



AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION LTD

Media Release

NORTH EAST RAIL PROJECT WILL BRING LOCAL AND NATIONAL BENEFITS

Works on The North East Rail Revitalisation Project are currently being undertaken in Euroa, Violet Town and Avenel through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and ARTC's alliance partners South Improvement Alliance (SIA).

Works include replacing the old timber sleepers with concrete sleepers, converting the rail line to standard gauge and upgrading local level crossings.

New platforms will be constructed at Euroa, Violet Town and Avenel stations later this year.

The North East Rail Revitalisation Project (NERRP) will significantly upgrade Victoria's North East rail line between Melbourne and Albury/Wodonga.

This project will deliver major freight and passenger service improvements as well as paving the way for new investment, job creation and revitalisation of regional centres in Victoria's north east.

The North East works have been progressing south from Wodonga, and while most of the works are carried out within the rail line, there will be a need to temporarily close some local level crossings for refurbishment works. Temporary crossing closures will be advertised in local newspapers and detours will be identified with signage.

Motorists, pedestrians and cyclists are reminded to take care at level crossings and observe signage, boom gates, warning bells and lights as trains will continue to run on the rail line during construction.

A majority of construction activities will be undertaken during standard construction hours. However, work may need to be undertaken at night to complete some aspects of the project. Properties near the rail line where night works are scheduled will be notified.

Residents and businesses located within close proximity to work areas may notice an increase in work related vehicles assessing the rail corridor and some construction noise and dust associated with the works. Construction impacts will be managed in accordance with the Construction Environment Management Plan.

Other major works include a rail bypass and new station at Wodonga and improvements to 32 rail bridges between Wodonga and Melbourne.

The \$ 501m North East Rail Revitalisation Project is jointly funded by ARTC, the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth Government. ARTC's alliance partners South Improvement Alliance (SIA) are undertaking the works.

The project is on track to be completed in 2010.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the construction program can visit the website, www.southimprovementalliance.com.au or call the 24-hour community response line on 1800 643 608.

QUICK FACTS

- 204,192 sleepers installed. The sleeper program will be completed by 23/2/09
- 92km track finished (tampered track)
- 104km side and sertes
- 164km reguage completed
- 10 road crossings completed
- 6 turnouts completed.

Date: Friday 13th March 2009

Further information, please contact:

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