

West Aust railscene e-Mag

Issue four: January 26th 2009 free electronic railway magazine number 04/09

West Aust railscene eMag is published weekly by Jim Bisdee on rail happenings on West Australian Rail railroads.

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ARMS locomotives DR8401, DR8402 and DR8404 are now off lease and stored on short lengths of track in Wedgefield industrial area Port Hedland on 22nd January, DR8403 is still at FMG yard. Photo Toad Montgomery

All the 13 new SD70ACel/c locomotives delivered last week are to be progressively commissioned at Boodarie workshops not at Nelson Point workshop where previous units entered service. 4337, 4338, 4340, 4346, 4345 were at eastern end, 4334 on fuel road and further units on western end and in workshop on 21st January. It is anticipated this commissioning will be undertaken over the next two months.

Stored on old Finucane Island balloon loop for past few days are former Union Pacific SD40-2 locomotives 3082 and 3085 coupled nose to nose that appear to be derailed or the crossing is buried.

Some sightings of FMG operations on January 21st were 003 shunting compressor cars at car dumper 1025, empty train from car dumper to Rolly yard crossed Great Northern Highway at 1100 with number 3 rake being a test train of 230 cars, most FMG rakes are 200-204 cars, about 1600 at the balloon loop switch [4.6km] 003 was shunt engine, 013 and 016 on the empty car line were waiting for their cars to be dumped, 009 and 007 arrived at 1605 with loaded 200 car train and took loaded car line, 013 and 016 depart empty car line 1745 for Rolly yard with 204 car empty rake, 009 and 007 light engines departed car dumper 1810 light engine for Rolly yard to refuel, FMG are running three to four trains per day.



Rio Tinto EVO 8134 remote unit in latest tiger livery on three locomotive lash up at Dingo loop on Dampier-Mt Tom Price main line 9th December 2008
Photo Toad Montgomery

Fortescue Mining are commissioning their fuel tanker fleet TK01 to TK12 that will commence running between Port Hedland and Cloud Break mine in the next week.

FNG are having Gemco commission further 12 new ballast wagons at Port Hedland that allowed the ABHY ex Darwin line ballast wagons to be taken off lease.

3101 is no longer named Kurra Kurraka having its name removed following its arrival from NSW and was returned to service in WA as LZ3101 on 22nd January.

4011 has now been numbered Q4011 and ran 7051 empty wheat train out of Forrestfield on 24th January.

Work has commenced on the \$33m Daddow Road Bridge at Kewdale that is expected run from January 2009 to February 2010. This bridge will have a walkway and may again open up photography off a bridge as Tonkin Highway Bridge had became very dangerous in recent years with the emergency stopping lane being removed.

South Spur Rail ran 7S36 to Avon Yard on 24th January K210 hauling 11 AHBY ballast wagons used on Darwin line and more recently used to build FMG line out of Port Hedland that were taken off lease at end of 2008 and trucked back to flashbutt Bellevue to be stowed. 11 further AHBY ballast wagons are still stored on loop at flashbutt.

In the last few days the out of gauge detector at Midland has stopped a number of down trains by having the out of detector activate claiming the down train is out of gauge. Crews have had to check their trains after they have passed Robinson Road level crossing at Bellevue.