



## SEPTEMBER UPDATE

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In just 112 days FreightLink will commence operations with the inaugural train leaving Adelaide for Darwin on 15 January 2004.

FreightLink's aim to capture the 350,000 tonnes of existing general freight and fuel currently transported predominantly from the southern states to the Northern Territory is well within reach with the operator securing the support of major customers, freight forwarders – Toll Holdings, Northline, Northern Territory Freight Services (NTFS) and FCL as well as a number of furniture removalists and car carriers.

FreightLink believes that there is potential to increase its share of the existing general freight and fuel currently transported on the central Australian corridor to over 800,000 tonnes during the first few years of operation.

Rail freight logistics specialist Pacific National has entered a commercial agreement for the provision of terminal services with FreightLink, enabling the new operator access to Pacific National's existing terminals in Adelaide and Alice Springs. When contracts are completed in early October, Pacific National will also operate FreightLink's terminals in Tennant Creek, Katherine, and Darwin.

This arrangement ensures that frequent rail services between Adelaide and Darwin will connect with the national rail network to all major capital cities through the Adelaide terminal, thereby attracting a shift in traffic to the Central Corridor.

The connection with the interstate rail system will benefit FreightLink customers from the Eastern States and Western Australia and will also facilitate the development of international trade.

Pricing schedules have been finalised and customers wanting to use FreightLink are now able to contact Freight Forwarders who will in turn retail their 'door-to-door' services to end-users, commencing with the inaugural freight train on 15 January.

Proposed train timetables for the new line have been prepared and are being made available for general freight customers through freight forwarders.

### Timetable arrangements

FreightLink will run five freight trains per week of up to 1.8 kilometre in length, increasing to 6 services as customer demand increases. A FreightLink train will leave Adelaide at approximately 2300hrs on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and 1700 hrs on Saturdays, arriving in Darwin at 1730 hrs on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays with Monday arrival at 0930hrs. Meanwhile a FreightLink train will leave Darwin at 10am each day (except Wednesdays and Sundays) and arrive in Adelaide 43 hours later (at approx 0700 hrs).

Rolling stock

Downer EDI in Port Augusta will deliver four diesel electric FQ class locomotives by the end of 2003; meanwhile FreightLink will lease another four locomotives from Australian Southern Railroad.

FreightLink is finalising agreements with the Northern and Central land councils for the two locomotives making the first journey on the line to be painted in indigenous colours.

EDI is also building 275 articulated container wagons, the remainder (approximately 120) will be leased from Australian Southern Railroad on a fully-maintained basis.

FreightLink has initiated design work on the development of 48-foot well wagons, which are to be used for double stacking containers on the line. Delivery dates are planned for 2007.

South Australian company Bluebird will supply crew accommodation cars ready for start up in January.

International business development

FreightLink, in partnership with the South Australian and Northern Territory governments, is undertaking studies on import supply chains into Australia to assist in identifying potential customers using alternate supply chain through Darwin.

FreightLink is also continuing discussions with shipping lines and international freight forwarders about opportunities and is working with Darwin Port Corporation and the Northern Territory government on feasibility studies for the movement of bulk cargoes through the port.

Upcoming project milestones

25 September 2003 – Arrival of the Tracklayer at the Berrimah rail terminal at the Port of Darwin.

31st October 2003 - FreightLink will be formally accredited as owner of the rail line.

November 2003 - Commissioning of the new locos as they come off the production line through EDI in SA is scheduled to commence.

November 2003 - Completion of the Tennant Creek, Katherine and Berrimah terminals.

15 January 2004 – Inauguration of the AustralAsia Railway, first train leaves Adelaide.

17 January 2004 – Inauguration of the AustralAsia Railway, first train arrives Darwin.

**For further information please contact Kelley White or Fiona Cullen-Ward,  
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