

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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*25 November 2011*

### **“Recovery progressing well, but a lot still to be done” Update - Coal train derailment at Clifton - South Coast**

Recovery is progressing well, but a lot of work is still to be done following the derailment of a Pacific National coal train near Coalcliff yesterday, RailCorp’s Acting Chief Operating Officer Tony Eid said today.

A 500 tonne crane has been set up on the site to undertake heavy lifting duties and remove the derailed wagons, which will then allow for repair works to more than 400 metres of track take place after a clean up of the coal.

“I would like to thank South Coast customers for their patience while we work hard to return services to normal. We understand it’s a difficult situation with the alternative transport arrangements in place and their cooperation has been great,” Mr Eid said.

“Our crew worked throughout the night to get this recovery operation underway. A large crane is now set up to remove the wagons from the track and then we can start what will be a big repair job.

“The crew has a number of challenges to compete with including difficult terrain, the weather, and the need to isolate power – but we’ve got over 100 people on the job recovering services, assisting customers and arranging alternative transport.

“Alternative transport arrangements from yesterday are still current and we’re running regular train and bus services on both sides of the site to help South Coast customers get where they need to go. Our advice to customers is to visit [131500.com.au](http://131500.com.au) or call 131500 for up-to-date information.

“CityRail is also reminding customers that there are two planned major trackwork possessions taking place this weekend,” Mr Eid said.

Planned trackwork on the South Coast line from Bomaderry (Nowra) to Dapto continues and Operation CBD trackwork is also taking place, affecting a number of lines running into and out of the City.

“Due to the range of works taking place on the CityRail network this weekend, customers will need to plan ahead and take into consideration additional travel time.” Mr Eid said.

#### **Clifton Pacific National coal train derailment by the numbers:**

- Eight coal wagons derailed
- Over 400m of track to be repaired

- More than 600 concrete sleepers to be replaced
- Over 6,500 customers affected
- More than 100 crew on site and extra CityRail staff at stations assisting customers with alternative transport arrangements
- Extra train and bus services running more than regular timetable services of 15-20 minute runs
- Up to 45 buses replacing trains

**The crane:**

- 500 tonne crane called in to remove the wagons
- Travelled more than 200km from Newcastle to Coalcliff on a wide-load convoy of 8 trucks due to the size of the crane and accompanying equipment
- Two police vehicles escorted the crane from the end of the F3 along Pennant Hills Road to the M2, M7, M5, Picton Road, onto Lawrence Hargrave Drive and then Coalcliff
- Temporary road was created to provide access to the recovery site
- Geotechnicians required to assess ground stability for crane to operate

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**Note:**

**Alternative transport arrangements for the South Coast this weekend:**

- Trains will operate between Bondi Junction and Waterfall
- Buses replace trains between Waterfall and Thirroul
- Trains will operate between Port Kembla and Thirroul
- Buses replace trains between Bomaderry (Nowra) and Wollongong due to scheduled trackwork