



RAIL RECOVERY TASKFORCE UPDATE

Mount Isa line recovery

30 April 2019



The first test train travelling through Nelia on Thursday 25 April.

MOUNT ISA LINE UPDATE

- The Townsville to Mt Isa line reopened on Monday 29 April, 2019.
- Queensland Rail successfully facilitated the first test train on the newly constructed line on Thursday 25 April, with final track inspections and train scheduling work taking place from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 April.
- 160,000-man hours of labour, over 11 weeks, by 400 rail crews and contractors went into restoring the line as quickly as possible.
- More than 200 individual sites across 300-kilometres of track required repair, including 38 bridge abutments, and the replacement of 47-kilometres of rail and 120,000 tonnes of ballast.
- Queensland Rail is liaising with its freight partners to not only resume services on the line, but to also facilitate extra runs as required to assist with moving additional product delayed during the closure.
- The first freight train to depart Townsville and travel the entire length of the line Mount Isa was a Pacific National service to Mount Isa, loaded with mineral concentrate, at 5am Monday 29 April, with the North West supply chain gradually returning to schedule over the coming weeks.
- Trains through Nelia will operate on a track constructed to a deviated route, while remediation works continue on site.
- Queensland Rail has been able to facilitate services east of Richmond since 23 March, and east of Hughenden since 14 April, via temporary intermodal facilities.

PRODUCTIVITY SAVINGS

- While flood recovery works were ongoing, the line's closure presented a unique opportunity for Queensland Rail staff to gain unrestricted track access to the remainder of the line, enabling large scale maintenance activities such as rerailing and reconditioning works ahead of schedule.
- Through these works, many temporary speed restrictions have been able to be removed, which will decrease the end-to-end run times between Townsville and Mount Isa by up to 50 minutes and removing the requirement for axle load restrictions.
- Overall delays due to temporary speed restrictions to reduce from 128 minutes pre-floods to 78 minutes post-repairs across the 1,000-kilometre journey.
- Between Hughenden and Cloncurry – which was significantly impacted by the floods – restrictions have reduced by almost half, down from 58 minutes to just under 24 minutes.
- We expect these improvements could offer up to 29 hours in productivity gains for freight operations between Townsville and Mount Isa each week.



ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

- Queensland Rail is continuing to work closely with Pacific National, Glencore and the Department of Environment and Science (DES) to respond to the environmental requirements associated with the inundation of a Pacific National train by unprecedented flood waters at Nelia.
- The parties have collectively engaged the services of an independent environmental specialist and a comprehensive monitoring program has been developed. Two rounds of soil and water sampling have been completed to date to assist in identifying the extent of any contamination impact.
- Sampling has predominantly focussed on the immediate train incident site, Nelia township and zones of interest to the north and downstream of the incident site.
- Sample results received to date show, as expected, that contamination is present in areas within the rail corridor, mainly in the ballast, and predominantly isolated to a finite area immediately downstream (north) of the incident site, with higher concentrations closer to the train. Clean up works within the rail corridor have commenced.
- A remediation action plan is also under development which will guide remediation works where required.
- Queensland Rail, Pacific National and Glencore will continue to engage with local landholders as monitoring and remediation works progress.