

## Largest Grain Train to Haul Wheat to Port in Australia



In late 2015 a 1.3 Km train made the journey from Moree through Narrabri to the Newcastle Agri Terminal (NAT). The exercise was made possible with input from a number of different entities including NAT, Southern Shorthaul Railroad (SSR), Western Trains, Louis Dreyfus Commodities (LDC), Australian Rail Track Authority and a number of growers. This was the longest grain train to haul wheat to port in Australia delivering a 5,100t pay load - more than double the average grain train to Newcastle port.

So what did this achieve? Put simply it showed that there was potential for significant improvements in the movement of grain in NSW. Grower Rebecca Reardon, 'Lairdoo' Moree was an active supporter of this 'mega train'. She said that 'the existing supply chain was inefficient and that supply chain costs out of Moree could be as much as 45% of the variable costs. If the area can achieve reliable improvements in the

cost of freight it would have significant benefits to producers and result in flow on benefits for regional communities.'

Not only is there potential for a more coordinated loading systems, there is also the issue of limits on axle load.

The mega train sought a 2.5t per axle load increase on part of the track which meant that an extra 10t could be loaded per wagon and as a result significant saving could be achieved. Upgrading of segments of track to enable 25t per axle (current limits are at 20.2-20.8t) would have long term benefits to the industry.

#### References:

- 'United front to regain control' The Land Thursday December 03, 2015 by Amelia Williams
- Mega train a grain gain' The Land Thursday December 03, 2015 by Mike Foley
- NSW Freight and Ports Strategy - <http://freight.transport.nsw.gov.au/strategy/index.html>

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