

# FORTESCUE RAIL OPERATIONS



## ABOUT FORTESCUE'S RAIL OPERATIONS

**Fortescue's railway is currently the heaviest haul line in the world with a 40 tonne axle load capacity.**

The first large-scale railway development undertaken in the Pilbara in more than 40 years, Fortescue's railway has generated significant attention both in Australia and worldwide. The purpose-designed railway was constructed to service iron ore deposits at Cloudbreak. Initial construction was commenced and completed in only nine months and a 40 kilometre railway extension to Christmas Creek completed in late 2010.

## RAIL OPERATIONS AT ROWLEY YARD

Accessible to authorised personnel only via a rail access road off the Great Northern Highway near South Hedland, Rowley Yard is the service hub of the rail operations and administration support. Named after founding Fortescue Executive Director Graeme Rowley, the workshop at Rowley Yard is equipped to perform routine service and maintenance on Fortescue's fleet of locomotives and freight cars.

## ROLLINGSTOCK AND RAIL OPERATIONS

Fortescue's rail fleet consists of 15 GE Dash 9 - 4400CW diesel locomotives, nine SD90 locomotives and in excess of 1,400 freight cars including fuel and ballast cars.

The ballast and fuel cars both play vital roles in the productivity and efficiency of the railway and its maintenance, as well as providing a fuel service to Cloudbreak.

Each Fortescue train uses state of the art technology, including Electronic Controlled Pneumatic braking, carries up to 32,880 tonnes of iron ore in 240 freight cars and is around 2.7 kilometres long.

## RAIL OPERATIONS AND TRAIN CONTROL

In March 2009 Fortescue moved its Train Control operations from Rowley Yard to Perth, making Fortescue the first operation in Western Australia to control a railway from outside a region of operation (approximately 1,800 kilometres away).

The purpose-designed Train Control centre is currently undergoing an A\$50m upgrade to facilitate an expanded railway network, with the capability of handling 155 million tonnes of iron ore per annum.

Fortescue rail operations operate 24 hours a day, seven days per week between the Chichester Hub and Herb Elliott Port in Port Hedland. Upon arrival into Port Hedland trains containing iron ore from the mines are unloaded and stacked into stockpiles, ready for shipping.

## RAIL OPERATIONS MILESTONES

DATE	MILESTONE
Nov 2006	Special Rail Licence (SRL) granted which allowed construction to commence
Feb 2007	Official launch of track laying between Cloudbreak and Port Hedland
Apr 2008	First iron ore on train to Herb Elliott Port
Jul 2008	Project completion achieved
May 2009	Fortescue Rail makes the 1000 <sup>th</sup> train journey from Cloudbreak to Herb Elliott Port
Jan 2010	50 millionth tonne of Fortescue iron ore is railed
Dec 2010	Fortescue Rail makes the 3000 <sup>th</sup> train journey from Cloudbreak to Herb Elliott Port
Apr 2011	A significant milestone of over 1 million tonnes of iron ore is railed in one week
Apr 2011	100 millionth tonne of Fortescue iron ore is railed
June 2011	A new rail consist joins the fleet taking rail capacity over 55mtpa
Jan 2012	A record 210,000 tonnes is railed in one day

