

Wednesday 6 December, 2017

Newdegate line reopens after record flooding

Grain train movements have resumed in the Newdegate-Lake Bidy area today following the completion of the works to repair and restore rail infrastructure extensively damaged by widespread flooding earlier in the year.

Arc Infrastructure completed the repair operation allowing services to resume along southern grain lines to support this year's harvest.

Testament to the extent of the damage caused, large sections of the track, rail structures and culverts were completely washed away during the February flooding with other areas of the network in the Lakes District remaining submerged for months.

Arc Infrastructure Asset Management and Projects General Manager Paul Lowney said the Company was committed to delivering a safe and sustainable solution that provided certainty to the growers in the region who depend on the rail line.

"While we had wanted to restore services to this final section of the network earlier, large volume of water remained in the Lakes District and further recent rains delayed the safe return of rail operations in the area," Mr Lowney said.

"Throughout this process we worked closely with the sole customer of the line to ensure they were kept informed of progress and we thank our employees, contractors and CBH for their hard work, support and understanding during the clean-up efforts and look forward to working with them as services resume."

ABOUT THE PROJECT

- The project area included approximately 50km of freight rail line from Lake Grace to Newdegate.
- The extreme weather conditions in February this year produced widespread damage throughout the Great Southern. According to Bureau of Meteorology statistics, the Newdegate-Lake Bidy area received more rainfall in two weeks in February this year than any similar period since 1955.
- With most significant flooding occurring in the Lakes District, Arc Infrastructure worked with project partners to deliver a long-term solution to the affected rail line that raised the existing track formation up by up to one metre to enable it to withstand any further extreme flooding events that might occur.
- This is the last section of the network to reopen following other sections of the rail line throughout the Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Goldfields returning to normal operation earlier in the year.

-ENDS-

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.

MEDIA CONTACT

Andrew Bennett

Arc Infrastructure

M 0459 869 624

E andrew.bennett@arcinfra.com