

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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*24 November 2011*

### **Private coal train derailment at Coalcliff- South Coast**

CityRail advises commuters that buses will replace trains on the South Coast Line this morning due to the derailment of a private freight train at Coalcliff.

At around 12.25am this morning, a number of loaded wagons of a private coal train derailed, including five wagons on to their side, spilling coal on to the track. The freight train was travelling from Helensburgh to Port Kembla.

RailCorp's Acting Chief Operating Officer Tony Eid said the South Coast Line between Thirroul and Waterfall has been closed in both directions as a result, and CityRail has organised buses to replace trains.

"Bus services will run between Thirroul and Waterfall until further notice. This will mean longer journey times for customers today," Mr Eid said.

"There is a train shuttle service running between Port Kembla and Wollongong and Dapto and Thirroul."

"We are advising customers to be aware the park and ride facility at Waterfall is currently unavailable to allow the replacement buses to stop at the station, so please consider using other stations north of Waterfall."

"Customers travelling to the City from Illawarra Line stations are asked to catch local suburban train services as South Coast InterCity services will not operate to the normal timetable."

"There is no current forecast for when train services will return to normal in the area as the recovery process and clean up could take some time. We anticipate this incident will impact today's afternoon peak," he said.

"RailCorp response and train recovery crews have been called to the site to recover the train wagons and bring back services to normal as quickly and safely as possible. Engineers will also assess any damage to infrastructure."

"CityRail customers on the South Coast Line should listen to station announcements regarding alternative travel arrangements and prepare for major delays as a result of this incident. Customers are reminded that due to trackwork, buses continue to replace trains between Dapto and Bomaderry."

"We also advise customers to check the 131500 website or call Transport Info for more information on how services are being affected."