

Mt Isa line recovery

Pacific National train derailment at Nelia summary

Update as at 5.30pm, 7 March 2019

Overview

- Queensland Rail has created a dedicated taskforce to lead the recovery of more than 200 kilometres of flood-damaged track on the Mount Isa Line between Richmond and Oorindi.
- The taskforce has been deployed to work on repairs on both the Mt Isa rail line and the train incident at Nelia, east of Julia Creek, following the major north Queensland flood event.
- The damage between Richmond and Oorindi included 150 damaged sites, including track washouts and scouring, 16 damaged rail bridges, damage to track formations, and many locations where access roads, culverts and drainage were also damaged or washed away.

Status update – Mt Isa line

- Queensland Rail is focused on opening the Mount Isa Line as soon as it can safely do so.
- Following the completion of work by repair trains, the section of line between Hughenden and Richmond on the Mount Isa line reopened on Monday 4 March 2019.
- Queensland Rail is working with freight operators on options to restore services through this section.
- The Mt Isa rail line remains closed between Richmond and Cloncurry.
- More than 400 Queensland Rail employees and contractors are being mobilised to accelerate repair work under the direction of the Taskforce.
- Queensland Rail is working with the Department of Public Works and Housing to provide a 60-bed camp in Richmond and 120-bed camp in Julia Creek to accommodate employees working on the recovery.
- Queensland Rail is allocating every possible resource to the Mount Isa Line recovery work and it is expected the remaining sections of the line will reopen between late April and mid-May 2019.
- Queensland Rail is monitoring weather forecasts daily and working with our crews to plan around the expected wet weather next week.
- A number of critical sites requiring repairs remain impaired by wet ground conditions. Three kilometres of dura-base plastic mats, or 28 semi-trailer loads, will be delivered and crew have started constructing temporary access roads at several locations, including the Gilliat River Bridge and Eastern Creek Bridge.

- The teams will continue to utilise this matting as required to build access roads in areas which remain wet as repairs continue.
- On Saturday 2 March 2019 the reopening of roads allowed for road coaches to replace the Inlander service.
- Queensland Rail will continue to provide regular updates to its customers and the community.

Status update – Nelia

- In early February 2019, a Pacific National (PN) train carrying 20 lead concentrate wagons, 45 zinc concentrate wagons and 15 copper wagons was significantly impacted by rising flood waters at Nelia, located between Julia Creek and Richmond on the Mount Isa line.
- The environmental consultant appointed by Queensland Rail, Glencore and Pacific National, is progressing sampling and monitoring activities in order to assess the impacts from the incident. Liaison with the community, the Department of Environment and Science and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is ongoing.
- Pacific National is also in the final stages of establishing a crane pad and an appropriate access road to the Pacific National train at Nelia, to enable the upcoming recovery of the train and wagons.
- Queensland Rail is also finalising plans to build a rail deviation around the Nelia site, so services can resume in the event that the recovery of the Pacific National train takes longer than the remainder of the repair works for the Mount Isa Line.
- Surveying and early earthworks are now underway.