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PROJECT UPDATE

BEGINNING OF WARATAH TRAIN FLEET SAFETY & RELIABILITY TESTING PROGRAM



The Waratah fleet safety and reliability testing program has commenced with the prototype four-car test train's network trials in Newcastle.

"The trialing of the prototype train is the first stage in the rigorous safety and reliability testing program for the 626 Waratah carriages," RailCorp CEO Rob Mason said.

"This safety and reliability program is the most extensive undertaken on the CityRail network to support a new fleet's introduction to service and will aid the long-term reliability of the next generation Waratah trains."

The prototype test train is undergoing trials in Newcastle before moving to Sydney for a more extensive testing period.

The network tests will primarily be undertaken at night to avoid delays or interruptions to scheduled passenger services on the CityRail network.

The prototype trials will test the train's key systems, starting with traction and braking, and their integration with the RailCorp network.

Reliance Rail is fully committed to delivering safe and reliable trains that will provide passengers with comfort and service for the long-term, according to CEO Terry Kearney.



“The successful introduction of a new train is determined largely by how the train and network integrate and this prototype will be tested to refine the performance of key components of the Waratah,” Mr Kearney said.

“The Waratah trains will be in passenger service every day and night for the next 30 years or more, and safety and reliability will not be compromised to rush the trains into passenger service.”

The prototype test train is not being used for passenger service and therefore, is not fitted out internally.

For the network trials, ballast will be used internally to simulate the same mass as a four-car train in passenger service.

The prototype test train will operate under its own power for the network trials, but it will be towed by a locomotive to the test locations until it completes signal interference tests.

The first Waratah eight-car train will begin safety and reliability testing on the Newcastle and Sydney network later in 2010.

Reliance Rail is contracted to deliver 626 carriages for use on the CityRail network from late 2010.

Reliance Rail has contracted the design and manufacture of the trains to the Downer EDI Rail – Hitachi Joint Venture, which is building the Waratah fleet to proven Australian and international standards and the contracted safety and reliability performance specifications.

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