

MEDIA RELEASE

13 January 2012

CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON NEW DIGITAL TRAIN RADIO NETWORK

Work will begin next week on the installation of six communication masts along the rail line between Sutherland and Goomera Ridge, south of Waterfall, as part of RailCorp's new Digital Train Radio System (DTRS).

The critical safety program will see RailCorp's old analogue train radios replaced with a state of the art digital system in line with recommendations from the Waterfall inquiry.

RailCorp has engaged UGL Infrastructure Pty Ltd to design, construct and maintain the new radio network.

Project Manager Tony Cunningham said new masts need to be erected by the rail line to allow the DTRS to operate.

"Following discussions with local residents and consultation on a Review of Environmental Factors for six sites between Sutherland and Goomera Ridge, the contractors are now ready to begin construction," Mr Cunningham said.

"Masts between 18 and 31 metres high will be installed by the rail line at Loftus, Heathcote, Waterfall and Goomera Ridge. At Sutherland and Engadine we can simply add the new technology to existing structures.

"Construction will involve excavating a foundation and pouring concrete, erecting masts and power cabinets and installing fibre optic and electrical cable between the equipment and existing communication pits on each site," Mr Cunningham said.

"Construction hours will be between 7am and 6pm on weekdays and, if necessary, from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. We expect construction to take around six weeks, weather permitting.

"We do not anticipate disruption to trains services during construction and there will be minimal impact on local residents. At some points during the installation there will be traffic management in place to make way for construction vehicles and plant.

"Following the roll out of Digital Train Radio between Sutherland and Goomera Ridge, we will continue installation across all electrified areas of the metropolitan and outer metropolitan network," Mr Cunningham said.

For more information about the first six sites, visit www.railcorp.info

RailCorp Media: (02) 8922 4346