



On Track for 2012

The past twelve months has yielded many exciting developments for the project.

Key milestones

In December 2010, the Surat Basin Rail Joint Venture received environmental approval to proceed with the project. The Coordinator-General's Report evaluating the complete Environment Impact Statement (EIS) contained three conditions and 115 recommendations for the construction and operation of the project including weed and pest management, coal dust management and local industry participation.

On 24 November 2011, the Surat Basin Infrastructure Corridor was declared a State Development Area (SDA) putting us on the path to secure the land required to construct and operate the railway.

Project management

In recent months the Surat Basin Rail team has grown in the areas of project management, engineering, design, commercial, procurement, administration and legal affairs in preparation for delivery. With growth comes change, by way of the departure of Warren McReight who has served as Project Director for almost three years. Warren has led the development of strong working relationships with the project's stakeholders since 2006 to help identify the best rail alignment to suit the needs of the project, customers, communities and local environment. The Surat Basin Rail Joint Venture would like to thank Warren McReight for his passion and dedication to this vital rail link. We look forward to his continual involvement in the project in his new role as Executive General Manager (Rail) of ATEC Rail Group Limited.

Getting a contractor onboard

Two world-class consortiums, Abigroup & Lang O'Rourke Joint Venture (Access Surat) and Thiess-John Holland Joint Venture, were recently shortlisted for our competitive Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) tender process for the design, construct, commissioning and maintenance of the railway. The ECI process aims to gain innovative solutions upfront, where the most savings can be made, and will provide greater certainty on price and risk outcomes for the project.

Our team remains on track and committed to gaining the relevant approvals, and thereafter making a final investment decision (in line with other coal chain projects) to allow construction to begin in 2012.

We look forward to bringing you the autumn edition of Rail Update in the new year.

Surat Basin Rail is being funded by an Australian based Joint Venture comprising:

- ATEC Rail Group Limited
- Xstrata Coal Queensland
- QR National



Rail facts

42,000,000 – the tonnage capacity of Surat Basin Rail each year

210 – kilometres of single track

22-24 – diesel powered train movements per day on trains up to 2.5 kilometres in length

415 – the length of the 50 metre high bridge crossing Downfall Creek

7 – passing loops

48 – major road and rail bridges

14 – technical studies undertaken as part of the EIS



Linking with the coal chain

Coal chain cooperation is integral to Surat Basin Rail because the timing and execution of the future Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal port development and related infrastructure projects, such as the new Moura Link, are vital to the successful operation of this new railway.

It is important we get customer commitment and coal chain stakeholders onboard to develop the railway and secure the continued growth of Australia's largest export industry.

In 2011 the Surat Basin Rail Joint Venture called for Expressions of Interest from existing and potential coal producers interested in transporting coal between Wandoan and Banana. We are pleased with the level of interest from potential customers and continue to work with these parties as part of our customer commitment process.

The Surat Basin Coal Chain map at right shows where the Surat Basin Rail will fit in the coal chain. It shows how the new railway would connect the Western Railway System, near Wandoan, to the Moura Railway System, near Banana.



Register your interest

Surat Basin Rail is committed to offering local people and businesses the opportunity to increase their skills and work on this iconic project.

Through its contractors and consultants, Surat Basin Rail will acquire a large and varied skills base to build the project.

A construction, operation and maintenance workforce of about 1,500 will be required at the peak of the works.

You can register your interest at www.suratbasinrail.com.au for your details to be passed on to the future contractor who will manage resourcing for the project.

The Surat Basin Corporation has been working collaboratively with the Chambers of Commerce across the region on a number of 'tender ready forums' to give businesses the best chance of succeeding in the large amount of work which is going to be generated in the area.

Acquiring the corridor

The Surat Basin Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area (SDA) was declared on 24 November 2011 by a regulation made under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*. This means the Coordinator-General can now regulate land uses in the corridor and acquire the land, or an interest in land, within the SDA to establish the infrastructure corridor.

Under the terms of the exclusive mandate, the Coordinator-General is responsible for acquiring the corridor for lease to the Joint Venture for construction and operation of the railway. The railway corridor will be approximately 60 metres wide (wider in some sections) and fenced along its entire length.

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Once the land acquisition program has commenced, the Office of the Coordinator-General will consult directly with all affected landowners on a case-by-case basis to assess fair and reasonable compensation in accordance with the provisions of the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*.

The Joint Venture has endeavoured to develop, and will continue to foster, a strong connection with the local community and affected landowners.

Recent appointments

In September 2011 the Surat Basin Rail Joint Venture announced the appointment of Allan Miller to the role of Chief Operating Officer and in October 2011 welcomed Paul Rodman to the role of Transaction Manager.



Paul Rodman
Transaction Manager

Allan Miller
Chief Operating Officer

Visit www.suratbasinrail.com.au for the latest news, publications and upcoming events



Surat Basin Rail milestones

Coordinator-General's report evaluating the complete EIS and providing a decision on Surat Basin Rail's approval	Q4 2010	Complete ✓
Principal Engineer appointment	Q1 2011	Complete ✓
Next phase of the customer commitment process	Q1 2011	Complete ✓
Release Request for Proposal to contractors	Q3 2011	Complete ✓
Appoint Early Contractor Involvement consortiums	Q4 2011	Complete ✓
State Development Area declared	Q4 2011	Complete ✓
Commence Notice of Intention to Resume process	Q4 2011	Complete ✓
Conclude key agreements with the Queensland Government	Q4 2011	Scheduled
Final investment decision	2012	Scheduled
Construction to commence	2012	Scheduled

By working closely with local communities and affected landowners, the project team has been able to identify possible impacts and mitigation strategies for construction and operation.



Comment opportunities

Stakeholder and community engagement has formed an integral part of the Surat Basin Rail project. It has enabled the team to identify the best rail alignment to suit the needs of the project, customers, communities and local environment.



You've had the opportunity to attend the briefings, information sessions and public displays on the:

- draft Terms of Reference – released for public comment in November 2008
- draft EIS – released for public comment from February to March 2009. Seventeen members of the public and 19 advisory agencies lodged submissions to the Coordinator-General
- supplementary EIS report – released for advisory agency review and comment from March until April 2010
- Surat Basin Infrastructure Corridor SDA – released for public consultation in mid 2010

The Coordinator-General approved the Surat Basin Rail EIS subject to a range of conditions, in December 2010. The Coordinator-General's Report on the EIS is now available on the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation website at www.deedi.qld.gov.au/cg/surat-basin-rail.html. In addition the Surat Basin Infrastructure Corridor has been declared an SDA, which means the Queensland Government can now secure the railway corridor.

Thank you for your support and interest during these comment periods. We have taken onboard your feedback and incorporated it into our planning as we move forward with the project, and we are eager to improve where we can do better.