



15 July 2014

## **New rail hardware to provide critical maintenance for Hunter Valley Coal Network**

The efficiency and reliability of the Australian Rail Track Corporation's (ARTC) Hunter Valley Coal Network will soon be further enhanced with yesterday's arrival of a ballast cleaning machine and material handling wagons imported directly from the world leader in high performance on track technology, Swietelsky.

This state-of-the-art equipment is the latest addition to the Leighton Swietelsky Rail Joint Venture (LS Rail) fleet and will commence operations in September to ballast clean sections of the Hunter Valley Coal Rail Network as part of a two-year maintenance contract with the ARTC.

A scope of approximately 100km of ballast cleaning will be delivered during the contract, with work locations on the Ulan line and the rail corridor between Sandgate and Maitland. Maintenance will be undertaken during major rail possessions and scheduled annual maintenance possessions.

The Plasser & Theurer RM80-UHR ballast cleaner (built in 2006) and eight Swietelsky MFC45 single line spoil and material handling wagons (built between 2009 and 2011) have been extensively refurbished, modified and cleaned in Austria.

Valued at over \$18 million, they departed from the Port of Bremerhaven in Germany in May 2014 and arrived at Newcastle Port on July 15. The plant is currently being transferred to the new LS Rail stabling and maintenance facility in South Maitland.

Alec Mackenzie, Executive General Manager – Hunter Valley, ARTC, said: "Ballast cleaning forms a fundamental part of the rail maintenance task for ARTC and this contract helps ensure we keep the network operating reliably and safely for our customers as well as demonstrates our ongoing commitment to them in ensuring we operate the most efficient coal chain possible ."

LS Rail Director Julian Sharp said the maintenance agreement with the ARTC was a significant and important project both for LS Rail and the Hunter Valley Coal Network.

"This contract will benefit the local coal transport network by improving infrastructure reliability without putting in place track speed restrictions. This enables increased volumes of coal to be delivered to port," Mr Sharp said.

"The LS Rail plant and operating team will set new standards for ballast cleaning in Australia in regards to plant reliability, speed and the quality of the cleaned track."

The ballast cleaner and wagons will provide a substantial addition to the LS Rail plant fleet that currently includes a 09-3X dynamic tamper, SSP303 regulator, 08-275 switch tamper, PK1-20, /250 track laying system and the newly delivered Holland Flash Butt Welder.

## **ENDS**

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### **LS Rail**

LS Rail is a joint venture between Leighton Contractors and Swietelsky Baugesellschaft mbh. It combines Leighton Contractors' organisational accreditations and service provision capability with leading edge technology and operators from Swietelsky.

LS Rail provides the Australian rail market with a step change in track construction, track rehabilitation and mechanised maintenance solutions. The key benefits that LS Rail delivers are safe, high output and high quality track construction and maintenance services that achieve new levels of quality, time and cost efficiency.

### **Leighton Contractors**

Leighton Contractors, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Leighton Holdings Limited, is one of Australia's leading contracting and project development groups, with over \$13 billion work in hand and employing more than 14,000 people across Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Africa.

Leighton Contractors has over 300 rail specialists working across the public and private sectors. Having delivered more than 60 rail projects, Leighton Contractors has amassed extensive experience in rail across design, construction, commissioning and maintenance phases.

### **Swietelsky**

Swietelsky is a world leader in developing and operating high performance on track technology with the world's largest and most modern privately owned on track plant fleet. The Rail Division owns and operates over 500 rail mounted specialist machines.

Many of the systems are unique Swietelsky designs and have been specifically designed to undertake specialised track operations on a variety of railway networks, including high speed and heavy haul networks, as well as densely trafficked inner-city and suburban lines.

Swietelsky's Rail Division operates in more than 22 countries.

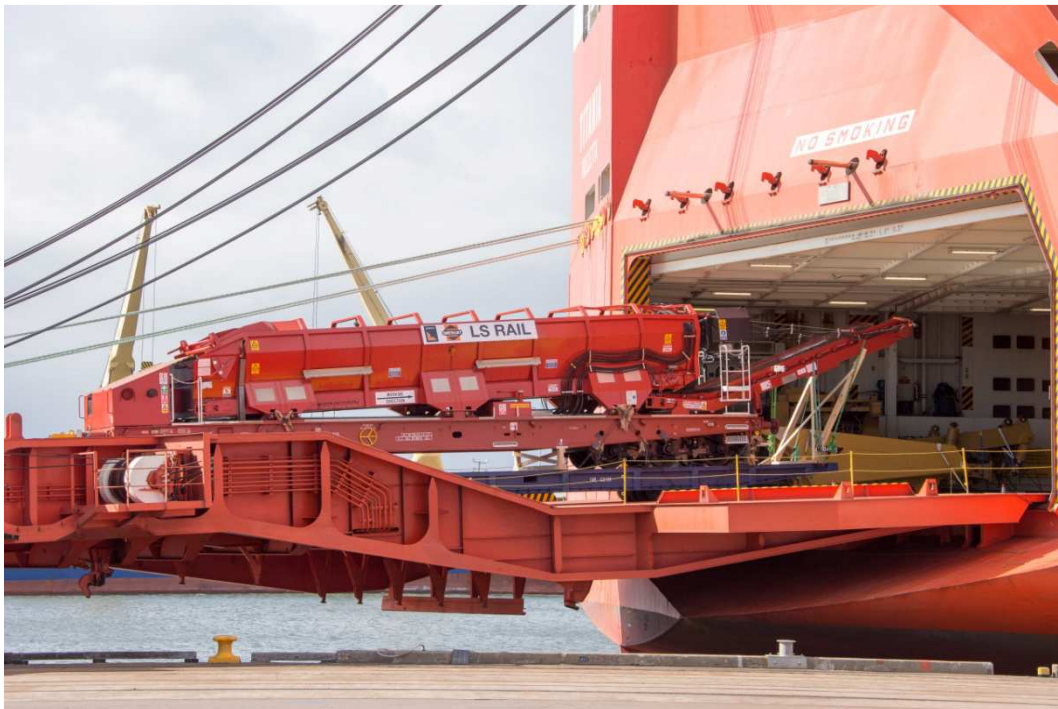
### **ARTC**

The Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC) was created after the Commonwealth and State Governments agreed in 1997 to the formation of a 'one stop' shop for all operators seeking access to the National interstate rail network.

ARTC currently has responsibility for the management of over 8,500 route kilometres of standard gauge interstate track in South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales. ARTC also manages the Hunter Valley coal rail network, and other regional rail links, in New South Wales.



**Caption:** The LS Rail ballast cleaner arrived at Newcastle Port yesterday and will commence operations in September on the Hunter Valley Coal Network.



**Caption:** The MFC45 single line spoil and material handling wagons arrived at Newcastle Port yesterday and will commence operations in September on the Hunter Valley Coal Network.