

2 April 2019

Targeted rail maintenance effort injects big dollars into Hunter Valley economy

Rail maintenance and enhancement work to be carried out over three days in the Hunter Valley this month will bring over 1000 workers and many millions of dollars into regional communities.

ARTC Group Executive for the Hunter Valley Network Jonathan Vandervoort said the maintenance programme involves 124 different jobs and an investment of more than \$20 million.

“Most of that is spent in the local communities, providing a substantial local economic benefit,” Mr Vandervoort said.

“These major maintenance programmes require the deployment of an additional workforce of over a thousand contractors right through the Hunter Valley.

“For example, in the recent February maintenance shutdown we delivered more than \$4 million worth of work in the Gunnedah region alone – with much of the material and labour locally sourced, delivering benefits to local businesses like accommodation providers, service stations, cafes, hardware stores and supermarkets.”

The work will start at 6.30am next Tuesday 9 April and will be carried out from the port at Kooragang and along the rail corridor to Narrabri, as well as the Ulan line west from Muswellbrook.

To enable the jobs to be carried out safely, a scheduled shutdown is required and is expected to be completed on the section from the port to Muswellbrook and Ulan line by 8.30pm on Thursday 11 April, while completion on the section from Muswellbrook to Narrabri is expected by 6.30am on Friday 12 April.

“Works will include ballast cleaning, re-railing, track re-conditioning and turnout renewals. There will also be enhancements to signalling systems along a section between Wilpinjong and Kerrabee on the Ulan line and between Watermark and Turravan on the North West line, providing increased availability of the network on those lines,” Mr Vandervoort said.

“Structural work at Glennies Creek Bridge and re-railing of the up main line over the bridge, which will contribute to network stability, are expected to be completed during the shutdown.

“We appreciate the patience and cooperation of commuters and our customers during this time. The shutdown provides us with the best opportunity to access the track safely for longer periods of time and we plan well ahead to get the major work done during that window.

“We ask people in communities close to the rail corridor to be cautious during the shutdown period and keep an eye out for increased vehicle movements in and out of work sites.”

With the shutdown affecting Hunter Valley train services, alternative bus services will be provided, and details and schedules can be found at the Transport for NSW [website](#).

// ENDS //

Media contact: ARTC media team 1300 196 401

Images and video link next page

Images:

Caption: Major rail maintenance programs deliver significant economic benefits to the Hunter Valley.



Link to high resolution images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k725t6qsedi7sx/AACR1ZPoDVdduxQcuRwP4y9Ra?dl=0>

Link to Hunter Valley video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/boz67zpr3rban09/Hunter%20Valley%20overview.mp4?dl=0>