

West Australian Rails

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Making its first round trip on hire to Mineral Resources, CF4406 leads NR114 & MRL005 into Binduli with 1033 loaded ore from Koolyanobbing, 1st December. Photo: Peter Donaghy

There's plenty of colour on the Mineral Resources ore trains between Koolyanobbing and Esperance – MRL's own six red locos, Pacific National NRs, two leased CFCLA blue and silver CFs and an assortment of Aurizon ACs, ACBs and ACCs. Rival companies' locos working together in previously impossible lashups. The combinations will likely separate soon, with rumours that Aurizon will be providing, powering and crewing their own three DPU rakes of WOE hoppers. ACC6031 arrived into West Kalgoorlie from Perth in mid January with 120 reactivated WOE hoppers, all with freshly-repainted yellow sides and orange Aurizon logos. This rake entered service on 21st January, replacing a rake of MHPY hoppers.

To provide these additional services to Mineral Resources, Aurizon are reactivating many stored locos at Forrestfield; bogie-less AC4302 will be included but will be a longer-term project; Q4005 has been assessed as requiring a replacement motor so isn't being considered for a return to service at this stage. Rumour has it that two LZs may be resurrected yet again.



1033 ore arrives at Binduli for crew change behind CF4406, NR114 & MRL005, 1st December.



The empty WOE's arrive at Binduli as 1030 led by ACB4402, NR100 & MRL006, 1/12.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



ACNs 4170, 4149 & 4143 ease 4764 into Geraldton Port, 4th December.



2G50 empty grain passes Narngulu behind CBHs 023 & 006, 9th December.

Both photos: Phil Melling



NRs 103 & 5 transfer CF4405 from West Kalgoorlie to Esperance on 2445 fuel, 9th December. Photo: Peter Donaghy



CBHs 011 & 006 raise the dust with 3G50 empty grain through Narngulu, 10th December. Photo: Phil Melling



6036 empty ore waits to depart Binduli, ACCs 6030 and 6032 sandwich NR100, 14/12. Photo: Peter Donaghy



NRs 101 & 19 lead MRL004 through Bellevue on 7PX4, 14th December.

Photo: Simon Barber



MRL005, NR114 & CF4406 arrive at Binduli with 7035 ore, 14th December.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



Old paint schemes adorn Ps 2516 & 2503 on 7720 empty Mt Gibson, Narngulu, 14th December. Photo: Phil Melling



Esperance crew having replaced the Kalgoorlie drivers, 7035 departs Binduli, 14th December.



MRLs 003 & 002 bracket CF4405 on 7030 approaching Binduli for crew change, 14/12. Both photos: Peter Donaghy
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Sunset approaches, as does 7037 ore (return of 6036, page 5), Binduli, 14th December.



MRL006, CF4405 & MRL005 approach Binduli with 1030 empty ore, 15th December.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



NR46, ACB4406 & NR103 nearing Hampton on 1033 ore, 15th December.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



NRs 13 & 64 race through Woodbridge on 6SP5, 15th December.

Photo: Graham Saunders



NRs 76 & 10 roll 1PM5 past Woodbridge, 15th December.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



At 5800 tonnes, 1MP2 requires three NRs - 70, 75 & 54, Woodbridge, 15th December.



VLs 361 & 356 lead CBH122 on 2S58 ex Tammin through Northam, 16th December. Both photos: Sean McGarraghy



A drone capture at Northam of VLs 361 & 356 leading CBH122 on 2S58 ex Tammin, 16th December.



2S58 on the outskirts of Toodyay behind VLs 361 & 356, assisted by CBH122, 16/12. Photo: Sean McGarraghy



Ps 2514, 2516 & 2506 blast through Narngulu East on 4720 empty Mt Gibson ore, 18th December. Photo: Phil Melling
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WEA031 leads WEB041 on 6089, Middle Swan, 20th December



6BT1 rattles through Brigadoon behind G511, 20th December.

Both photos: Simon Barber



7720 empty Mt Gibson passes through Bringo led by Ps 2514, 2502 & 2516, 21/12.



ACNs 4170 & 4174 (DPU 4169) work 7762 empty Karara ore through Bringo West, 21/12. Both photos: Phil Melling



P2511 runs 7865 through Bengier, 21st December.

Photo: Simon Barber



MRLs 003 & 002 bracket CF4405 on 4031 at Binduli, stabled due to bushfires, 21st December. Photo: Peter Donaghy



ACNs 4175 & 4151 charge through Bringoo on 1763 loaded Karara ore, 22nd December.

Photo: Phil Melling



Still stalled at Binduli, 4031 has been reshuffled with AC4306 slotted in, 23rd December.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



P2509 rolls through Harvey on 3875, 24th December.

Photo: Simon Barber



NRs 23, 81 & 74 stabled on the arrival road, West Kal, 25/12, due to the Jumperkine collision. Photo: Peter Donaghy



4030 empty ore approaches Binduli behind MRL005, ACC6032 & MRL006, 25/12.



MRL005, ACC6032 & MRL006 climb away from Binduli with 4030, 25th December.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



Roy Hill empty ore at Coonarrrie North, RHAs 1013 & 1014, DPU 1022 & 1006, 25/12. Photo: Mark Bennett



MRL002, CF4405 & MRL003 cross Kundana Road with 4037 loaded ore, 25th December. Photo: Peter Donaghy



MRL004, ACC6030 & CF4406 wait at Binduli on 4034 empty ore, 26th December.



4034 empty ore awaiting its Kalgoorlie crew, Binduli west junction, 26th December.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



NR103, ACB4406 & NR46 bring 5033 loaded ore into Binduli, 26th December.



MRL003, AC4306 & MRL002 approach Binduli on 5036 empty ore, 26th December.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



5036 waits for crew changeover, Binduli, 26th December.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



MRL001, CF4405 & MRL004 on 7035, the WOE rake, brake for crew changeover at Binduli, 28th December.



NR103, ACB4406 & NR46 approach Hampton on 1033 loaded ore, 29th December.



MRL004 & CF4406 roll into Binduli on 1030 empty ore, 29th December.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



NR56 ex West Kalgoorlie has been added to the power on 1030 ore, Binduli, 29th December.



Recently reactivated Q4013 with fresh bogies, West Kalgoorlie, 29th December.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



The only two active ARG-liveried Qs, 4010 & 4013, bracket AC4304, West Kalgoorlie, 29/12. Photo: Peter Donaghy



Ps 2514, 2502 & 2506 chug through Bringo West on 2720 empty Mt Gibson ore, 30th December. Photo: Phil Melling



ACNs 4170 & 4172 on 3762 empty Karara ore, Bringo West, 31st December.

Photo: Phil Melling