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HOW IS SOUTH AUSTRALIA INVOLVED?

The South Australian Government joined with the Federal and Northern Territory Governments in committing financially to the railway project. The NT and SA Governments jointly fund the AustralAsia Railway Corporation, which is managing the supervision of the project on behalf of the governments.

The Governments' financial commitment to the railway was based on the long-term benefits to SA and the NT, but shorter-term benefits are also guaranteed through the Local Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plan, which requires 75 per cent of the project cost to be spent in SA and the NT. A total of \$346 million worth of contracts were awarded to SA companies during the construction phase.

Whilst a new section of line constructed between Alice Springs and Darwin, Asia Pacific Transport's contract includes the upgrading and maintenance of the existing Tarcoola to Alice Springs rail link. Asia Pacific Transport, through FreightLink, will operate a rail service from Adelaide to Darwin, connecting to the Port of Darwin.

The AustralAsia Railway Project is a BOOT scheme, i.e. Build, Own, Operate and Transfer back ownership of the rail line to the people of Australia after 50 years operation.

WHYALLA

Whyalla-based One-Steel produced 146,000 tonnes of steel rail for the new line.

PORT AUGUSTA

EDI Rail has signed a contract with Asia Pacific Transport to provide a package of rollingstock solutions including the supply of locomotives and wagons and the provision of maintenance services. The value of the contract is approximately A\$60 million.

A proposed rail/road intermodal hub will position the city at the crossroads of the national rail network and support the new Central Trade Corridor from southeast Australia via Adelaide to the Port of Darwin and markets in Asia and beyond. Port Augusta will also be the centre for future rolling stock maintenance.

For Further Information contact the AustralAsia Railway Corporation Telephone 89469595 www.aarc.com.au