

MEDIA RELEASE

June, 2016

TasRail advises that the current flood situation has impacted freight operations across the rail network, but **train operations will resume between Railton and Devonport from 1800hours tonight**.

TasRail CEO Damien White said the Company was continuing to keep customers updated and is doing everything possible to minimise disruptions to freight services.

While the flood situation has eased in parts of the State, water levels are continuing to rise in other locations, inundating parts of the rail track and infrastructure. Mr White said yesterday's track inspections and assessments had to be abandoned because it was considered unsafe in the deteriorating conditions. The situation had sufficiently improved in most areas by this morning, enabling staff to be deployed across the network to carry out inspections of rail infrastructure and to assess the extent of damage.

Repair works were prioritised to the Devonport to Railton Line today where only minimal damage was sustained. Train services will be operating continuously on this route from early this evening.

TasRail is urging the public to be aware of trains operating between Devonport and Railton, and to obey signals and signs at level crossings. Tasmania Police advise that some roads remain closed in the Railton area. "If a resident is not able to access their property via the road, then we ask that they contact the State Emergency Service in the first instance and NOT take the risk of using the rail line", Mr White said.

In terms of the condition of the rest of the rail network, Mr White said an inspection of the Melba Line was completed today and repairs will be required at a number of sections. "We remain hopeful that subject to further assessment, train services on the West Coast can resume within the next 48 to 72 hours", he said.

The South Line between Western Junction and Conara cannot be assessed until water levels subside, particularly around Evandale, Clarendon and Longford.

The Bell Bay Line is operational, but services to George Town are temporarily suspended due to flooding at the East Tamar Rail Yard. A full assessment of the Fingal Line has identified a number of areas requiring repair.

Most of the damage has occurred to the Western Line, but access to some areas remains problematic. Initial reports indicate a substantial number of washouts have occurred, particularly in the Kimberley area where a rail bridge has also been damaged.

TasRail is urging members of the community to stay away from the rail corridor including rail bridges. Mr White said that even where train services are not currently running, there will be rail vehicles and heavy equipment operating on railway lines and the risk of a collision remains high.

TasRail wishes to thank Tasmania Police and the State Emergency Services for their ongoing assistance at this difficult time.

More information:

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About TasRail

TasRail is a State-owned Company, established on 1 December 2009 by an Act of the Tasmanian Parliament. The principal objectives of the business are set out in the Rail Company Act 2009 and require the Company to operate a rail business in Tasmania, effectively and efficiently and to operate its activities in accordance with sound commercial practice.

With a workforce of around 240 men and women, Tasmania's hauls around 50 per cent of Tasmania's contestable freight task - generating annual revenue in the order of \$34 million. TasRail conservatively estimates that the freight it transports by rail each year effectively removes the equivalent of 200,000 B-Double truck movements from the State's road network.