

Blackwater System Enhancement Program

The Blackwater rail system primarily services the coal mines of Central Queensland and carries product to Stanwell Power Station, Gladstone Power Station and the Port of Gladstone – the system boundaries are to Burngrove in the west, north to the Gregory mine and south to Parana. In the last financial year, QR carried 40 million tonnes of coal. This is forecasted to increase by more than 45% in 2009/10.

The Blackwater System Enhancement Program (BSEP) incorporates a range of associated works to increase the capacity of the Blackwater system. These include:

Construction of the 110 kilometre rail spur from Kinrola to the new Xstrata mine at Rolleston

- Duplication of more than 30km of existing track to Gladstone
- Relay of the Kinrola branch line to a higher standard
- Construction of a third balloon loop at Gladstone port
- Construction of a rail balloon loop at Minerva.

Wallaroo – Tryphinia – Dingo Duplication

Capacity modelling has identified the trigger points for incremental upgrades to the Blackwater System. The Wallaroo – Tryphinia - Dingo is the first of these upgrades that will enable additional tonnage to be carried. This 22 kilometre track upgrade includes civil works, electrification, signalling and telecommunications.

As well as providing additional capacity on the Blackwater line, this upgrade will improve below rail transit times and provide more reliable cycle times. It is anticipated the upgrade will be complete by mid 2005.

For further information contact: Frank McCormack on (07) 3235 1654.



Duplication works at Tryphinia on the Blackwater Line

Bauhinia Regional Rail Project

Track laying has commenced on the Bauhinia Regional Rail Project in Central Queensland, the longest rail line to be built in the State since the mid 1980s. Work trains have commenced track laying operations from the northern end of the line and will work progressively south.

About 90% of major earth works have been completed, with the remainder due to be finished by May 2005.

Clearing of land and topsoil stripping has been completed and spans are up on new bridges at Sirius Creek, Humboldt Creek, Comet River and Rocklands Creek. More than 80% of the drainage structures (culverts) have also been completed.



Track laying commences at the northern end of the Bauhinia Regional Rail Project.

In terms of length, this is the single biggest rail infrastructure project that Queensland has seen for 20 years.

At a cost of more than \$240 million, it's a significant investment in both the State's rail network and coal export industry.

Xstrata has committed to haul eight million tonnes of domestic and export coal to Gladstone by 2008; and under the deal struck with QR over the Bauhinia Project, the company will pay an access fee for using the QR-owned and operated line. For further information contact: Chris Artym on 0428 182 971

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Windah – Grantleigh duplication in design

Design work has commenced for the duplication of the track between Windah and Grantleigh. This seven kilometre upgrade includes civil works, electrification and signalling.

Bluff – Boonal – Blackwater on the drawing board

The third upgrade to enable additional tonnage to be carried is the duplication of the 15 kilometre Bluff – Boonal-Blackwater section of the line.

These duplications factor in a level of productive improvements at the Gladstone Port. QR is also working with the Port of Gladstone on a new balloon loop to increase capacity at the port itself.

For further information on all the above projects: Frank McCormack on (07) 3235 1654.

Minerva balloon loop flies

The Minerva Coal Rail Project involves the design and construction of a balloon loop at Wurba junction on the Springsure branch about 42 km south of Emerald. It also includes the upgrade of the existing track and bridges between Burngrove and Springsure to accommodate 20 tonne axle load coal trains. For further information: Gary Morrisby on (07) 3235 3321.



QR National plans to commence limited coal haulage from the Minerva mine in mid 2005 and full operation will commence by December.

Blackwater System Enhancement at a glance

