

6 January 2016

SEVERE FLOODING MAITLAND – NEWCASTLE: ARTC NETWORK

The Australian Rail Track Corporation's (ARTC) Hunter Valley network, NSW, has been hit by heavy rainfall and severe flooding over the last day impacting coal, freight and passenger services.

Heavy flooding at Sandgate and flooding at other locations between Newcastle and Maitland means rail services are not running and the line has been closed.

ARTC is closely monitoring the weather conditions but further rain and high winds are forecast throughout the day.

With a pending high tide and the potential for additional flood waters, the line will remain closed in the immediate timeframe. Access is also difficult in some areas.

We continue to monitor the track condition. Once flood waters recede and weather conditions improve, ARTC will conduct in-depth track inspections and conduct any necessary repairs due to water damage. We will then be able to provide a firm forecast regarding a return to operations.

Passenger service customers are advised to refer to www.sydneytrains.info for up-to-date information.

Our focus remains on ensuring a safe network and we thank our customers and the community for their patience at this time.

Flooding started to affect services from around 6pm last night (5 January).

ARTC will provide further updates as the situation progresses.

ENDS

Media Contact: Bas Bolyn, ARTC, 0477 340 658