

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE LAST TRAIN OUT OF HOBART'S ALMOST GONE...

TasRail's relocation from its ancestral home on the Hobart waterfront to the purpose-built Brighton Transport Hub today will see the company better positioned to grow freight volumes, in addition to providing for the de-commissioning of more than 20 level crossings dotted throughout suburban Hobart.

TasRail Chief Executive Officer Damien White said that the move was a "win win" for the Tasmanian economy as the company marked the departure of its final Hobart freight service at 3.30pm.

"On the one hand this move positions the company to meet the changing demands of the Tasmanian freight market and allows for the expansion of intermodal freight volumes, while at the same time freeing up an important piece of public land for development under the guidance of the Macquarie Point Development Corporation," Mr White said.

"TasRail will now work closely with the Macquarie Point Development Corporation as responsibility for the site is progressively transferred to the Corporation.

"Through the construction of the Hub, the commissioning of our new locomotives and rollingstock, along with significant track upgrades TasRail is now almost unrecognisable compared to when we were formed in 2009.

"No longer are we the railway made up of others hand-me-downs or other rail operators' cast-offs, but an innovative short-haul railway and intermodal terminal manager that is comparable to other national freight rail operations.

"The significant investment the Tasmanian and Australian Governments have made in rail is now seeing new and existing customers making significant commitments to utilising us to move their freight," Mr White said.

Equally important with regard to today's event is that this move allows for the closure of the Hobart Line, which has around 20 active vehicle level crossings in addition to a myriad of cycle and pedestrian crossings, increasing safety at the road rail interface in an increasingly urbanised transport route.

ENDS

For more information: