

# **RAIL RECOVERY TASKFORCE UPDATE**

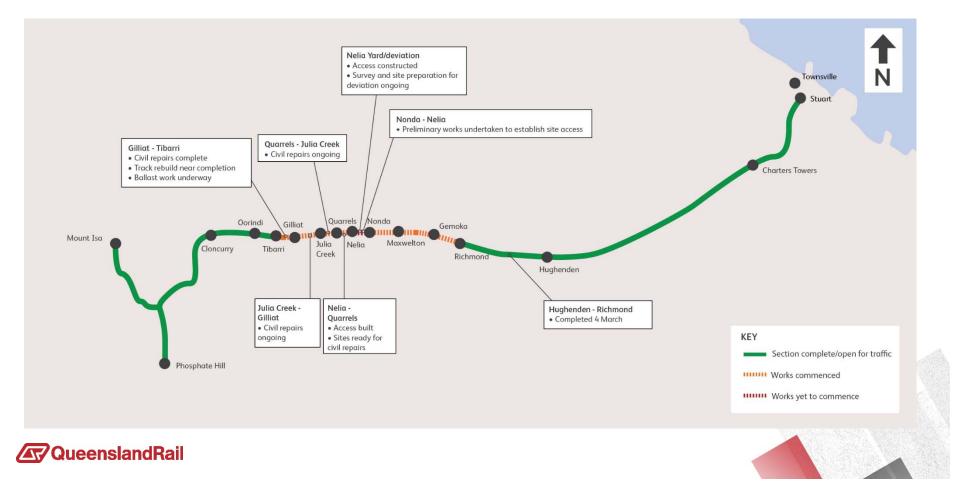
Mount Isa line recovery

15 March 2019





#### **PROGRESS MAP**



## **WORKS PROGRESS – WEEK ENDING 15 MARCH**

- Works are on track, with the Mount Isa line expected to reopen between late-April and mid-May.
- Richmond to Hughenden open for freight traffic and construction of a temporary terminal at Richmond is almost complete.
- Repair works between Richmond and Oorindi are progressing well, with workers camps being opened at both Richmond and Julia Creek to allow Queensland Rail to mobilise more than 400 employees and contractors.
- These camps will significantly reduce the amount of time that our teams are using to commute between accommodation and the work sites, maximising our roster and allowing us to accelerate repairs. It will also ensure availability of local accommodation in towns.
- Just east of the newly re-opened section, from Richmond to Gemoka, Maxwellton and Nonda, civil repair works are advancing, and track construction and ballast drops are well underway.
- From Tibarri in the west to Julia Creek and Quarrells, bridgeworks are nearing completion at some sites and culvert reconstructions, further earthworks, resurfacing and track construction are proceeding well.
- Pacific National has been able to establish a crane pad at the Nelia train site and have been able to upright wagons, empty and clean them and have started transporting them away from the site.





## **PRIORITIES – WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 18 MARCH**

- Queensland Rail has worked with third parties to build a temporary terminal in Richmond. The terminal is expected to open and some services recommence this week between Richmond and Hughenden, to the Townsville Port.
- Some product is expected to be transported by road freight, where it will then be transferred on to rail the rest of the way into Townsville.
- The middle point of Nelia will be the most challenging site in terms of track repairs, with crews still contending with wet ground conditions and extensive flood damage.
- We are continuing to deploy specialised matting that has allowed us to build access roads in areas where we are still experiencing wet and difficult ground conditions.
- Work to establish a rail deviation around the Nelia train has begun, with surveyors currently picketing fence line boundaries to align the deviation and hardstands have been created to unload the required materials.





#### **ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

- Queensland Rail is continuing to work closely with Pacific National, Glencore, the Department of Environment and Science and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding the environmental requirements of the site.
- The first round of sampling at the Nelia site and within a six-kilometre radius has so far indicated that finite contamination levels are focussed within the rail corridor, a few hundred metres from the train.
- The majority of surface water samples taken from creek lines and waterholes downstream of the rail corridor, including in cattle holding yards and at Nelia Ponds, returned results significantly below livestock drinking water and recreational use guidelines.
- While some soil samples collected in and around the train and immediately downstream of the zinc wagons have exceeded the adopted soil criteria for lead and zinc, many samples in this area do not show any exceedance, and samples taken beyond 375 metres from the site show zinc and lead concentrations below guidelines, suggesting concentrate in localised area, particularly in the ballast.
- Although results remain indicative at this stage, with more sampling required to complete this dataset including the finalisation of comparative baseline levels, this is a positive result for local land and livestock owners.
- Queensland Rail, Pacific National and Glencore are committed to the appropriate remediation of the area in line with regulatory expectations. This will not only include clean up of the spilled material, but a comprehensive remediation validation program, verified by a suitably qualified person per the requirements of the Department of Environment and Science-issued Clean-Up Notice.

#### **AgenslandRail**

