



## AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION LTD

### **ARTC Announces Start of Passing Lanes on Main South Rail Line**

“The first two 7 kilometre long passing lanes in ARTC’s North South Rail Upgrade Strategy for the Main South line are now underway at Yerong Creek and Uranquinty near Wagga with three more passing loops due to commence on the Main South Line in January” David Marchant Chief Executive of ARTC said today.

“These major track upgrade projects will be the first five of 17 new passing lanes to be built between Melbourne and Junee as part of ARTC’s \$2 billion North South rail upgrade Investment Strategy for the interstate rail network” Mr Marchant said.

The project provides an additional second track at regular intervals by the construction of double track sections of 7 km lengths and eliminates the current restriction caused by irregularly spaced crossing loops with their maximum lengths of 1.5kms.

The 17 new passing lanes between Junee and Melbourne will allow trains to pass and cross at speed lanes along the 472 kilometre length of this single line section of track.

Work has now commenced on site preparation, bulk earthworks, drainage and service works.

The work is being undertaken by the Southern Improvement Alliance (SIA) an alliance between ARTC, John Holland Rail, MVM Rail and O’Donnell Griffin supported by sub alliance partners Kellogg Brown and Root and CW-DC.

The \$560 million 3 year Southern Improvement Alliance project will result in more efficient train operations, increased operational capacity and improved reliability along with reduced overall transit times.

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