



PROJECT UPDATE

First eight Waratah carriages arrive marking ramp-up of final manufacture

13 December 2009: The first eight carriages of Sydney's Waratah train fleet have arrived in Newcastle today, marking the ramp-up of the final manufacturing phase of the NSW Rolling Stock Public Private Partnership Project (PPP).

Reliance Rail Chief Executive Officer Terry Kearney said the arrival of the first carriages represented another major project milestone, with attention now firmly focused on final manufacture and testing then delivery of the Waratah trains into passenger service.

"We have made very significant progress over the past year and as we move to the final manufacture and delivery phases, we will see a commensurate ramp-up in employment across the Hunter Region," Mr Kearney said.

The next generation Waratah fleet of 78, eight-carriage trains will undergo final manufacture, assembly, testing and commissioning at the Downer EDI Rail Cardiff facility, near Newcastle.

The final manufacturing phase will generate around 300 employment opportunities in the Hunter Region, with the production of the fleet's crew cabs providing significant training and apprenticeship opportunities in both mechanical and electrical trades.

"We are leveraging the Hunter manufacturing expertise to build, assemble and install more than 150 crew cabs, which will feature driver's and guards controls, and lockers housing the train's electrical systems."

The PPP project has already generated 350 jobs in NSW in the areas of train design, project management, procurement, and the design and construction of the train maintenance facility at Auburn in Sydney's western suburbs.

RailCorp's Acting Chief Executive Officer Gary Pedersen said the arrival of the first train is a significant point in the delivery of the 626 Waratah air-conditioned carriages.

"The next generation Waratah fleet features major advances in design and technology, which will provide customers with improved security, safety, reliability and passenger amenity," Mr Pedersen said.

"The Waratah fleet will be progressively delivered into passenger service from late 2010, following the successful completion of a rigorous testing program that will start with the extensive trialling of the pre-production test train on the CityRail network."

The pre-production test train is currently undergoing final manufacture at the Downer EDI Rail facility. It is due to undergo testing on-site at Cardiff towards the end of the year, before being trialled on the Hunter and Sydney networks in early 2010.

Reliance Rail is contracted to deliver 626 carriages for use on the CityRail network from late 2010 and to provide maintenance on the fleet for 30 years at the \$220m maintenance facility at Auburn. Reliance Rail has contracted the design and manufacture of the trains to the Downer EDI Rail – Hitachi Joint Venture.