

Wednesday 23 August, 2017

## Midwest kids' creativity adds colour to important rail safety message

**More than 200 children from across the Midwest have added their own colourful touch to rail safety as part of Arc Infrastructure's 2017 Mingenew Midwest Expo Student Art Competition.**

Arc Infrastructure, formally Brookfield Rail, invited students from Dongara, Geraldton, Mingenew, Morawa, Northampton, Three Springs and Yuna to take part in the rail safety themed art competition to educate children on the importance of safe behaviours around the rail network.

With the help of teachers, students from pre-primary to Year 7 first learned about the importance of rail safety, received tips on being safe around the rail then created a unique piece of artwork that represented what the rail safety messages meant to them.

Each piece of artwork was proudly displayed at Arc Infrastructure's Expo marquee and formed part of the company's central exhibition as naming rights sponsors of the Expo's Family Interest Pavilion.

The artwork, along with the colourful *Track Splat!* rail safety exhibition, impressed the judges with Arc Infrastructure's marquee awarded the best Family Interest Display at the Expo.

While the calibre of work produced was exceptionally high, three designs were eventually chosen with each winner receiving a custom-designed art pack to continue their artistic endeavours. The winners for 2017 are:

Karissa Paelka Dongara District High School – Winner: Primary – Year 2

Billie-Lea Morrison Three Springs Primary – Winner: Years 3 - 4

Erin Connaughton Three Springs Primary – Winner: Years 5 – 7

Arc Infrastructure's Regional Lead Garry Bird said the importance of early intervention around rail safety cannot be underestimated with nearly 220 incidents occurring on Arc Infrastructure's network across Western Australia in the last 12 months alone.

"Tragically, each year many of these incidents involve young people which is why Arc Infrastructure created the *Track Splat!* early learning program so we can teach our kids as early as possible what it means to be safe not just on the road but around the railway as well," said Mr Bird.

In 2014, Arc Infrastructure launched the innovative rail safety game *Track Splat!*, designed to engage young people in rail safety in a fun and interactive way. The game is centred around three characters and rail safety ambassadors Jack, Scout and Albie, each with their own unique personalities.

Three Springs Primary School Principal Corie Lobwein said all the students enjoyed the challenge of taking part in the art competition as part of this year's Mingenew Midwest Expo.

"We have had a great response from students and teachers and it was fantastic to see each child create their own unique artwork based on their interpretation of the rail safety messages. You can see them understanding the messages and any program that helps foster safe behaviours in our young people is important," Principal Lobwein said.

The game supports and compliments the art competition by communicating and reinforcing key rail safety messages, showing consequences of correct and incorrect behaviour, as children help Jack, Scout and Albie find the safest route to cross the train tracks and avoid other hazards.

The game is freely available to students, parents and teachers by visiting [tracksplat.arcinfra.com](http://tracksplat.arcinfra.com).

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## ABOUT ARC INFRASTRUCTURE

Arc is pronounced as a word and not an acronym.

Arc Infrastructure is a leading transport infrastructure manager in Western Australia. We currently operate the State's 5,500km freight rail network, connecting people, commodities and ports across the State with the rest of Australia and the world.

Spread across regional Western Australia, our team of 430 employees keeps the rail network operating 24/7. We live local, buy local and are committed to contributing to regional communities.

Previously called Brookfield Rail, we changed our name to Arc Infrastructure in July 2017 to reflect the aspirations for our future to expand our involvement in transport infrastructure assets. We're committed to working with industry, our customers, partners and communities to find new opportunities that will support and strengthen our rail network for the benefit of WA.

For more information about Arc Infrastructure, please visit [www.arcinfra.com](http://www.arcinfra.com).