

MEDIA STATEMENT



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An intensive 24-hour-a-day recovery operation over the past five days has enabled TasRail to clear the Devonport derailment site today.

The 110-tonne TR11 locomotive was lifted from the foreshore area by two cranes – one with a 250-tonne lifting capacity and the other with a 160-tonne lifting capacity – at approximately 10.30am this morning.

The locomotive was disconnected from its bogies (an assembly housing the axles and wheels providing pivoted support under the rollingstock) and then dual lifted by the cranes onto a new set of bogies, enabling it to be shunted via another locomotive back to the Devonport yard.

TR11 will be returned to the East Tamar Junction (ETJ) yard in Launceston this afternoon via the Western Line for the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) to conduct further testing. It is expected that TR11 will remain in the workshop for at least two weeks before being released by the ATSB and TasRail's rollingstock engineer.

All wagons have also been removed from the Devonport site and returned to ETJ on trucks for assessment and repair.

TasRail General Manager Asset Management Rhys Prestidge said the cranes will also be utilised today to remove the final wheel sets and bogies.

"Our next focus is to continue to work closely with the Devonport City Council to restore the public foreshore area to its original state," Mr Prestidge said.

"This recovery operation has involved a high level of planning, cooperation, hard work and safety focus. We are relieved that we can finalise our on-site recovery efforts today."

TasRail again extended its sincere thanks to all TasRail employees that have contributed to the safe recovery operation, as well as Tasmania Police, all emergency service personnel, the Devonport City Council and the wider community.

TasRail will continue to cooperate with the ATSB and the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator to determine the cause of the derailment.

For more information, please contact:

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