

6 March 2017

ARTC WELCOMES NEW BROADBENT RAIL CONNECTION

Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Executive General Manager – Hunter Valley, Jonathan Vandervoort, has welcomed the opening of the 3.5km section of rail line to the Broadbent Grain facility in Moree on Friday.

The upgraded section of the Moree-Inverell rail line connects with ARTC's network in Moree and Member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall; Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson; and Cr Sue Price from Moree Plains Shire Council were on hand to see the first train loaded.

Mr Vandervoort said on the back of a big grain season, it was great to see new rail infrastructure available to support farmers in the region thanks to the NSW Government's Fixing Country Rail program.

ARTC has seen a threefold increase in tonnage and train numbers to the Port of Newcastle this harvest compared to the same time last year.

"We have been investing significantly in rail infrastructure right through our Hunter Valley network up to northern NSW – making rail more competitive and accessible for farmers than ever before – and this new section line adds further capability," Mr Vandervoort said.

"With increased train axle loads now available between the Port and Moree on ARTC's network, the new connection to Broadbent Grain's site means heavier, more efficient trains can now run out of the facility. That lowers transport costs and puts dollars back in farmer's pockets."

The bulk rail loading capabilities in Moree also enable a 48 hour cycle to Newcastle, making it one of the most efficient rail loading operations in the Moree region.

ARTC has also taken over the management and maintenance of the line for TfNSW and is urging the community to be vigilant around the level crossing, take care, always stop and look for trains, Mr Vandervoort said.

"We would also like to remind the community to exercise caution with trains now running again," Mr Vandervoort said.

"In particular motorists need to be cautious at the Tycannah Street level crossing and follow the signs to stop at the level crossing at all times and to check for trains."

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