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## AUBURN MAINTENANCE CENTRE OPENS FOR BUSINESS



The \$220 million state-of-the-art Auburn Maintenance Centre for the next generation Waratah train fleet, was officially opened by New South Wales Minister for Transport, John Robertson on 24 July 2010.

“This state-of-the-art centre will be pivotal to the day-to-day delivery of safe, clean and reliable Waratah trains to Sydney commuters over the next 30 years,” RailCorp CEO Rob Mason said.

“The completion of this centre and its integration with the CityRail network demonstrate the collaborative approach from all project parties and reflective of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) in action.”

The Auburn Maintenance Centre will employ approximately 150 people, including 10 apprentices, to maintain the Waratah fleet for a minimum of 30 years.

The centre consists of seven maintenance lines with a total fleet maintenance capacity for 1,000 carriages, an automatic train wash plant and underfloor wheel-profiling lathe.

The Waratah fleet will undergo both planned and unscheduled maintenance at the Auburn centre. The trains will also be cleaned, and any repairs will be undertaken onsite to ensure they are appropriately presented for passenger service. Some other RailCorp trains may also be stabled, maintained and washed at the centre.

Reliance Rail CEO, Terry Kearney, said the centre introduces new technologies in train maintenance to the CityRail network, including an automatic train-wash plant that can clean both the sides and ends of the train and a system to allow for all 16 bogies on an eight-car set to be changed without moving the train.

“The centre’s innovative design and new technologies will support a smart approach to maintaining the Waratah trains which will set new standards in availability and reliability for commuters,” Reliance Rail CEO Terry Kearney said.

The operations of the maintenance centre will include a support team that will work with

RailCorp's operations staff to provide real-time assistance for trains operating on the network.

"While a Waratah train is operating on the network, this team can remotely analyse its performance data and identify any corrective maintenance that needs to occur before it arrives at the Auburn Maintenance Centre, enabling that train to return to passenger service more efficiently," Mr Kearney said.

The Auburn Maintenance Centre is already maintaining and stabling Waratah trains, including the prototype test train which is undergoing trials on the Sydney network and the first eight-car train which is undergoing tests on-site. The first eight-car train will begin its trials on the Sydney network in mid-August.

Reliance Rail subcontracted the design and construction of the facility to Downer EDI Rail. The main portion of the works was carried out by the John Holland Group.

The construction of the centre started three years ago and during the peak period employed approximately 250 people.

The first Waratah train to enter passenger service is on schedule for late 2010. Reliance Rail is contracted to deliver and maintain 78 trains for operation by CityRail. Reliance Rail has subcontracted the maintenance of the Waratah fleet to Downer EDI Rail for a period of at least 30 years.

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