

Monday 12 February, 2018

## Revitalisation of Collie River Bridge underway

**A half a million dollar re-sleeping and re-railing project is underway on the rail bridge over the Collie River in the state's South West to continue to support the coal and alumina industries.**

The upgrade of the bridge will ensure Arc Infrastructure continues to provide customers with access to safe and reliable infrastructure for transportation of coal from the Premier and Ewington Coal Mines to South32's Alumina Refinery and Soundcem, where the coal is used for power generation. There are over 1 million tonnes that travel over this bridge each year or approximately 250 trains per year.

This section of the rail network is a critical part of the supply chain for WA's coal and alumina industries and for this reason it is important there is minimal disruption to train operations and trains can continue to operate while works are undertaken.

Arc Infrastructure's structures supervisor Shane Hooper said the nature of the work performed on a bridge standing at over 10 metres off the ground meant that specialist skills and accreditations were required by the team to ensure the upgrade was carried out safely.

"The upgrade of a bridge at that height requires a specific skill set and each employee who worked on top of the bridge was accredited to work at heights and use specialist safety equipment," Mr Hooper said.

"The nature of the work also means that the time required to replace each sleeper is significantly longer than a standard re-sleeping program."

Scaffolding was constructed at the side of the bridge to allow the team to carry out works on the side and under carriage of the bridge while employees who worked on the top of the bridge were required to be qualified to work at heights and used a rail specific restraint harness.

The revitalisation program involves the replacement of 180 timber bearers on the ten metre high bridge, 110 sleepers on the approach, and the re-rail of 25 metres of rail.

The re-sleeping work has been completed and was carried out by Arc Infrastructure's local maintenance and major projects teams and local contractors over a two week period. Scaffolding remains constructed on the bridge and the remainder of the works, including the re-railing, will occur later in the year.

The Collie River rail bridge upgrade is part of Arc Infrastructure's annual structures maintenance program carried out across the network to ensure all bridges, culverts and other structures are safely and suitably maintained.

Working on Fire has worked closely with Arc Infrastructure's environmental team, as well as local maintenance teams, rail network control, and other local contractors to undertake the bushfire mitigation works.

Mitigation works will continue at various sites along the rail corridor within the Shires of Murray, Harvey, Collie, Dardanup, Donnybrook Balingup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, and Manjimup once relevant environmental and government approvals have been obtained.

Arc Infrastructure recently donated \$30,000 to the WA Volunteer First & Rescue Services Association to create a Youth Leadership Program and Youth Skills Scholarship to attract new generations to volunteer.

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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).

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