

West Australian Rails

NUMBER 4 A free monthly photo e-Mag of railway happenings in WA during April 2020

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MRL005, CF4405 & MRL001 skirt the shore of Lake Cowan with 4030 empty ore, 5th February. Photo: Phillip Martin

The anticipated shortfall in April photos didn't eventuate; some amazing loco combinations late in the month (particularly over the Anzac Day long weekend – see part 2) brought the photographers out, and a few semi-regulars also dusted off their cameras (appreciated, guys!). Excellent news is that we now have a contributor in Esperance so hopefully we will start seeing regular coverage from that region (thanks, Phillip – no pressure!).

PN have reintroduced (yet again) in-line fuelling on some services, mostly MP5.

PN are now running DPU services on Kooly ore, as well as those run by Aurizon. Again, anyone's locos can turn up on anything. NRs in ore traffic dwindled to one by early April, with NR44 being PN's only contribution to the shared pool for nearly a month, before it was removed and returned to Intermodal. As NR44 was being handed back, MRL006 failed, so Ghan NR109 was removed from the empty fuel train and sent to the rescue. NR109 then spent the next week or two in ore traffic before NRs 108, 8 and 2 replaced it. Another failure days later saw NR101 removed from an intermodal at West Kal and sent south; NR2 returned to Intermodal soon after.

In early May, 1MP2 delivered CF4407 & CF4408 to West Kalgoorlie; they were hauled to Esperance two nights later on the empty fuel train and have since joined the ore fleet.

AC4302 returned to traffic in early May after two and a quarter years out of traffic. Days later it joined the Esperance ore pool.

VLs 357 & 361 have finished their hire to Watco and have now been signed up by Aurizon supposedly for Leonora line traffic, to release a pair of Qs. As of mid May, they are at Kwinana, awaiting transfer to West Kalgoorlie.



NR95 stands in Viva's fuel yard at Esperance, mid February – NR47 in the background. Photo: Phillip Martin



ACB4402 & Q4009 shuttle 1157 fuel/workshop transfer through Kenwick, 16th February. Photo: Mitchell Radford
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G511, CBH122, VL357 & CBH119, 2S58 loaded grain from Avon Yard, Toodyay West, 24/2.



DBZs 2301, 2302 & 2305, 3K44 loaded grain ex Cadoux, Koomburkine, 25th Feb. Both photos: Sean McGarraghy



CBHs 024 & 003, DBZ2305 & CBHs 008, 025 & 007 await their next duty at CBH Kwinana, 7th March.



ACC6031 shunts sulphuric acid tanks at Kwinana, 14th March.

Both photos: Mitchell Radford



Q4003, MRL003 & ACB4402 on BP & maintenance shuttle, Wattle Grove, 29th March. Photo: Sean McGarraghy



Rear DPU unloading Karara ore, ACN4171 passes DRs 1565 & 1564 on a rail rake, Geraldton, 1/4. Photo: Phil Melling
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Ps 2514, 2505 & 2506 unload 6721 Mt Gibson ore to form 6722, Geraldton Port, 3rd April.

Photo: Phil Melling



Aurizon's 7041 enters Binduli behind NR44, CF4406 & MRL005 – note no Aurizon loco, 4/4.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



NR44 (at that time the only MinRes NR), CF4406 & MRL005, 7041 ore, Binduli, 4th April. Photo: Peter Donaghy



Aurizon's 7044 approaches Binduli behind ACB4404 & AC4308, 4th April.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



DP locos ACC6032 & AC4304 on 7044 ore, Binduli, 4th April.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



Ps 2506, 2504, 2502 & 2508 haul 6723 loaded Mt Gibson ore through Bringo, 4th April.

Photo: Phil Melling



NRs 109 & 51 lead AN2 on 6MP1 (additional COVID service) through Herne Hill, 5th April. Photo: Mitchell Radford



FMG's SD70ACe/LCi 718 leads C44-9W 010 and an empty rake out of the port, 9th April. Photo: Pilbara Railways



Re-engined SD90MAC 901, Anderson Point with compressor sets 4, 1 & 8, 9th April. Both photos: Pilbara Railways



FMG loaded ore waits outside Kanyirri Yard behind new SD70ACe 727 and old SD70ACe/LCi 706, 9th April.



Brand new 730 leads 717 to Kanyirri Yard for servicing, 10th April.

Both photos: Pilbara Railways



730 is ninth of a 10-unit order; standard US domestic locos on HTCR-4 bogies rather than the low clearance version.



A loaded FMG ore rounds the 5km curve behind 718 and 010, 10th April.

Both photos: Pilbara Railways



New SD70ACE 725 and former 6000hp SD90MAC 902 run to port to collect an empty train, 10th April.



705 with BHP-style handrails & 713 accelerate an empty rake away from port, 10/4. Both photos: Pilbara Railways



Originally 6000hp but repowered locally to 4300hp, 902 leads new 725 away from port with empties, 10th April.



Tatty GE C44-9W 005 and SD9043MAC 907 await a slot through the unloaders, 10/4. Both photos: Pilbara Railways



Another re-powered unit, 903 waits with 905 on the loaded fuel train, 10th April.



903 & 905 on FMG's loaded 24-tank fuel train, 10th April.

Photo: Pilbara Railways



After running 7C71 Parkeston shuttle, Q4006 and MRL003 return to West Kal as 7C72, 11/4. Photo: Peter Donaghy



009 & 719 with a loaded iron ore on the 5km curve as a road train of iron ore crosses the bridge, 12th April.



901 shunts four compressor sets at the port, 12th April.

Both photos: Pilbara Railways



CBH122 eases 1S56 West Merredin – Kwinana grain through Millendon Junction, 12/4. Photo: Graham Saunders



New ore hoppers trail 721 & 004, 12th April.

Photo: Pilbara Railways



FMG's new CRRC Yangtze wagon pair - 9011 slave and 10012 control – loaded with fines, 12th April.



As a loaded rake arrives at the port, 709 & 007 depart with an empty rake, 12/4. Both photos: Pilbara Railways



Large-numbered NR55 leads NR70 through Millendon Junction on 5MP2, 12th April.

Photo: Graham Saunders



713 & 705 depart the port with another empty rake, 12th April.

Photo: Pilbara Railways



NRs 55 & 79 entering Forrestfield with 5MP2, 12th April.

Photo: Graham Saunders



Third empty of the afternoon departs port behind 015 (handrail mods) & new 723, 12/5.

Photo: Pilbara Railways



Fresh S3306 and stripped Q4012 outside Gemco Rail, Forrestfield, 12th April.



Failed X47 and Q4012 stripped for overhaul outside Gemco Forrestfield, 12th April. Both photos: Graham Saunders
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The shell of Q4012, stripped for overhaul, Gemco Forrestfield, 12th April.



The driving cab module removed from Q4012, Gemco Forrestfield, 12th April. Both photos: Graham Saunders
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013 and new 726 bring a loaded ore around the 5km curve, 12th April.

Both photos: Pilbara Railways



Slave 7687 and control 8688 painted by South Hedland High School students in Aug 2018, photographed 12/4.



Slave 5103 (CRRC Yangtze) and control 6104 (CNR QRRS) mismatch pair, 12th April.

Photo: Pilbara Railways



1PM5 prepares to depart Kewdale behind NRs 19 & 100, 12th April.

Photo: Graham Saunders

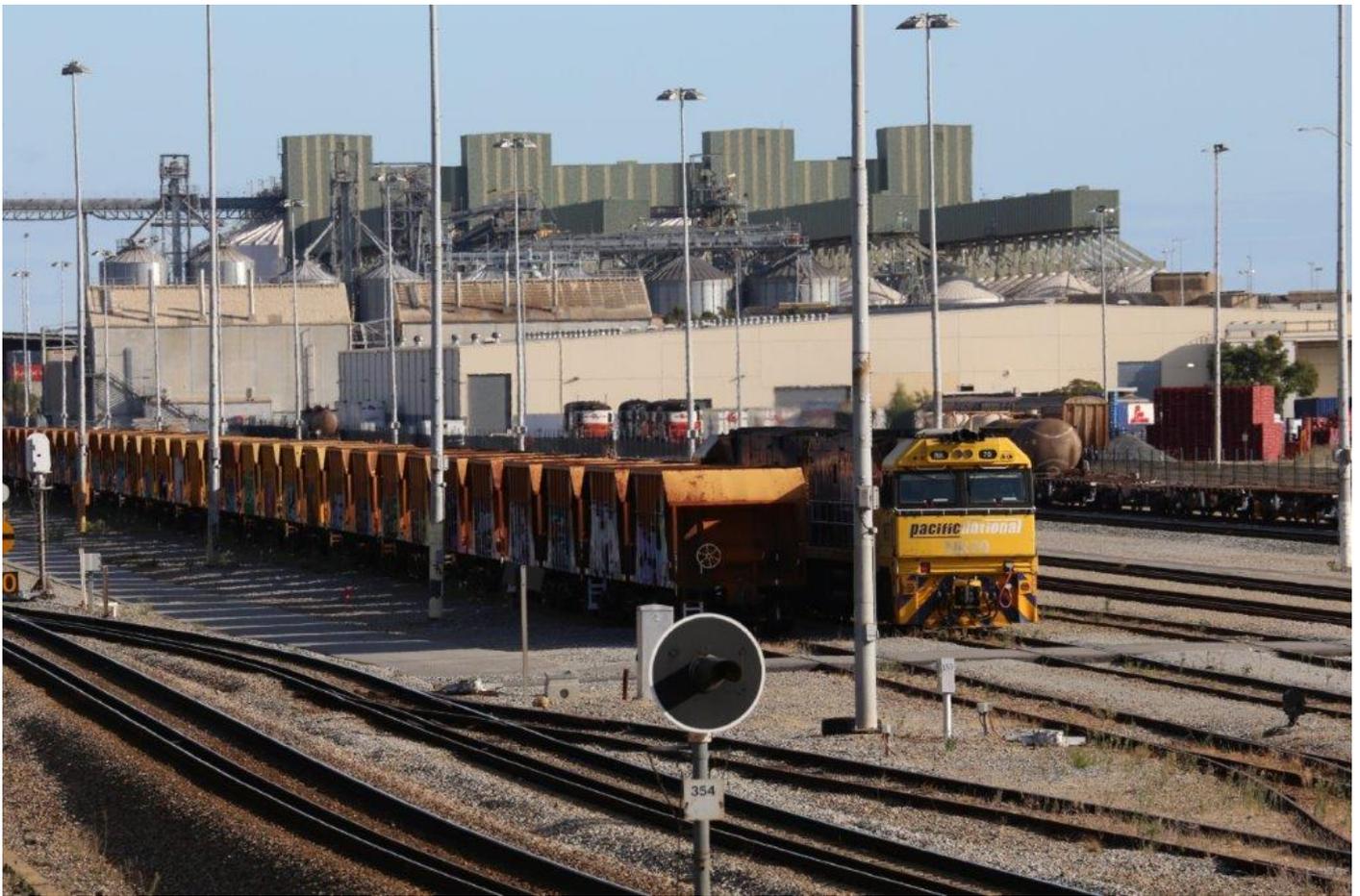


NRs 70 & 55 stabled on an empty intermodal, with another pair of NRs in the distance, 13th April.



NRs 113, 50 & 72 run around a rake of Sadleirs vans, Forrestfield, 13th April.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



NRs 70 & 55 beside a rake of stored CHEY hoppers; stored SCT H and K class locos, Forrestfield, 13th April.



Cannibalised and stored H & K class locos, SCT Forrestfield, 13th April.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



Leased replacement shunter 8026, SCT Forrestfield, 13th April.



NRs 113, 50 & 72 on the Sadleirs shunt, Forrestfield, 13th April.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



DRs 1564 & 1565 chug through Bringo on 3BT2 ballast, 14th April.

Photo: Phil Melling



Awaiting lead unit Q4010, Q4014 on 426 to Perth, with MRL004 for UGL Bassendean, 14/4.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



After a minor derailment at Hampton 10 days earlier, Q4002 receives attention, 14/4. Photo: Peter Donaghy



DRs 1565 & 1564 depart Narngulu with 7BT2 ballast, 18th April.

Photo: Phil Melling



Before sunrise, 7025 approaches West Kal behind Q4014, AC4304, MRL002 & Q4008, 19/4.



Q4014, AC4304, MRL002 & Q4008 shunt 7025, West Kal, 19th April.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



ACC6032, CF4405 & MRL001 enter Esperance yard with PN's 7037 loaded ore, as ACC6031 & AC4306 (with AC4303 & CF4406 DPU) prepare to depart with Aurizon's 1044 empty ore, 19th April. Photo: Phillip Martin