



AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION LTD

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRAK TO SUPPLY ARTC 500,000 NEW CONCRETE SLEEPERS FOR UPGRADES BETWEEN PARKES AND BROKEN HILL

Australian Rail Track Corporation and Austrak Pty Ltd today have agreed to once again work together on resleeper projects as part of the equity investment announced by the Australian government in the May Budget.

The agreement, worth more than \$50 million, will require Austrak to produce 500,000 brand new pre-stressed concrete sleepers for ARTC track upgrades.

Specifically the new concrete sleepers will be used as part of the concrete resleeper of the line between Broken Hill and Parkes, designed to increase capacity and reduce transit time.

The rail line between Broken Hill and Parkes has historically suffered from poor ride quality to the extent that it has affected rail's ability to gain traffic. The line also suffers from heat related speed restrictions.

The consistency and strength of concrete sleepers will resolve these two issues.

The concrete sleepers will be produced at Austrak's factory at Wagga Wagga which will employ 53 people to complete the project.

ARTC and Austrak already have a strong working partnership with Austrak supplying concrete sleepers for ARTC's massive \$2.4 billion upgrade of the North South line.

ARTC Chief Executive Officer, David Marchant explained that while the production of the concrete sleepers is essential for the Parkes to the Broken Hill freight rail projects, the work will also benefit the Wagga community.

"ARTC is proud to partner with a local company as we hit the ground running with the upgrade of rail infrastructure between Broken Hill and Parkes. The jobs this work will generate will be a significant boost to Wagga."

"The new sleepers are an essential element in ARTC's strategy to increase the capacity and reduce transit time between Broken Hill and Parkes."

Austrak General Manager, David Priddle explained how the new deal will boost their operations.

"The new work to produce sleepers for ARTC's Broken Hill to Parkes project will allow Austrak to employ more people at the Wagga factory."

"The announcement of the project will also mean a boost to employment in Wagga. Not only through Austrak's operations, but also the trickle down employment affect for many of our suppliers. This sort of knock-on employment is vital in regional areas," Mr Priddle said.

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