



PROJECT UPDATE



Above: the first Waratah train carriages prior to their departure for Newcastle, Australia

16 November 2009: The first eight carriages of the new CityRail Waratah trains are expected to arrive in Newcastle in December for the commencement of final manufacture.

The eight, semi-fabricated carriages of the Waratah train departed by ship for Newcastle from the Dalian Port in China on 14 November.

The custom-made, stainless steel Waratah carriages are being built by Asia's largest passenger rail vehicle manufacturer, the Changchun Railway Vehicles Co (CRC), to an Australian design and in accordance with leading international safety standards.

Reliance Rail Chief Executive Officer Terry Kearney said the final manufacture and assembly of the first train carriages would begin at the Downer EDI Rail Cardiff facility following their expected arrival next month.

"The arrival of the first train carriages and the beginning of their final manufacture will be another major step forward in the successful delivery of this project, which will provide a long-term boost to Sydney's rail network in delivering trains to service commuters to 2040 and beyond," Mr Kearney said.

The Hunter manufacturing phase of the project will provide an estimated 300 employment opportunities in the region, including 29 apprentices at the Cardiff facility, and a significant boost to the local economy.

Modifications to shipping and logistics arrangements has resulted in all eight carriages of the first train arriving concurrently in one shipment instead of, as previously proposed, two shipments of four carriages, arriving in November and December respectively.

"This change in transport arrangements does not affect the manufacturing schedule," Mr Kearney said.

RailCorp Chief Executive Officer Rob Mason said the arrival of the first Waratah carriages represented another significant milestone in the NSW Rolling Stock Public Partnership (PPP) project.



"The arrival of the first eight carriages of the 626 Waratah air-conditioned carriages on order is a another step closer to delivering on our promise to CityRail customers to provide trains which boast the most advanced safety, reliability, accessibility and comfort features," Mr Mason said.

"Following extensive trialling of the pre-production test train on the CityRail network to test key systems, the first Waratah train will then undergo a rigorous testing program, before going into passenger service from the end of 2010."

The four-carriage pre-production test train is currently undergoing final manufacture and assembly at Downer EDI Rail's Cardiff manufacturing facility. The pre-production test train will then undergo weight, electrical and water tests on-site at Cardiff towards the end of the year, before beginning its testing on the Hunter and Sydney CityRail networks early in 2010.

Reliance Rail is contracted to deliver 626 carriages for use on the CityRail network and to provide maintenance on the fleet for 30 years at the \$220 million maintenance facility at Auburn in Sydney's west. Reliance Rail has contracted the design and manufacture of the trains to the Downer EDI Rail – Hitachi Joint Venture.