



TABLE TALK

AUSTRALASIAN TIMETABLE NEWS

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TOP TABLE TALK – BUDGETS

New South Wales

The NSW Budget, delivered on 18 June, included:

- \$1 million to commence strategic planning for a **future light rail between Tweed Heads and Coolangatta**.
- \$295 million over four years initial investment in the **fast rail network**, including improved alignment north of Mittagong, duplication between Berry and Gerringong, 11.8 km, planning of a new alignment between Sydney and Woy Woy and planning work to improve the route to the Central West.
- \$812 million towards the **New Intercity Fleet**. The fleet is designed to bring a new level of comfort, safety and accessibility for customers travelling between Sydney, the Central Coast, Newcastle, Blue Mountains and Illawarra. A new maintenance facility will be built at Kangy Angy, near Wyong.
- In Sydney, the last of 24 new air-conditioned eight-car **Waratah Series 2 trains**, set B24, is in passenger service from Friday 22 June. Another 17 are on order.
- \$812 million towards the **New Intercity Fleet**, and \$38 million to progress the Regional Rail Fleet, including a rail maintenance facility in Dubbo.
- \$6.4 billion over four years for planning and acceleration of construction of **Sydney Metro West**, between Greater Parramatta and the Sydney CBD with travel time of around 20 minutes.
- \$1.2 billion to continue delivery of the **City and Southwest Metro** through the City and to Bankstown.
- \$561 million for the **Parramatta Light Rail** connecting Westmead and Carlingford via the Parramatta CBD and Camellia, expected to open in 2023.
- \$885 million to **upgrade 68 train stations** under the Transport Access Program and Sydney Metro City and Southwest, to make train stations more accessible, including new lifts, ramps and footbridges. This includes the renewal of Redfern, Beecroft, Bexley North, Canley Vale, Como, Falconbridge, Goulburn, Hawkesbury River, Lapstone, Mittagong, Roseville, Wahroonga, Warrawee, Wyee and Wollstonecraft. This will make 90% of public transport journeys accessible and bring the total spend to \$2 billion.
- \$300 million over four years to provide additional car spaces through the **Commuter Car Parking Program** at Edmondson Park, Emu Plains, Engadine, Jannali, Leppington, Revesby, Riverwood, Schofields, Tuggerah, Warwick Farm and West Ryde; and additional car parking at Winston Hills. A new commuter car park will be provided at Hornsby. Ten station commuter car parks to be converted to **Opal Park and Ride** car parks, to make spaces available for public transport users, at: Campbelltown, Gosford, Holsworthy, Hornsby, Jannali, Kiama, Penrith, Revesby, Sutherland and Warwick Farm.
- Trial 13 new public transport routes (bus and train) to **connect 44 isolated communities** across regional New South Wales to a major centre or city.
- \$3.2 billion for delivery of the More Trains, More Services program, including providing **increased rail services** on the Illawarra, Airport and South Coast lines.
- Deliver an additional **eight train express services on the T1 Western Line** across the morning and evening peak periods on weekdays, adding over 35,000 extra seats each week.
- New train carriages and extra seats on the **South Coast line** to address increased customer demand during the week and weekends.

- \$2.8 billion (\$1.3 billion capital investment) for the design, build and maintenance of the new **Regional Rail Fleet** to replace XPT, Endeavour and Xplorer trains and build a new maintenance facility in Dubbo. The fleet will comprise 117 new carriages to form ten regional intercity trains, nine “short” regional trains and ten “long” regional trains.
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- \$20 million to continue delivery of the **Main Western Rail line Capacity Enhancements**.
- \$19.6 million to continue construction of the second road-over-rail **bridge at Gunnedah**.
- \$69.6 million over four years to **reduce the Opal Weekly Travel cap** by approximately 20% to \$50 a week for adults and \$25 per week for child/youth and concession travel from 1 July. This will benefit approximately 55,000 commuters with savings of up to \$686 a year.
- **Freeze fares** for a further four years for Gold Opal Card holders at a maximum of \$2.50 per day.
- Begin planning an extension of Sydney **Metro City and Southwest** between **Bankstown and Liverpool**.
- Create 400 **additional weekly ferry services** across the network over the next two years.
- \$2 billion over four years towards the NSW and Federal government funded **North South Metro Rail Link** connecting to Western Sydney Airport, with construction expected to start in 2021 and be completed in 2026 in time for the opening of the airport.
- \$5.5 million to the **NSW Rail Museum** to re-open the Picton Loop line between Buxton and Colo Vale.
- \$600,000 to Tweed Shire Council for maintenance of the **Northern Rivers Rail Trail**.

Victoria

The Victorian Budget, delivered on 27 May, included:

\$195 million for **additional suburban and regional train services**, following the completion of major transport projects, including the Ballarat line upgrade.

\$6.6 billion to remove an additional 25 **level crossings** in Melbourne at Argyle Avenue, Chelsea, Camms Road, Cranbourne, Cardinia Road, Pakenham, Chelsea Road, Chelsea, Cramer St, Preston, Evans Road, Lyndhurst, Fitzgerald Road, Ardeer, Glen Huntly Road, Glen Huntly, Greens Road, Dandenong South, McGregor Road and Main St, Pakenham, Mont Albert Road, Mont Albert, Mt Derrimut Road, Deer Park, Munro St, Coburg, Murray Road, Preston, Neerim Road, Glen Huntly, Oakover Road, Preston, Old Geelong Road, Hoppers Crossing, Racecourse Road, Pakenham, Reynard St, Coburg, Robinsons Road, Deer Park, Station St/Gap Road, Sunbury, Swanpool Avenue, Chelsea, Union Road, Surrey Hills, and Webster St, Dandenong.

\$3.4 billion for **suburban upgrades** including:

- \$2.1 billion to upgrade the **Sunbury line**, including all stations and providing for the new High Capacity Metro Trains.
- \$547 million for stage 2 of the **Hurstbridge line** upgrade, duplicating 4.5 kms of track and the reconstruction of Greensborough and Montmorency stations.
- \$750 million for duplication from **Dandenong to Cranbourne**, 8 km.

\$111 million to recruit, train and upskill **train drivers**.

\$83 million to upgrade **Metro communications systems**.

\$163 million to purchase 10 new E-Class **trams**, and upgrade 10 Z-Class trams.

\$150 million to add more car parks at suburban train stations.

\$681 million for the Melbourne **Airport Rail**.

\$300 million for planning, technical investigations and development of the **Suburban Rail Loop**.

\$340 million for the purchase of up to 18 **new VLocity trains**, to replace older trains on busy regional lines including to Geelong and Ballarat.

\$100 million to begin detailed planning for the **Western Rail Plan**, including the full separation of regional and metropolitan rail services on the Geelong and Ballarat lines.

\$49.6 million to construct three new stations near Bendigo at Goornong, Raywood and Huntly. Funding will also go towards planning the Bendigo line upgrade for the operation of trains every 40 minutes during off-peak times, including the re-establishment of a station at Harcourt.

\$19 million for **stabling and maintenance facilities** at Wyndham Vale, South Dynon, East Ballarat and Bendigo.

\$2 million for design and pre-procurement to upgrade track between **South Geelong and Waurin Ponds Station**, upgrading signalling equipment and removing level crossings at Fyans Road and the Surf Coast Highway, enabling Geelong to Melbourne services to start from Waurin Ponds.

\$1 million to develop the expansion of mobile **myki** to IT platforms other than Android.

\$350,000 for 32 free mobile **phone charging bars**, providing 160 charging ports, across eight inner city train stations – Flagstaff, Flinders Street, Melbourne Central, Parliament, Southern Cross, North Melbourne, Richmond and South Yarra.

\$6.4 million for more frequent services in Romsey and Lancefield, new Mernda - Craigieburn **bus**, new Donnybrook - Craigieburn bus, new Keysborough bus, express bus from Eltham during Hurstbridge line disruptions, new Alexandra - Eildon bus.

\$6.8 million on 'Bus Industry Innovation Fund' to support **bus industry** "through delivering initiatives focused on improving network efficiency, patronage, customer experience, safety and driver support."

100 more **authorised officers**, to be recruited ten per year over ten years across all modes.

Funding for planning and business case development of tram and active transport connections between **Fishermans Bend** and the CBD.

Queensland

The Queensland Budget, delivered on 11 June, included:

- \$500 million to boost mineral exports from **Mount Isa to Townsville**. This includes provisions for the construction of a \$48 million container terminal at the Port of Townsville to support North Queensland's resources industry. The port is Australia's largest export location for several commodities, including zinc, lead, copper and fertiliser. The Queensland government and Port of Townsville will contribute \$30 million and \$18 million towards construction of the terminal, respectively. The government also announced it will provide \$80 million over a four-year period to reduce rail access charges on the line to encourage a freight shift from road to rail. Queensland Rail will be provided with \$20 million each year starting from 1 July this year, to reduce rail access charges and will work with industry on implementation arrangements. This funding is in addition to the state government's \$380 million, five-year track maintenance plan in the 2018-19 budget.
- \$5.4 billion as the State contribution to build the 10.2 km **Cross River Rail** from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills, with 5.9 kms of twin tunnels under the Brisbane River and CBD, four new and two upgraded stations. The government says the project will double rail capacity across the river, improve reliability and increase access to the CBD.

- \$50 million in 2019-20 out of a \$550.8 million total spend for the **Beerburum to Nambour** North Coast line duplication. The Australian government has provided an initial \$390 million towards the project.
- \$6 million in 2019-20 out of a \$21.7 million total spend to continue the upgrade **Morayfield** station to provide improved access and facilities.
- \$15.2 million in 2019-20 out of a \$41.9 million total spend to upgrade **Dakabin** station to provide improved access and facilities.
- \$2.4 million in 2019-20 out of a \$44.5 million total spend to upgrade **Springfield Central** station to provide an additional 650 car spaces.
- \$273,000 in 2019-20 out of a \$8.8 million total spend to upgrade **Darra** station to provide an additional 180 car spaces.
- \$859,000 in 2019-20 out of a \$6.4 million total spend to continue planning and commence design for the **Coopers Road** level crossing project.
- \$6.3 million to continue planning and commence design for the **Breams Road** level crossing project.
- \$216,000 in 2019-20 out of a \$5 million total spend for the Lindum train station park 'n' ride to provide an additional 70 car spaces.
- \$6.3 million in 2019-20 out of a \$77.3 million total spend to continue to construct new track and upgrade tunnels between **Ipswich and Toowoomba**.
- \$1.1 million in 2019-20 out of a \$5 million total spend to reinstate a section of the **Yeppoon line**.
- \$1 million to construct a workshop and undercover storage shed for an **Outback Rail Experience** rail motor. This will be a three day, two night tourist experience between Emerald and Winton.
- \$250,000 in 2019-20 out of a \$1.5 million total spend to improve safety, conduct maintenance and enhance the **Workshops Rail Museum** in Ipswich.

South Australia

The SA Budget, delivered on 18 June, included:

- \$615 million with the Federal government to electrify and modernise the Gawler line, including the purchase of additional electric trains.
- \$125 million with the Federal government (\$8 million from the SA government) to extend the Tonsley line to the Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders University, including an elevated single track over Sturt Road, Laffers Triangle and Main South Road, an integrated shared pedestrian and cycle path along the rail line and construction of a new station adjacent to the Flinders Medical Centre.

- \$8 million for a new station on the Tonsley line, with improved lighting, security and accessibility for residents and commuters.
- \$231 million over three years with the Federal government to undertake a grade separation at Torrens Road, Ovingham.
- \$171 million to undertake a grade separation of the Seaford line at Brighton Road, Hove.
- \$2.7 million for Renewal SA to restore the exterior heritage facade of Adelaide Railway Station.
- Fares for trips within two public transport sections will be removed, leading to a reduction in fare evasion. The \$5 fee for metrocards will be reintroduced to encourage reuse of cards.
- Establishment of a SA Public Transport Authority (SAPTA).
- Increases in public transport fares will be quarantined to 2% in 2019-20, adding 10 cents to a single trip ticket, 7 cents to a MetroCard single fare and \$2 to a regular 28 Day pass.

Australian Capital Territory

The ACT Budget, delivered on 4 June, included funding of \$4.8 million for an additional **light rail stop** in the Mitchell trades area. Planning for Stage 2 of light rail from Civic to Woden will continue.

New Zealand

The NZ Budget, delivered on 30 May, included:

\$NZ1.041 billion additional funding for **KiwiRail** consisting of:

- \$NZ 375 million for new wagons and locomotives,
- \$NZ 331 million to invest in track and other supporting infrastructure,
- \$NZ 300 million from the Provincial Growth Fund for regional rail, and
- \$NZ 35 million to begin the process to replace the Interislander rail-equipped ferries.

\$1.4 billion for **Auckland City Rail Link** costs, re-scoping and cost pressures.

(The Western Australia and Tasmanian Budgets were reported in May *Table Talk*, page 7 and the Federal Budget in the May edition, page 3.)

RAIL AND TRAM NEWS

Possessions Lists

Possessions List - Major
21 June, 2019



Year	Month	ID	Region	CTN	Project ID	Status	Title	From	To	Period	Type	Scope of Work	Comments
2019	June	1861	West CRN	CTN 0129-2019	1819-6073 / 1819-6074	Approved	Auscott (Nevertine) - Warren South	Tue, 19 Jun 19 6:00	Sun, 23 Jun 19 18:00	Continuous	Wheels Free	Underbridge Replacement (x2)	Dates/Times now confirmed. Clear of Auscott.
		July	1908	West CRN	CTN 0176-2019	1819-RAILSET	Approved	Main West Rail Unloading	Mon, 01 Jul 19 6:00	Sat, 06 Jul 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading - Wallerawang
	1754		South CRN	CTN 0179-2019	RM	Approved	Temora Sub Terminal, Temora Town (Monthly Possession)	Tue, 09 Jul 19 10:00	Tue, 09 Jul 19 15:00	1 Day	Wheels Free	Points Maintenance Temora Sub and Temora Town	This is a Monthly possession. NO Rail Traffic (including stowed) can be at Temora Sub and Temora Town
	1559	West CRN	CTN 0180-2019		Approved	Narromine - Narromine West	Thu, 11 Jul 19 8:00	Thu, 11 Jul 19 14:00	Daily	Wheels Free	ARTC Narromine Yard Possession		
	1918	West CRN	CTN 0137-2019	1819-6692	Cancelled	Hermidale Yard	Sat, 13 Jul 19 13:00	Mon, 15 Jul 19 14:30	Continuous	Wheels Free	Hermidale Siding Construction		
	1766	West CRN	CTN 0183-2019	RM	Approved	Manildra Yard	Mon, 15 Jul 19 9:00	Mon, 15 Jul 19 14:00	1 Day	Wheels Free	Points Maintenance Manildra	This is a Monthly possession. Window provided for WPA4.	
	1921	South CRN	CTN 0189-2019	EW-J20	Approved	Coolamon - Brushwood	Tue, 16 Jul 19 7:00	Wed, 17 Jul 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading	*** Times are TBC by train notice	
	1922	South CRN	CTN 0190-2019	EW-J20	Approved	Coolamon - Ganmain	Sat, 20 Jul 19 7:00	Sun, 21 Jul 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading	*** Times are TBC by train notice	
	1959	West CRN	CTN 0194-2019		New	LVR3 Rylstone Lunch	Sat, 20 Jul 19 9:00	Sat, 20 Jul 19 17:30	Daily	Advice Only	Heritage - Rylstone		
	1919	West CRN	CTN 0138-2019	1819-6692	Cancelled	Hermidale Yard	Sat, 20 Jul 19 13:00	Mon, 22 Jul 19 14:30	Continuous	Wheels Free	Hermidale Siding Construction		
	1970	South CRN	CTN 0173-2019		New	HOT LVR3 - Riverina Spirit	Sun, 21 Jul 19 10:00	Sun, 21 Jul 19 16:00	Daily	Advice Only	The Rock - Boree Creek	*** Times are TBC	
	1923	South CRN	CTN 0191-2019	EW-J20	Approved	Brushwood - Ganmain	Tue, 23 Jul 19 7:00	Wed, 24 Jul 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading	*** Times are TBC by train notice	
	1958	West CRN	CTN 0193-2019		New	LVR3 Central West Streamliner	Sat, 27 Jul 19 10:30	Sat, 27 Jul 19 15:30	Daily	Advice Only	Heritage - George Plains		
	1920	West CRN	CTN 0139-2019	1819-6692	Cancelled	Hermidale Yard	Sat, 27 Jul 19 13:00	Mon, 29 Jul 19 14:30	Continuous	Wheels Free	Hermidale Siding Construction		
	1934	South CRN	CTN 0192-2019	EW-J20	Approved	Brushwood - Matong	Sun, 28 Jul 19 7:00	Mon, 29 Jul 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading	*** Times are TBC by train notice	
	August	1925	South CRN	CTN 0195-2019	EW-J20	Approved	Ganmain - Matong	Thu, 01 Aug 19 7:00	Fri, 02 Aug 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading	*** Times are TBC by train notice
		1871	West CRN	CTN 0199-2019	1920-5376	New Approved	Mungerbar Siding	Tue, 06 Aug 19 6:00	Thu, 08 Aug 19 18:00	Continuous	Wheels Free	Steel Resleeping	
		1872	West CRN	CTN 0200-2019	1920-5928	New Approved	Bumberry - Pankes Sub	Tue, 06 Aug 19 6:00	Thu, 08 Aug 19 16:30	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Rerailing 423.708 to 424.179	
		1730	North CRN	CTN 0198-2019		Approved	NORTHERN BRANCH: Werri Creek to Armidale	Tue, 06 Aug 19 6:30	Thu, 08 Aug 19 18:30	Continuous	Closedown/Config	In conjunction with ARTC Hunter Valley Closedown	
		1926	South CRN	CTN 0201-2019	EW-J20	Approved	Ganmain - Grong Grong	Tue, 06 Aug 19 7:00	Wed, 07 Aug 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading	*** Times are TBC by train notice
		1873	West CRN	CTN 0204-2019	1920-5464	New Approved	Stuart Town Loop	Sat, 10 Aug 19 6:00	Wed, 14 Aug 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Steel Resleeping	Fixing old portion of loop
		1966	West CRN	CTN 0137-2019	1819-6692	Approved	Hermidale Yard	Sat, 10 Aug 19 13:00	Sun, 11 Aug 19 14:30	Continuous	Wheels Free	Hermidale Siding Construction	
		1927	South CRN	CTN 0206-2019	EW-J20	Approved	Matong - Grong Grong	Tue, 13 Aug 19 7:00	Wed, 14 Aug 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading	*** Times are TBC by train notice
		1755	South CRN	CTN 0207-2019	RM	Approved	Temora Sub Terminal, Temora Town (Monthly Possession)	Tue, 13 Aug 19 10:00	Tue, 13 Aug 19 15:00	1 Day	Wheels Free	Points Maintenance Temora Sub and Temora Town	This is a Monthly possession. NO Rail Traffic (including stowed) can be at Temora Sub and Temora Town Based on ARTC 2019 Programme V4 (Date Changed)
		1788	South CRN	CTN 0203-2019	RM	Advice only	AK Cars - Canberra Line	Thu, 15 Aug 19 6:00	Thu, 15 Aug 19 18:00	Daily	Advice Only	AK Car Track Testing	
		1960	West CRN	CTN 0208-2019		Approved	Narromine - Narromine West	Thu, 15 Aug 19 8:00	Thu, 15 Aug 19 14:00	Daily	Wheels Free	ARTC Narromine Yard Possession	
		1928	South CRN	CTN 0210-2019	EW-J20	Approved	Matong - Grong Grong	Sat, 17 Aug 19 7:00	Sun, 18 Aug 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading	*** Times are TBC by train notice
		1965	West CRN	CTN 0138-2019	1819-6692	Approved	Hermidale Yard	Sat, 17 Aug 19 13:00	Sun, 18 Aug 19 14:30	Continuous	Wheels Free	Hermidale Siding Construction	
		1789	South CRN	CTN 0212-2019	RM	Advice only	AK Cars - Grain Lines	Mon, 19 Aug 19 6:00	Fri, 23 Aug 19 18:00	Daily	Advice Only	AK Car Track Testing	Based on ARTC 2019 Programme V4
		1767	West CRN	CTN 0213-2019	RM	Approved	Manildra Yard	Mon, 19 Aug 19 9:00	Mon, 19 Aug 19 14:00	1 Day	Wheels Free	Points Maintenance Manildra	This is a Monthly possession. Window provided for WPA4.
1874		West CRN	CTN 0214-2019	1920-4383	New Approved	Rydal - Tarana	Tue, 20 Aug 19 6:00	Tue, 27 Aug 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Rerailing 191.340 to 192.315		
1929		South CRN	CTN 0215-2019	EW-J20	Approved	Grong Grong - Narrandera	Wed, 21 Aug 19 7:00	Thu, 22 Aug 19 18:00	Daily	Clear of Mandatory Trains	Railset Unloading	*** Times are TBC by train notice	
1964		West CRN	CTN 0139-2019	1819-6692	Approved	Hermidale Yard	Sat, 24 Aug 19 1:00	Sun, 25 Aug 19 14:30	Continuous	Wheels Free	Hermidale Siding Construction		

The useful **John Holland Rail NSW Country Regional Network** Possessions List, which *May Table Talk* claimed was no longer available on their website, is in fact, sometimes still available there. It can sometimes be found under <http://www.jhrcrn.com.au/what-we-do/network-operations-access/network-access-planning-performance/> However, at other times it now needs use of their Search function to find it. Type "Possessions" as your query. The list shows future engineering possessions, special trains, closedowns and events such as dates for the introduction of new Working Timetables. These events, by implication, sometimes extend to neighbouring systems.

	Brisbane Metro
	Tamaree to Parana
	Rocklands North
	Central West
	Aurizon Network
	Major Shutdowns



Red Fonts: Altered since last update
 : Cancelled / Rescheduled

NCL Supply Chain Calendar 2019

Updated 18 June 2019

PB NUMBER	LOCATION	START DATE/TIME	FINISH DATE/TIME	WORK	TRAFFIC IMPACTS	VR DONE	COMMENTS
JUNE 2019							
PB201706-00490	Toombul to Glamire	Sat 01/06/19 02:45	Mon 03/06/19 02:00	North Coast SCAS	Total Closure	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
PB201902-00140	Saltern to Barcardine	Sat 01/06/19 06:30	Sat 01/06/19 18:30	Re-Sleepering	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains	N/A	
PB201811-00353	Osanyilla to Finders	Sat 01/06/19 06:30	Tue 04/06/19 06:30	Bridge work	Total closure. Isolation starts Fri 31/5 1030 to Tue 4/6 1430 after the passage of 0992 Fri 31st	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
PB201811-00352							
PB201811-00354							
PB201804-00551							
PB201903-01065							
PB201811-00938	Kootandra to Ogmoo	Sat 01/06/19 17:45	Tue 04/06/19 17:45	Resleepering	Total closure	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
PB201909-00296	Ibillee to Ontable	Sat 01/06/19 19:00	Tue 04/06/19 19:00	Relay	Total closure	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
	Mt Cosa	Sat 01/06/19 23:30	Tue 04/06/19 22:30	Culvert renewal Turnout replacement	Total closure	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
PB201902-00141	Saltern to Barcardine	Sun 02/06/19 06:00	Sun 02/06/19 11:00	Re-Sleepering	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains	N/A	
PB201905-00179	Carmila to Ontable	Sun 02/06/19 06:00	Sun 02/06/19 18:00	Bridge inspection	Total closure. No trains	N/A	
PB201808-00948	Eralala to Mackay Harbour	Sun 02/06/19 06:30	Wed 05/06/19 18:00	Bridge Work	Total closure. Eralala Fork Angle to Mackay Harbour.	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
PB201904-00794	Giru to Barratta	Sun 02/06/19 06:30	Tue 04/06/19 15:00	Bridge Work	Total closure	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
	Partington	Sun 02/06/19 07:30	Wed 05/06/19 07:30	Track Lowering	Total closure	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
PB201811-00399	Blyana to Hewitt	Sun 02/06/19 10:00	Wed 05/06/19 10:00	Bridge Work	Total closure	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
PB201901-00526	Innifail to Waugh	Sun 02/06/19 10:00	Wed 05/06/19 10:00	Bridge Work	Total closure	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ / PN 07/03
PB201902-00142	Saltern to Barcardine	Mon 03/06/19 06:30	Mon 03/06/19 18:00	Re-Sleepering	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains, Suspend 1500 hrs to 1600 hrs for Travetrain	N/A	
PB201810-00353	Puroto to Rollingstone	Mon 03/06/19 12:00	Mon 03/06/19 16:00	Bridge inspection	Total closure	N/A	
PB201810-00353	Puroto to Rollingstone	Tue 04/06/19 06:00	Tue 04/06/19 18:00	Bridge inspection	Total closure	N/A	
PB201904-00421	Innifail to Waugh	Tue 04/06/19 06:00	Tue 04/06/19 17:00	Welding	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains	N/A	
PB201902-00104	Goodwood to Isis Junction	Tue 04/06/19 10:30	Tue 04/06/19 14:30	CH-LE Mitce	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains	N/A	
PB201905-00478	Isis Junction to Goodwood	Wed 05/06/19 11:00	Wed 05/06/19 14:00	Bridge work	Total Closure	N/A	
PB201905-00030	Blyana to Hewitt	Thu 06/06/19 06:30	Thu 06/06/19 16:30	Welding	Total closure. Suspend for MTP services only.	N/A	
PB201905-00305	Baddow Angle	Thu 06/06/19 08:00	Thu 06/06/19 15:00	Bridge inspection	Total Closure	N/A	
PB201902-00117	Goodwood to Isis Junction	Thu 06/06/19 12:00	Thu 06/06/19 15:00	Re-Stressing	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains	N/A	
PB201905-00031	Blyana to Hewitt	Fri 07/06/19 06:30	Fri 07/06/19 16:30	Welding	Total closure. Suspend for MTP services only.	N/A	
PB201905-00122	Otable to Ibillee	Fri 07/06/19 07:15	Fri 07/06/19 09:45	Ballast Unload	Total closure. Suspend for MTP services only.	N/A	
PB201902-00118	Goodwood to Isis Junction	Fri 07/06/19 11:00	Fri 07/06/19 14:00	Re-Stressing	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains	N/A	
	Acacia Ridge Standard Gauge	Sat 08/06/19 02:00	Tue 11/06/19 02:00	ARTC Maintenance	Total Closure. All trains travelling in and out of Acacia Ridge will travel via the Dual Gauge Line and use 77 Points. Musgrave Rd Level Crossing triggered 0600hrs Sat to 2300hrs Mon. Form working required. 10 minute delays anticipated.	Y	Confirmed alterations sent to ALUZ 25/03
PB201904-00525	Otable to Ibillee	Mon 10/06/19 07:00	Mon 10/06/19 15:00	General Mitce	Total closure	N/A	
PB201905-00142	Bundaberg to North Bundaberg	Mon 10/06/19 10:30	Mon 10/06/19 14:30	Bridgework	Total Closure	N/A	
PB201904-00795	Glenmore Junction to Fields	Mon 10/06/19 12:00	Tue 18/06/19 16:00	Resleepering	Total Closure. Suspend for Livestock if required	N/A	
PB201902-00282	Saltern to Barcardine	Tue 11/06/19 06:30	Tue 11/06/19 187:00	Re-Sleepering	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains	N/A	
PB201905-00116	Otable to Ibillee	Tue 11/06/19 06:30	Tue 11/06/19 17:30	Relay	Total closure. Suspend for MTP services only.	N/A	
PB201905-00127	Bundaberg to North Bundaberg	Tue 11/06/19 10:45	Tue 11/06/19 14:30	Bridgework	Total Closure. Isolation 1045 hrs to 1515 hrs	N/A	
PB201902-00283	Barcardine to Lochnagar	Wed 12/06/19 06:00	Wed 12/06/19 19:30	Re-Sleepering	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains	N/A	
PB201905-00123	Otable to Ibillee	Wed 12/06/19 06:30	Wed 12/06/19 17:30	Relay	Total closure. Suspend for MTP services only.	N/A	
PB201905-00244	Kaili/Wathana	Wed 12/06/19 10:00	Wed 12/06/19 15:00	Re-Sleepering	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains.	N/A	
PB201905-00252	Dumourra	Wed 12/06/19 10:00	Wed 12/06/19 15:00	General Mitce	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains.	N/A	
PB201902-00284	Barcardine to Lochnagar	Thu 13/06/19 06:00	Thu 13/06/19 18:00	Re-Sleepering	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains, Suspend 1200 hrs to 1300 hrs for Travetrain	N/A	
PB201905-00124	Otable to Ibillee	Thu 13/06/19 06:30	Thu 13/06/19 17:30	Relay	Total closure. Suspend for MTP services only.	N/A	
PB201902-00286	Barcardine to Lochnagar	Fri 14/06/19 06:00	Fri 14/06/19 13:30	Re-Sleepering	Total Closure. No impact to MTP trains	N/A	

Queensland Rail similarly posts useful Possessions Lists on their website which cover these sorts of events – see <https://www.queenslandrail.com.au/forbusiness/access/access-undertaking> The listings are especially comprehensive for the main North Coast line (called NCL Supply Chain Calendar) and main Western line (called Western Corridor – Alignment Calendar). These Lists include closedowns in the Metropolitan area.

All other infrastructure controllers must have similar lists, but they are not accessible on their websites.

Sydney Trains: Rail Operations Centre opens



The \$296 million Sydney Trains Rail Operations Centre (ROC) was formally opened on 30 May. The NSW government says this will mean safer and more reliable services for more than 1.4 million passenger trips taken each day. The ROC has been developed to modernise the Sydney Trains network, by incorporating dozens of different systems into a single location at Alexandria. The four-level building will be in use 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will host more than 660 employees, according to Sydney Trains chief executive Howard Collins. “We have dedicated teams of engineers, train controllers, rail technicians, communication teams and security personnel all working together to keep our customers moving” Collins said. The 33 metre display board is larger than that of NASA’s Mission Control Centre. Transport Minister Andrew Constance said that the display board “can track where every train is running at any given time across the Sydney Trains network, At similar facilities in Hong Kong and Tokyo, all critical operation teams are positioned in one location, which means better coordination and response to critical incidents on the network.”

Sydney: Bad days

Thursday 30 and Friday 31 May were not good days for transport in Sydney:

Sydney Trains: On 30 May, urgent track equipment repairs at Town Hall station halted trains on the T4 Eastern Suburbs line between Central and Bondi Junction for about an hour from about 1000. A medical emergency at Strathfield earlier in the morning caused delays on the North Shore Line.

Light Rail: On 30 May, on the Western Suburbs Light Rail in the morning, people had to walk from Convention to the City because of traffic signal

problems at Hay St. It lasted for some time and buses could not be organised in time.

Metro: On 31 May, a power failure on the new North West Metro from 0520 to 0610 delayed services. Sydney Metro said trains were running at “reduced frequency” because of the failure between Rouse Hill and Hills Showground stations. Buses supplemented services between Tallawong and Castle Hill. Later, at 0750, a train overshot the platform at Chatswood. At 1500 a fire alarm forced the evacuation of Macquarie Park station. Trains skipped the station until 1630.

Sydney Metro

Sydney Metro services did not run on the weekend of 22/23 June due to works on the \$7.3 billion line. This was after only 25 days of services. Buses provided a substitute service. Transport for NSW said the work was to allow services to ramp up to every four minutes during peak periods in each direction, from the start of July.

September and January Working Timetables

After the new Working Timetables on the weekend of 7/8 September for Sydney Trains, ARTC and John Holland Rail (as noted in February *Table Talk*), the next update to Working Timetables will be introduced on 4/5 January 2020.

NSW TrainLink: New Broken Hill buses

NSW TrainLink launched two trial bus services commencing Monday 24 June. The trial will initially operate for six months.

Times of the Broken Hill-Adelaide service are:

Mon, Fri read down		
0700	Broken Hill Town	1845
1345	Adelaide Bus Station	1215
		Tue, Sun read up

Times of the Broken Hill-Mildura service are:

	Mon, Wed, Fri	Sat
Broken Hill Town	0615	0745
Mildura Station	1030	1200

	Mon, Wed, Fri	Sun
Mildura Station	1615	1545
Broken Hill Town	1930	1900

NSW: Port access

Major producers in NSW’s agricultural sector will find it cheaper and easier to send their product to export markets through Melbourne or Brisbane than Sydney within the next four years, according to Pacific National chief executive Dean Dalla Valle. He has warned that the freight major will begin routing traffic away from Sydney if the NSW government does not commit to significant rail upgrades, saying rail lines across the Great Dividing Range into Sydney’s Port Botany are becoming “too inefficient, unreliable and hence costly”.

Mr Dalla Valle told *The Weekend Australian* (15 June) the imminent opening of the company’s massive transfer terminal in Parkes, along with construction of the federal government’s \$10 billion inland rail network, meant it would soon be cheaper and easier to ship through Melbourne or Brisbane than Port Botany. The 600ha National Logistics Hub at Parkes, of which PN’s intermodal facility is a part, will be eight hours by rail from Sydney, 12 hours to Melbourne and 18 hours to Brisbane.

But Mr Dalla Valle says key industrial and agricultural exports are likely to leave the country through the latter if major upgrades are not made soon.

Port Botany moves about 2.6 million containers (or TEUs — twenty-foot-equivalent units) a year into and out of Australia. Six in 10 of the 1.3 million outbound containers leave the port empty, and Mr Dalla Valle says that proportion is likely to rise when the Parkes terminal, capable of handling 450,000 containers a year, is operating.

“From Parkes, these containers can make their way to the port of Melbourne or Brisbane. The future Inland Rail will make these haulage operations even more - efficient,” Mr Dalla Valle said. He said running a freight train loaded with containers from country NSW over the Great Dividing Range into Sydney would become

too inefficient, unreliable and costly within four years, forcing regional exporters to bypass Port Botany if they can. “The equation is very simple for freight — it flows along the path of least resistance, both in terms of cost and reliability of train services,” he said. “Without timely upgrades to the state’s rail freight network, containerised goods and commodities from the Riverina will be more efficiently hauled to Port of Melbourne, while produce from northern and north western NSW will be transported to Port of Brisbane.”

He said long-running issues slowing access on the Sydney rail network — including finishing the duplication of dedicated freight rail lines, building new passing loops along lines through the Blue Mountains and improving the transparency of delivery windows through Sydney’s increasingly congested railways — needed urgent attention from the state government in the budget.

Although Port Botany is the only major port in Australia that has rail lines running directly on to berths, drivers often have a tight window of as little as five to ten minutes to enter the port and reach the wharf so containers can be loaded directly on to a contracted ship. Miss that narrow window — through congestion, the breakdown of another train, or speed delays on a multi-hour journey — and the ship will sail, forcing exporters to unload their cargo and store it until another ship is available. That can cost as much as \$200 in handling fees for each container, or \$22,000 for a standard train loaded with 110 units. Mr Dalla Valle said forcing freight trains to “thread the eye of a needle” made it more difficult for rail to compete with trucks.

Port Botany is spending \$120 million to upgrade its in-port rail facilities, and a spokeswoman for NSW Ports said rail was fundamental to supporting the future growth and trade needs of the state. “Our goal is to move 3 million TEUs by rail by 2045 because every 1 million TEU moved by rail reduces the number of trucks on the roads around the port by 900 trucks per day,” the spokeswoman said. “We anticipate there will be good connectivity from the Inland Rail to our ports and, while we acknowledge that there are challenges with growing passenger rail volumes, the Inland Rail should help divert freight from this network, freeing up capacity for other port related uses.

JHR NSW CRN WTT amendments

At the request of Freightliner Australia, from Monday 8 April the following deletions apply to the Working Timetable:

5581 (FLA 815m) Mondays.

5182 (FLA 815m) Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays.

1581 (FLA 850m) Tuesdays, Thursdays. (See also *May Table Talk*, page 5.)

At the request of Pacific National, from Friday 31 May the following deletions apply:

8823 (PNRB 600m) Saturdays.

8822 (PNRB 600m) Tuesdays. (See also *June Table Talk*, page 4.)

At the request of Pacific National, from Monday 10 June the following deletions apply:
 LS89 (PNC 850m) every day.
 LS90 (PNC 850m) every day. (These trains ran for only a very short distance on JHR CRN between

Lithgow and Lidsdale, 15.1 km, and vice versa. Most of the trip to Newcastle and return was on Transport for NSW track.)

**Melbourne: Construction and closedowns
 Metropolitan trains**

Line	Disruption	Works commence	Works finish
Cranbourne and Pakenham	Buses replace trains between Flinders St and Caulfield	Saturday 6 July	Friday 12 July
	Buses replace trains between Flinders St and Westall	Saturday 13 July	Sunday 14 July
Frankston and Stony Point	Buses replace trains between Flinders St and Caulfield	Saturday 6 July	Friday 12 July
	Buses replace trains between Flinders St and Moorabbin	Saturday 13 July	Sunday 14 July
	Buses replace trains between Mordialloc and Frankston/Stony Point	2030 Friday 19 July	Sunday 28 July
Mernda	Buses replace trains between Thornbury and Epping	2030 Friday 19 July	Sunday 21 July
	Buses replace trains between Thornbury and Epping	2030 Friday 26 July	Sunday 28 July
Sandringham	Buses replace trains between Flinders St and Sandringham	Saturday 6 July	Sunday 7 July
	Buses replace trains between Flinders St and Sandringham	Saturday 13 July	Sunday 14 July

Trams

Route	Disruption	Works commence	Works finish
Routes 3/3A, 16, 67	Buses replace trams on St Kilda Road	Saturday 20 July	Sunday 28 July

Regional trains

Line	Disruption	Works commence	Works finish
Ballarat	Buses replace all trains between Southern Cross and Ballarat/Wendouree	Monday 24 June	Sunday 7 July
Gippsland	Buses replace all trains between Southern Cross and Traralgon/Bairnsdale	Saturday 6 July	Sunday 14 July

There will be more disruptions across the first three weekends of August. On the V/Line website is this page: <https://www.vline.com.au/News-Alerts/News-Articles/Gippsland-line-Disruption-Lookahead>

Metro Trains Melbourne: Metrol

From 0230 on Friday 21 June until 0230 Monday 24 June, the operation of the Signalling and Train Control functions at Metrol were temporarily transferred to the Disaster Recovery Site. All normal operational functions were replicated at this site.

V/Line: Patronage growth

According to Transport for Victoria’s monthly patronage figures, boardings at major Western outer suburban stations, one of the fastest growing regions of Australia, have increased, as follows:

	2015	2018
Melton	75,000	129,000
Wyndham	95,000	166,000

V/Line: Maryborough alterations

Due to signalling alterations involved in Murray Basin project re-activation of the Maryborough–Ararat corridor from Sunday 7 July, two minutes have been added to arrival and departure times at Maryborough. The alterations are:

SUNDAY

1942 (No.8157) VLocity Pass; Ballarat to Maryborough arrive Maryborough 2037.

0810 (No.8128) VLocity Pass; Maryborough to Southern Cross, depart Maryborough 0808, Talbot 0818, Clunes 0830, Creswick 0842, then as per NSP (Network Service Plan, ie, WTT).

MONDAY to FRIDAY

1045 (No.8123) VLocity Pass; Ballarat to Maryborough arrive Maryborough 1140.

1745 (No.8157) VLocity Pass; Ballarat to Maryborough arrive Maryborough 1840.

0711 (No.8128) VLocity Pass; Maryborough to Southern Cross, depart Maryborough 0709, Talbot 0719, Clunes 0731, Creswick 0744, North Ballarat Junction 0758* then as per NSP.

1446 (No.8158) VLocity Pass; Maryborough to Southern Cross, depart Maryborough 1444, Talbot 1454, Clunes 1506, Creswick 1519, North Ballarat Junction 1533* then as per NSP.

SATURDAY

1942 (No.8157) VLocity Pass; Ballarat to Maryborough arrive Maryborough 2037.

0710 (No.8128) VLocity Pass; Maryborough to Southern Cross, depart Maryborough 0708, Talbot 0718, Clunes 0730, Creswick 0742, then as per NSP.

(* means non-stop.)

V/Line: Murray Basin conversion delayed

Conversion of the Manangatang and Sea Lakes lines from broad to standard gauge, as part of the Murray Basin Rail project, has been suspended. Victorian Minister for Public Transport, Jacinta Allan, said inspection of the lines by Rail Project Victoria had shown the Manangatang line was heavily degraded and in desperate need of repair. She said that "There are parts of the line that are almost non-existent. If you don't do some urgent work on the Manangatang line we will be forced to close it before the coming grain season. Faced with that I've decided we have to keep it open." Therefore \$23 million will be spent on immediate repairs. This will deplete the last of the \$440 million allocated to the Murray Basin Rail project, thus delaying gauge conversion.

Great Southern Rail: Additional Ghan

From June until August, a second weekly Ghan is operating. As usual with GSR, details are exceedingly vague, but this is what is available by putting together info from GSR and from the current ARTC MTP (Master Train Plan, ie WTT):

Adelaide dep 0900 on Wed, Two Wells 1309-1410, Spencer Junction 1715-1720, Condambo 2043-2110, Tarcoola 2238 non-stop, Marla "Morning Experience" Thur, Alice Springs 1425 to 1815 Thur, Katherine Morning Excursion Thur, Darwin arr 1950 Fri.

Return is from Darwin at 0900 on Sat, Katherine Afternoon Excursion Sat, Alice Springs Full Day

Excursion Sun, Manguri Full Day Excursion to Coober Pedy Mon, Tarcoola 2240-2220 Mon, Kingoonya 0017-0100 Tue, Hesso 0419-0450, Spencer Junction 0531-0650, Dry Creek Junction 1026-1101, Adelaide arr 1135 Tue.

Adelaide Metro: Tonsley line

Tonsley station closed from 28 June to allow work to begin on extending the line by 650 metres to Flinders University and Flinders Medical Centre. Trains will terminate at Clovelly Park.

Adelaide Metro: Port Adelaide Dock line and other improvements in jeopardy

A report into the proposed construction of the Port Dock railway line and station has found the project will cost around \$40 million, \$24 million greater than initially budgeted. The budget was intended to cover a one km spur line to a new station at Port Adelaide's commercial centre, Baker St. Further development has now been paused pending further investigation by the Public Transport Projects (PTP) Alliance.

"The initial \$16 million of funding was committed without a full technical site assessment and concept design," a report from the Public Transport Projects (PTP) Alliance read. SA Transport Minister Stephan Knoll said that "a responsible state government" needed to assess whether the notable increase in the project's budget would deliver the best solution for the people of Port Adelaide and its surrounding areas.

Indeed, in an interview with ABC news on 21 June, Mr Knoll indicated that road investment trumps light rail when it comes to Adelaide's public transport future. Despite billions being earmarked for metropolitan roads, no new money was allocated to pursue a long-awaited city tram loop, and works on the Port Dock line put on hold.

Mr Knoll said the Government was taking a "technology-neutral" approach to public transport and roads investment, making it clear that he did not believe light rail would survive technological advancements. Most of the technologies that are coming down the pipeline will use a road corridor," he said, citing electric and hydrogen buses along with autonomous technology. "Even the ability of trackless trams to use part of an existing road corridor is quite high, so while the technology is sorting itself out, we want to continue to invest in the road network. I genuinely don't think that this sort of heavy track, overhead lines, track-in-the-ground sort of dedicated light rail corridor is the best answer about how we do public transport into the future."

Mr Knoll said the Glenelg to Entertainment Centre tramline extension through Adelaide had been "fantastic", but light rail was not the only infrastructure that drove investment growth. "If you think about investment in corridors as a result of infrastructure investment in South Australia, the biggest example we've seen has been after-road investment," he said. "After the Heysen Tunnels were built, there was massive investment out at Mount Barker, and housing developments and housing value [increased] all along

the South-Eastern Freeway. The same can be said of the Northern Expressway, where we've seen huge investments in regional towns around Roseworthy, Gawler, Feeling, Nuriootpa, and once the Northern Connector is finished, I would suggest places like Two Wells and Buckland Park are going to do a lot."

Mr Knoll said the city tram loop was still being "explored" and in about two weeks' time the Government would "have more to say about how we're going to do that, in terms of the business case". He said a planning study was also underway into an O-Bahn extension to Golden Grove in the city's north, which would be completed "very soon".

Victor Harbor horse tram

The Victor Harbor horse tram has re-opened, following a five-month closure. The SA government has completed a temporary fix to reinforce the Granite Island causeway after structural concerns were raised in January forcing the tram services to be suspended. The government has now announced an allocation \$20 million towards a long-term overhaul of the State Heritage structure. Work on that project will begin in 2019-20 and take about two years.

KiwiRail: Wairoa line re-opened

The Napier-Wairoa line has re-opened. The 115 km, North Island line has been closed since December 2012 after being damaged by a storm and was not repaired. It has been restored with the allocation of \$NZ 6.2 million through the NZ government's Provincial Growth Fund.

The line's primary purpose is to run freight logs for the timber industry. Reopening will ease congestion on roads and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the number of road deliveries. KiwiRail anticipates an initial reduction of more than 5,000 truck journeys per year from Wairoa to Napier, to increase to 15,000 as services increase. KiwiRail will work to establish a log hub in Wairoa so that trains could begin to run in time for harvesting at the end of winter.

Auckland: Delays

A power supply failure caused a signalling system failure in Auckland on Wednesday morning 19 June, leading to delays across the network of about 30 minutes (except for the Onehunga line, which was suspended for over two hours), delaying for more than 5000 commuters. It was the second signal outage in a week following a similar incident on Friday 14 June.

European overnight trains

Overnight trains have long been in decline, particularly in Western Europe, due mainly to the growing popularity of budget airlines. In 2016, the German rail operator Deutsche Bahn ended all of its night routes, selling off the entirety of its sleeping wagons, while in France, the Paris-to-Nice sleeping train service was discontinued in 2017. As a result, fans of overnight rail travel have been fighting to save the service. The cross-border Back on Track group has been lobbying both operators and governments while also organising protests in stations. Things have started to look up,

with new routes, new carriages and renewed interest from travelers. Austria's ÖBB purchased Deutsche Bahn's unwanted sleeping wagons, and has since reported increasing numbers of overnight passengers, even ordering new sleeping cars, set to enter service by 2023. In March, the Swedish government announced plans to expand overnight trains to many European destinations. In May, the Swiss rail operator SBB said that it was considering renewed night routes, citing market demands. In France, activists saved a beloved sleeping-car route between Paris, Perpignan and the Spanish border town of Portbou, according to Nicolas Forien, a member of both Back on Track and the French group Oui au Train de Nuit ("Yes to the Night Train").

Sleeper train service has had better luck in other parts of the Continent, often in regions with less competition from budget airlines. The Czech train operator RegioJet introduced a new overnight service in 2017, with new cars traveling from Prague through the Tatra Mountains and to the regional capital of Kosice. The route was later extended further east to the city of Humenne. In late 2018, ÖBB launched a new version of the historic Vienna to Berlin overnight route, now traveling through Wrocław and other cities in southwestern Poland. And the Serbian rail operator Srbija Voz has recently modernized the couchettes on its overnight trains.

By far the highest-profile night train is the new Caledonian Sleeper, which offers luxurious sleeping cars for journeys between London and various destinations in Scotland, with upgraded features like en-suite lavatories and double beds, as well as improved options for dining.

While more comfortable furnishings and better meals might heighten the romantic allure of night trains, concern for the environment is giving the movement a significant push. Earlier this year, the climate activist Greta Thunberg completed a cross-European speaking tour by train, which helped bring the Swedish concept of "flight shame" to a wider audience.

"The most important thing for me these days is the climate discussion, because they are really climate-friendly alternatives to middle-distance flying," Bernhard Knierim, an activist with Back on Track, said of trains. For Mr Knierim, the optimal distance for overnight rail travel is "anything up to 1,000 kilometers," or about 620 miles. In terms of environmental impact, the difference between rail travel and flights can be substantial. Robert Lechner, a spokesman for the ÖBB rail carrier, points out that Austria's electrified overnight trains do not require fossil fuels.

Thanks to Paul Brown, Scott Ferris, Hilaire Fraser, Steven Haby, Victor Isaacs, Ross Morrison, James Ng, Len Regan, John Watsford, Jim Wells, *Catchpoint*, www.railexpress.com.au, www.railpage.com.au, *Railway Digest*, ABC news, *Advertiser* (Adelaide), *Daily Telegraph*, *Herald Sun*, *New York Times*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Weekly Times* (Victoria) for Rail news.

ODD SPOT

A study commissioned by British infrastructure manager Network Rail found more than one in five professional drivers base their decision on whether to cross a level crossing on their knowledge of the timetable. It found 23% admitted that if they knew the train timetable and did not believe a train was due to arrive, they would drive over a level crossing. The most common reasons cited for taking the risk was running late to make a delivery (12%) or a desire to finish work and get home early (16%), despite an overwhelming majority of drivers knowing that they are required to stop for the warning lights at level crossings.

In June a new international passenger train commenced between Plovdiv (Bulgaria) and Edirne (Turkey). Unfortunately, the service was withdrawn after just two days of operation, probably due to poor patronage. It was scheduled to run at weekends and was aimed at day-trippers from Bulgaria visiting the historic Turkish city of Edirne (located 20 kms from the border).

Thanks to Paul Brown, David Cranney, *European Rail Timetable* and *International Railway Journal* for Odd Spot.

AIR NEWS

Domestic

Patronage on the Sydney-Melbourne route, one of the busiest in the world, declined by 3.8% to 771,000 last year.

International

According to the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Resource Economics, market share of major international carriers to/from Australia in March was:

Qantas	18.2%
Singapore Airlines	8.2%
Air New Zealand	8.0%
Emirates	6.8%
Virgin Australia	6.7%

Qantas will introduce non-stop flights from Brisbane to Chicago and to San Francisco. It will be the first non-stop service to Chicago from anywhere in Australia, and the third service to San Francisco. Qantas will put new 787-9 Dreamliners on the four-times-a-week Brisbane-Chicago service, and three-times a week flight to San Francisco, by the end of April 2020. The flights from Brisbane to Chicago will take 16 hours and 20 minutes, becoming the fourth longest passenger flight in the world. The Brisbane-San Francisco service will take 12 hours and 40 minutes.

Cathy Pacific flights from Hong Kong to Cairns will cease in October after 25 years due to declining demand.

Thanks to the *Australian* for Air news.

BUS NEWS

New South Wales

NSW budget

The NSW budget handed down on 18 June 2019 included:

- 14,000 extra weekday services across Sydney, Illawarra, Central Coast and Lower Hunter regions.
- \$67.9 million over four years to improve bus services in 15 regional towns.
- \$10 million over two years to trial 10 electric buses at Randwick bus depot as part of the Government's Electric and Hybrid Vehicle plan.
- A new direct bus route between Pittwater and Frenchs Forest via the Wakehurst Parkway and work to commence on a 'turn up and go' express bus between Dee Why and Chatswood.
- Investigate 'rapid transit' options to connect communities in Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands with Sydney's electrified suburban network. New routes include Bargo, Picton and Wilton to Campbelltown.

Sydney bus changes

A number of changes occurred from 30 June 2019 to the following routes:

- Route 313 to receive 104 additional weekday trips, earlier starts and finishes and later weekend services.
- Route 343 to receive 95 additional weekday trips and additional trips between the city and Roseberry and Kingsford.
- Route 501 will receive 40 additional weekly services, additional AM and PM peak shoulder services and an increase in Sunday frequencies between West Ryde and Ryde shops.
- Route 533 will receive additional trips as it replaces all existing route 534 trips and additional services between Sydney Olympic Park and Ryde.
- Route 869 will receive 150 additional weekday services and frequencies increased to 15 minutes on the section between Macdonald Road, Ingleburn and Prestons via Edmondson Park station.

- Route 940 will see changes in the Riverwood area.
- Route 534 is withdrawn.

Newcastle bus service cuts

In a decision that has further angered locals in Newcastle there will be significant cuts to routes 41, 43 and 48 with frequencies reduced to every two hours with passengers encouraged to use the 'on demand' D59 route.

Less severe cuts and changes will occur to routes 11 to 14, 21 to 29 and 42, 44 and 47.

The 'on demand' D59 route will be expanded to southern parts of Newcastle including Redhead, Jewells, Floraville and Belmont.



Bus 3413 on a route 59D 'on demand' service. Image © Max McKinney, Newcastle Herald.

These changes came into effect from 30 June.

The *Newcastle Herald* has been covering the ongoing changes to the bus network in that city in some detail.

South Coast renumbers

Nowra Coaches routes were renumbered on 2 July 2018 as follows:

- 101 Bomaderry-Worrigee (previously 724).
- 102 Bomaderry-Huskisson & St Georges Basin (732).
- 103 Bomaderry-Hymans Beach (733).

Other South Coast routes were renumbered on 1 June 2019 as follows:

Kennedy's Bus & Coach

- 110 Bomaderry-Greenwell Point (728)
- 111 Bomaderry-Orient Pt (729)
- 112 Nowra-Kangaroo Valley (809)

Stuart's Coaches

- 120 Nowra-Callala/Currarong (730)

Kiama Coaches

- 125 Kiama-Gerringong (701)
- 126 Kiama-Jamberoo (702)

Shoal Bus

- 130 Nowra-Gerringong (705)
- 131 Nowra-Bomaderry Loop (721)
- 132 Nowra-North Nowra (722)
- 135 Nowra-Sussex Inlet (735)
- 139 Nowra-Shoalhaven Heads (709)

There are no changes to timetables and routes.

Greyhound's snow services

From 17 June 2019 Greyhound commenced their annual Sydney – Thredbo snow service. GX 200 (from Sydney) departing at 0700 and arriving at Thredbo at 1445. GX 203 (from Thredbo) departs at 1630 and arrives Sydney Central at 2355. All run daily.

GREYHOUND SERVICE TIMETABLE FOR: SYDNEY > SNOW

Effective 17 June 2019



Stop Code	Stop Name		GX200 Daily	Location
SYD	SYDNEY CENTRAL STATION		7:00 AM	Western Forecourt, Bays 5 & 6, Sydney Central Station Nsw
QFT	SYDNEY DOM AIRPORT		7:20 AM	P/U: Qantas T3 Arrivals, Govt Bus Stop. S/D: T3 Departures
CBR	CANBERRA	<i>Arr</i>	10:45 AM	Bays 2-4, Jolimont Centre, Northbourne Ave, Canberra Act
		<i>Dep</i>	11:15 AM	
CIA	CANBERRA AIRPORT (SNOW SVC)		11:30 AM	Bus Stop 4-6, Ground Level Outside Arrivals
OOA	COOMA		12:40 PM	Centennial Park, Bombala Street, Cooma Nsw
BRE	BERRIDALE		1:10 PM	General Store, Berridale Nsw
JDB	JINDABYNE		1:45 PM	Bus Bays, National Parks And Wildlife Visitor Centre
SKI	SKI TUBE TERM-BULLOCKS FLAT		2:10 PM	Bullocks Flats
THD	THREDBO		2:45 PM	Alpine Apartments, Thredbo Nsw

Broken Hill changes

Adelaide coach operator Buses'R'Us which ran the Broken Hill to Mildura and Adelaide service ceased operation. NSW TrainLink has continued the service commencing Monday 24 June 2019 on a trial basis only. For details see the the Rail news section above.

VICTORIA



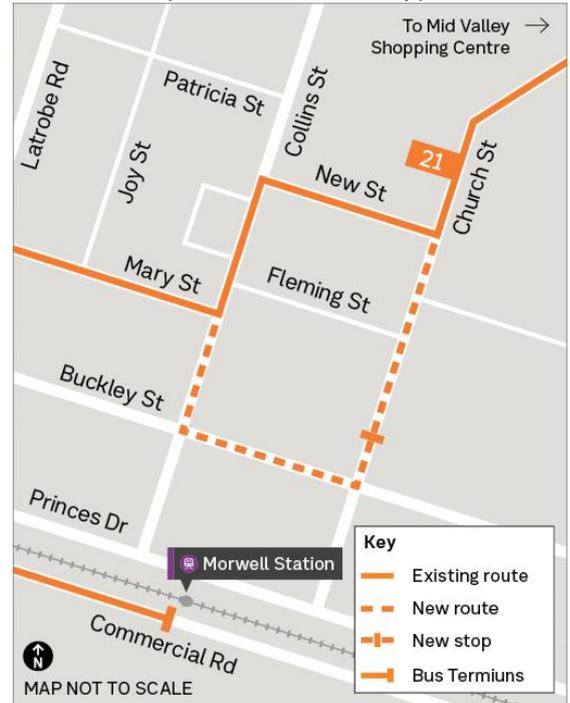
Ventura bus no. 696 on the first route 627 (Moorabbin to Chadstone) service, the 0810 from Moorabbin, which commenced Sunday 16 June 2019. The person in the lovely red coat is the ATA bus news editor's partner Katie Moss who came along for the run. © Steven Haby.

Latrobe Valley changes

From Sunday 23 June 2019 a number of changes occurred to bus routes in the Latrobe Valley:

- Route 14 (Moe – Newborough via Old Sale Road) will see services commence at 0610 rather than 0810 and extended to 1900 on Monday to Thursday and 2100 on Fridays. Weekend services will start earlier and finish later.
- Route 15 (Moe – Newborough) will start earlier and finish later each day.
- Route 21 (Morwell to Mid Valley SC) will be amended to serve the new GovHub under

construction (as shown in the map).



Macedon Ranges bus changes

A reorganisation of the confusing Sunbury – Clarkefield – Gisborne - Lancefield – Kyneton bus route will take place from Sunday 7 July 2019. The main change will be the route being split into three with connections as follows:

- Sunbury / Clarkefield – Lancefield will operate with nine return weekday trips and three return Saturday trips. Four trips ex Lancefield will connect at Clarkfield to V/Line services and three services to Lancefield will commence from Clarkefield.

Dysons Kyneton



Route : Sunbury



Service operates from 07.07.2019 until further notice

		Monday to Friday													
Wheelchair Accessible Services		am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)		am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Lancefield Primary School/High St (Lancefield)		6:25	7:05	7:40	9:40	11:00	12:45	2:00	3:20	5:00	5:30	6:25	6:30	7:12	
Raglan St/High St (Lancefield)		6:25	7:05	7:40	9:40	11:00	12:45	2:00	3:20	5:00	5:30	6:25	6:30	7:12	
High St/Main Rd (Lancefield)		6:25	7:05	7:40	9:40	11:00	12:45	2:00	3:20	5:00	5:30	6:25	6:30	7:12	
Palmer St/Main St (Romsey)		6:34	7:14	7:49	9:49	11:09	12:54	2:09	3:29	5:09	5:39	6:34	6:39	7:21	
Romsey Community Hub/Main St (Romsey)		6:35	7:15	7:50	9:50	11:10	12:55	2:10	3:30	5:10	5:40	6:35	6:40	7:22	
Garden Pl/Main St (Romsey)		6:35	7:15	7:50	9:50	11:10	12:55	2:10	3:30	5:10	5:40	6:35	6:40	7:22	
Monegeetta Milk Bar/Melbourne-Lancefield Rd (Monegeetta)		6:40	7:20	7:55	9:55	11:15	1:00	2:15	3:35	5:15	5:45	6:40	6:45	7:27	
Clarkefield Station (Clarkefield)			7:27								5:52	6:47		7:34	
Sunbury Station (Sunbury)		7:00	-	8:15	10:15	11:35	1:20	2:35	3:55	5:35	-	-	7:05	-	

		Saturday		
Wheelchair Accessible Services		H	H	H
Service Information		am	pm	pm
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)		am	pm	pm
Lancefield Primary School/High St (Lancefield)		8:05	1:45	5:05
Raglan St/High St (Lancefield)		8:05	1:45	5:05
High St/Main Rd (Lancefield)		8:05	1:45	5:05
Palmer St/Main St (Romsey)		8:14	1:54	5:14
Romsey Community Hub/Main St (Romsey)		8:15	1:55	5:15
Garden Pl/Main St (Romsey)		8:15	1:55	5:15
Monegeetta Milk Bar/Melbourne-Lancefield Rd (Monegeetta)		8:20	2:00	5:23
Clarkefield Station (Clarkefield)		8:27		5:27
Sunbury Station (Sunbury)		8:42	2:20	5:42

Service Information
H = Operates via Clarkefield Station = Wheelchair Accessible

- Gisborne to Lancefield will operate with two return trips Mondays to Saturdays. From Lancefield the service will continue to Kyneton via Newham.

Dysons Kyneton		PT>	
Route : Gisborne Town Centre		&	
Service operates from 07.07.2019 until further notice			
Monday to Friday			
Wheelchair Accessible Services			
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)	am	pm	
Lancefield Primary School/High St (Lancefield)	9:30	12:30	
Raglan St/High St (Lancefield)	9:30	12:30	
High St/Main Rd (Lancefield)	9:30	12:30	
Palmer St/Main St (Romsey)	9:39	12:39	
Romsey Community Hub/Main St (Romsey)	9:40	12:40	
Garden Pl/Main St (Romsey)	9:40	12:40	
Monegeetta Milk Bar/Melbourne-Lancefield Rd (Monegeetta)	9:45	12:45	
Richardson St/Main Rd (Riddells Creek)	9:53	12:53	
Riddells Creek Station (Riddells Creek)	9:55	12:55	
Gisborne Station/Early St (New Gisborne)	10:05	1:05	
Coles Supermarket/Aitken St (Gisborne)	10:10	1:10	
Saturday			
Wheelchair Accessible Services			
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)	am	pm	
Lancefield Primary School/High St (Lancefield)	10:50	2:55	
Raglan St/High St (Lancefield)	10:50	2:55	
High St/Main Rd (Lancefield)	10:50	2:55	
Palmer St/Main St (Romsey)	10:59	3:04	
Romsey Community Hub/Main St (Romsey)	11:00	3:05	
Garden Pl/Main St (Romsey)	11:00	3:05	
Monegeetta Milk Bar/Melbourne-Lancefield Rd (Monegeetta)	11:05	3:10	
Richardson St/Main Rd (Riddells Creek)	11:13	3:18	
Riddells Creek Station (Riddells Creek)	11:15	3:20	
Gisborne Station/Early St (New Gisborne)	11:25	3:30	
Coles Supermarket/Aitken St (Gisborne)	11:30	3:35	
Service Information			
♿ = Wheelchair Accessible			

Lancefield to Kyneton is essentially an extension of the service to/from Gisborne.

Dysons Kyneton		PT>	
Route : Lancefield		&	
Service operates from 07.07.2019 until further notice			
Monday to Friday			
Wheelchair Accessible Services			
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)	am	pm	
Kyneton Town Centre/Jennings St (Kyneton)	9:00	12:00	
Carlsruhe Weighbridge/Cobb and Co Rd (Carlsruhe)	9:08	12:08	
Newham Primary School/Rochford Rd (Newham)	9:15	12:15	
Lancefield Primary School/High St (Lancefield)	9:30	12:30	
Saturday			
Wheelchair Accessible Services			
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)	am	pm	
Kyneton Town Centre/Jennings St (Kyneton)	10:20	1:15	
Carlsruhe Weighbridge/Cobb and Co Rd (Carlsruhe)	10:28	1:23	
Newham Primary School/Rochford Rd (Newham)	10:35	1:30	
Lancefield Primary School/High St (Lancefield)	10:50	1:45	
Service Information			
♿ = Wheelchair Accessible			

The operator is Dysons from their Kyneton depot.

TASMANIA

New Launceston Network

Details of the proposed new Launceston bus network have been released on transport.tas.gov.au. A map of the new network accompanies this report. Details are:

North

- 110 Kings Meadows Shops-University via City (previously 8 City-University)
- 115 City-Rocherlea (previously 10)
- 116 City-Alanvale via Mayfield (previously 6)
- 117 City-Alanvale via Newnham (previously 7)

The draft timetable also shows trips on rural services 770 Launceston-George Town, 771 Launceston-Low Head and 772 Launceston-Low Head via Dilson

East

- 120 City-Ravenswood (previously 20 Ravenswood, 25 Ravenswood/Mowbray Loop, 35 Mowbray/Ravenswood Loop)
- 121 City-Waverley via Ravenswood (previously 30 Waverley via Ravenswood, 32 St Leonards via Ravenswood & Waverley)

- 130 City-St Leonards via Waverley (previously 28 Waverley/St Leonards Loop, 38 St Leonards/Waverley Loop)
- 131 City-St Leonards via Penquite Rd (previously 28 Waverley/St Leonards Loop, 38 St Leonards/Waverley Loop)
- 140 City-Youngtown via Norwood (previously 40 Kings Meadows/Norwood Loop, 50 Norwood/Kings Meadows Loop)

South

- 141 City-Punchbowl via Talbot Rd (previously 45 Abbott St/Talbot Rd Loop, 55 Talbot Rd/Abbott St Loop)
- 142 City-Punchbowl via Abbott St (previously 45 Abbott St/Talbot Rd Loop, 55 Talbot Rd/Abbott St Loop)
- 145 City-Youngtown via Kings Meadow (previously 40 Kings Meadow/Norwood Loop, 50 Norwood/Kings Meadows Loop)
- 146 City-Youngtown (Woolven St) (previously 48/58 Clarendon St via Kings Meadows)
- 147 City-Kings Meadows (Ainslie Grove) (previously 48/58 Clarendon St via Kings Meadows)

The draft timetable also shows trips on rural services 792 Launceston-Evandale, 794 Launceston-Langford, 795 Launceston Schools-Cressy and 796 Launceston-Cressy

Riverside

- 150 City-West Riverside via Trevallyn (previously 80/85/86 North/West Riverside Loop, 90/95 West/North Riverside Loop)
- North Riverside via West Tamar Hwy now served by rural routes, 780 Launceston-

Legana, 781 Launceston-North Riverside and 785 Launceston-Exeter

West

- 160 City-Prospect Vale (Casino) via Prospect (previously 60 Summerhill/Prospect Loop, 70 Prospect Loop/Summerhill Loop)
- 161 City-Blackstone Heights via Prospect (previously 66 via Summerhill, 76 via Prospect)
- 162 City-Hadspen via Prospect (previously 78)
- 165 City-Prospect Vale (Marketplace) via Summerhill (previously 60 Summerhill/Prospect Loop, 70 Prospect/Summerhill Loop)
- 167 City-Prospect Vale (Marketplace) via Hillside Cres & Summerhill (previously 64 Hillside Cres/Prospect Loop, 74 Prospect/Hillside Cres Loop)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA budget

As expected, the SA budget was not big on public transport initiatives with the following being announced:

- Tendering for new bus supply and bus service contracts.
- A study to consider extending the O-Bahn to Golden Grove.
- Extension of 11 bus contracts in country areas.

Buses'R'Us ceases

See item under NSW.

Thanks to Hilaire Fraser, Steven Haby, Geoff Hassall, Victor Isaacs, Richard Talbot for Bus news.

FERRY NEWS

Sydney fleet upgrades

The NSW government has decided it will upgrade the nine 'First Fleet' class ferries instead of retiring them to extend their working life for at least another decade. In other possible changes of plans, the government is reconsidering the withdrawal from service of seven 'RiverCat' class and two 'HarbourCat' class vessels and the four 'Freshwater' class vessels. Ten new ferries will likely replace several 'SuperCat' and two 'HarbourCat' class vessels. The new ferries will have the capacity to work upstream on the Parramatta River in addition to Sydney Harbour.



A 'First Fleet' class ferry *Ocean Grove*. Image © Black Diamond Images.

Newcastle Stockton ferry changes

In line with changes to the Newcastle bus network from 30 June, the arrival and departure times of the ferry has been changed to better coordinate with the light rail services.

Brisbane ferries

Brisbane City Council ferry services, operated by Transdev, were affected by several industrial stoppages involving ferry captains. A two day and one day shutdown occurred in December 2018 and a three-day strike in February 2019 ended suddenly after an agreement was reached between Transdev and the MUA.

Meanwhile the ferry fleet is being expanded with the introduction of a larger version of the 'RiverCat' class vessel.

Lucky Bay – Wallaroo (SA) ferry service

Plans for the recommencement of the Lucky Bay to Wallaroo service has been delayed due to a political row in Venezuela. In 2018 the ferry company announced that a ten year lease had been signed for a

vessel that *previously* had operated the route. The *Aurora V* was sold in 2015 to a Venezuelan national and operated as a car ferry. The vessel was delayed on its return to South Australia due to authorities refusing to authorise appropriate paperwork. As of May 2019 the situation has not been resolved. The Lucky Bay – Wallaroo service has not been in operation since May 2017.



The *Aurora V*. Image © Clyde Dickens, courtesy of website ShipSpotting.com.

New Zealand ferries

Two new sister deep sea ferries have been ordered by KiwiRail/Interisland Line with a capacity of 3,000 lane metres of vehicles including 40 bogie railway wagons and 1,800 passengers. A builder is to be selected at the end of 2020 with delivery in 2024.

Toll Shipping

Former Tasmanian RoRo cargo vessels *Tasmanian Achiever* and *Victorian Reliance* which were replaced by larger vessels have been sold to Tuvalu and departed for Singapore on 7 April.

Thanks to Steven Haby, *The Log* journal of the Nautical Association of Australia for Ferry news.

About *Table Talk*

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