



Warren Truss

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure and Regional
Development



John Fullerton

Australian Rail Track Corporation
Chief Executive Officer

Joint Media Statement

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Australian Rail Track Corporation marks 10 years in NSW

TEN years ago today the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) took up the New South Wales State Lease, becoming a single interstate rail freight access platform between Australia's major capitals, ports and intermodal terminals.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said while celebrating the 10 year lease milestone, ARTC will also celebrate a decade of growth and modernisation of the interstate rail network.

“Signing the lease in 2004 was a key part of the vision that ARTC would become a ‘one-stop-shop’ for rail freight operators across the country,” Mr Truss said.

“It enabled, for the first time, a single body to drive co-ordinated, planned and targeted investment into modernising the interstate rail freight network.

“Ten years on and a more reliable, efficient and safe rail network now supports freight travelling up and down the east coast of Australia—helping keep the country’s economy moving and the national logistics chain strong.

“Looking to the future, ARTC is now considering whether there is a commercial case to expand its operations in Queensland, and the Australian Government is investing in further development of the interstate network through our commitment to constructing the Inland Rail over the next 10 years.”

ARTC Chief Executive Officer John Fullerton said that since the ARTC take-up in 2004, the New South Wales rail network had been significantly upgraded.

“Mainlines are now 100 per cent concrete sleepered, and old signal boxes have been consolidated into two Network Control Centres,” Mr Fullerton said.

“Additionally:

- modern computerised CTC signalling has been introduced;
- level crossings have been removed or upgraded;
- drainage and ballast has been improved;
- multiple new passing lanes and crossing loops have been built; and
- massive structures like the Murrumbidgee rail bridge have been renewed, removed or upgraded

“Importantly, the Southern Sydney Freight Line is now operational and Sydney’s Metropolitan Freight Network has been integrated into ARTC’s network in line with the lease agreement.

“As a consequence, rail freight customers now enjoy 24/7, dedicated interstate rail freight access to Port Botany.

“Massive investment into the Hunter coal chain has also seen billions of dollars in rail infrastructure delivered to support coal growth tonnages that now amount to more than 150 million tonnes a year.

“Thanks to our customers and staff we have come a long way and we are determined to continue growing the volume of freight on rail to support Australia’s burgeoning freight task.”

ARTC currently has responsibility for the management of more than 8,500 route kilometres of standard gauge interstate track in South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.

Media Contacts

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