

Updated 08 July 2003

Monday 7 April 2002 marked the start of tracklaying on the historic last leg of the Adelaide to Darwin railway project.

PREPARATION FOR TRACKLAYING

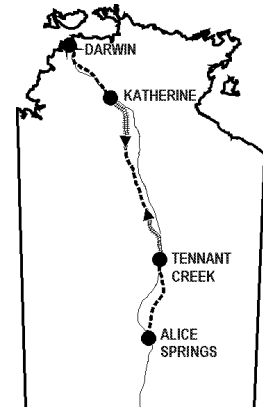
Before any track can be laid, the railway corridor must be cleared and the embankment formed. Bridges and culverts must also be in place. All earthworks clearing, bridge construction and ballast production is complete.

TRACK LAYING

The Katherine to Tennant Creek leg was chosen as the first section to be laid because of the number of large bridges required to be built north of Katherine and a number of major cuttings required near Alice Springs. Some of these took up to 12 months to complete.

The Katherine tracklayer (northern crew) initially headed south, while the Tennant Creek tracklayer (southern crew) initially headed north. The two met near ADrail's Buchanan Highway Camp between Katherine and Tennant Creek in December 2002.

Some track was laid both north of Katherine and south of Tennant Creek to enable ballast from local quarries to be hauled on the railway. In January 2003 tracklaying recommenced south of Tennant Creek towards Alice Springs. Tracklaying recommenced north from Katherine to Darwin on 7 April 2003.



SCALE OF THE PROJECT

- 15 million cubic metres of earthworks
- 146,000 tonnes of steel rail
- 90 bridges
- 2 million concrete sleepers
- 8 million rail clips
- Cost A\$1.3 billion
- Contract Period - 3 years
- 1500 culvert locations
- 2.8 million tonnes of ballast
- 110,000 Flash Butt Welds
- 4 million sleeper fastenings
- 3,500 tonnes of structural steel
- 100,000 cubic metres of pre-stressed concrete

SPECIFICATIONS

The railway is to be designed and constructed to the standards appropriate to a modern standard-gauge mainline railway in Australia.

• Track Gauge	Standard Gauge (1435mm)	• Length	1420 km
• Rail	50Kg AS 1085.1	• Sleeper	Prestressed Concrete
• Max Design Speed	115 km/hr	• Sleeper weight	280 kg
• Ave Operating speed	80 km/hr	• Sleeper spacing	700mm/720mm
• Turn out speed	20 km/hr	• Axle Load	23 tonne
		• Max Grade	1.2 percent

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