

MEDIA RELEASE



Grain growers to benefit from GrainCorp partnership with NSW Government

GrainCorp has partnered with the NSW Government to deliver a \$4.7 million upgrade to a major grains handling facility in Burren Junction, northern NSW.

Rail loading times will be reduced by 70% as a result of the upgrade, which will deliver faster cycle times to port with a freight saving of over \$6 per tonne.

GrainCorp's Group General Manager of Storage and Logistics, Neil Johns, said:

"Burren Junction is a large site in the region and is connected to Newcastle port by rail, making it strategically important for both grain growers and grain exporters.

"By partnering with the NSW Government through its *Fixing Country Rail* program, the rail siding has been upgraded as well as the above rail loading equipment. This combination cuts the train loading time from 13 hours to under four hours, greatly reducing rail freight cost and heavy vehicle movements through local communities. In fact, for every train we use to send grain to port we are removing up to 70 trucks from local roads.

"For growers, these improvements will result in higher grain prices and better access to export markets. Rail rates from this site are about 20% lower than they were in the 2014/15 season as a result of the investment.

"I would like to thank the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Duncan Gay and Premier Mike Baird for their vision and leadership for regional rail freight, as well as Transport for NSW and John Holland for delivering the project.

"The opening of this upgraded facility is coming at a perfect time, as northern NSW is enjoying a large harvest.

"We look forward to working with the NSW Government, as part of the *Fixing Country Rail* program, to upgrade regional rail capability across NSW. Having this high-capacity, efficient infrastructure will help us deliver NSW grain to both local and international markets," Mr Johns said.

The investment is part of a total \$200 million to be spent under GrainCorp's Project Regeneration initiative, which involves developing a network of high-capacity grain receival sites to support an efficient rail network.

Summary of benefits:

- ✓ Cut train loading time by 70% from 13 hours to under four hours
- ✓ For every train utilised removes up to 70 trucks from local roads
- ✓ Cut cycle time to port from 72 hours to under 48 hours, which will deliver freight savings of at least \$6 per tonne
- ✓ Higher quality bunkers with faster turnaround times and redesigned traffic flow

Project summary

- ✓ GrainCorp spent \$3.9 million upgrading:
 - Train loading equipment – 2 x 1000 tonnes per hour loading spouts

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- Roads, bunkers and other infrastructure to support loading up to a 48-unit train
- ✓ NSW Government as part of its Fixing Country Rail Program spent \$0.8 million:
 - Extending rail siding from 550 metres to over 1500 metres
 - Supporting infrastructure works on Narrabri to Walgett line to handle larger and heavier trains

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