haulage contracts held. The South Spur Rail Services fleet of locomotives and wagons is not included in this offering of the company for sale.

Australind passenger service between Perth and Bunbury now again operates both morning and evening services daily following completion of upgrading of South West main line between Pinjarra and Brunswick. Spot ballasting and the remaining bridge work was completed by the end of May that allowed passenger and block freight services to return to their normal patterns after June long weekend on 2nd.

In recent times the SCT class locomotives on hire to ARG have done more than run block grain trains 051/050 or 055/056. They have run on Kalgoorlie freight L3108, LZ3106 & SCT005 on 2025 freight on June 1st, LZ3119, ALZ3208 & SCT005 on 3025 freight on June 2nd, SCT005, LZ3120 & [dead attached] L3115 on 2053 empty wheat train June 8th, DC2205 & SCT005 on 4056 grain train June 10th, LZ3105 & SCT003 on 6056 grain train June 16th, LZ3106 & SCT005 on 6056 grain train June 19th.



DC2205 Avon Yard shunter returning to Forrestfield & SCT005 run 4056 grain train in evening of June 10th over the newly laid concrete sleepers as part of track upgrading at Midland. Photo Jim Bisdee

D48 ran AK car inspection train Kalgoorlie to Esperance on June 14th stabling overnight and returning to Kalgoorlie on June 15th. AK cars did not run on Kalgoorlie Leonora line returning interstate on June 17th.

The Queens Birthday holiday is not celebrated in WA in June resulting in WA being the only state working on June 8th this resulted in QR National intermodal service 7AP1 out of Adelaide on June 6th being cancelled. The loading for 7AP1 being conveyed on SCT service 6MP9 to Forrestfield arriving June 8th with return 3PA1 loading hauled out on 2PM9.

Work continues on Robe River Iron Associates Deepdale line on bridge 11 at 126.6km where a pier was washed out in floods of February 17th. A temporary deviation was built around the bridge to allow ore trains to resume running in mid March. Rebuilding this bridge is a major operation owing to the flood damage with reconstruction of bridge 11 now well under way.

Forrestfield turntable broke down on June 8th resulting in rare sight of ARG locomotives tuning on the Woodbridge triangle LQ3122 was turned on the triangle on June 9th while Q4001 was turned on 15th. Most locomotives requiring turning are lead units for Kalgoorlie services that worked services to Kwinana where they were turned on normal course of shunts on the triangle.



K210 note the camera on running board runs 6C27 AK cars inspection train under gantry at end of platform one at Midland station on June 12th on its return from East Perth Terminal. Photo Jim Bisdee

Dual gauge bi directional loop at Midland has seen a lot of traffic in recent weeks with re-sleepering being undertaken on main lines. This has resulted in both down and up trains running via loop owing to wrong line running and train order working being in place.