



Australian Rail - moving people, moving a nation, moving forward

From Federation rail has played a critical role in the development of the nation and, for the first half of the twentieth century, was the dominant mode of passenger and freight transport in Australia.

Since the first railway opened in Newcastle in 1831, the Australian rail track network has grown to span 44,262 kilometres across each state and territory. There are currently over 2,270 locomotives and 32,000 wagons and carriages in Australia.

Australia has the sixth largest rail network in the world and, in both freight and passenger markets, plays an integral role in the operation and growth of the nation moving almost 1 billion tonnes of freight and facilitating 784 million customer journeys per year.¹



The Benefits of Rail

Not only is rail an effective mode of transport, it is also an environmentally friendly option. One passenger train takes 525 cars or 110 trucks off roads, and reduces the same amount of carbon emissions equivalent to planting 320 hectares of trees.²

Light rail in Australia is gradually growing with many of our capital cities considering light rail in their city transport planning. Light rail helps reduce congestion and travel times for all road users.

One tram moves 10,000 people an hour in one lane of traffic that would otherwise move 800 cars.

Our urban rail systems are a sustainable and socially inclusive form of transport that provides significant benefits to the Australian economy.

Rail freight moves nearly 1 billion tonnes of goods per annum. That means that no matter where you live, many of the things you use every day will have been moved by train at some stage in their journey to you.

More than half of the freight moved by rail is iron ore, followed by coal (one third), sugar, bauxite and construction products.



Rail Freight - The Big Picture

One freight train travelling between Melbourne and Brisbane instead of trucks reduces carbon emissions by the same amount as a household going without electricity for 46 years.

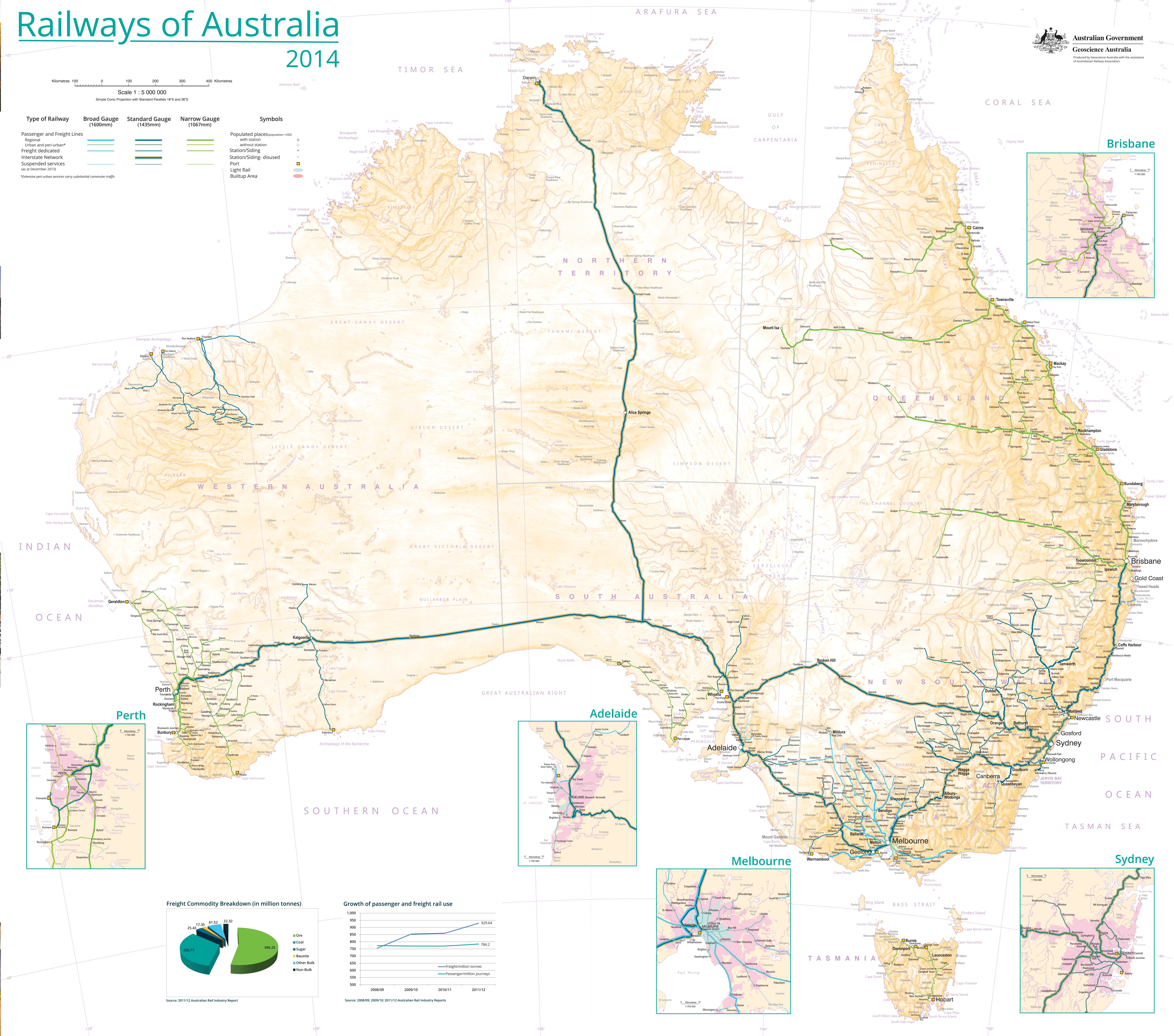
Australia's rail industry is at the forefront in technology and expertise in developing systems to detect faults to wheels and bearings while moving, as well as developing GPS technology to track individual wagons to improve freight handling.

Australia is a world leader in driverless train technology, with the longest and heaviest train in the world operating driverless in the Pilbara region.

Rail - A career of choice

The Australian rail industry employs approximately 110,000 people, in diverse fields including engineering, network control and human resources. While only 18 per cent of the industry is made up of female workers, the Australian rail industry is gradually becoming an employer of choice, with 52 per cent of workers staying in the rail industry for 45 or more years.

With rail organisations located all across Australia the rail industry has a network of opportunities and jobs in all major cities, in regional, rural and remote locations.



Geoscience Australia

As Australia's national mapping agency, we play a pivotal role in Australia's land information industry. We are the primary source of advice to the Australian Government, the coordinator of national programs, and the Australian representative in international forums. Through our mapping, satellite imagery and maritime boundaries programs, we provide information essential to the effective management of Australia's environmental and natural resources, and the safety and well-being of Australians.

Map Reliability

The rail information on this map is current to December 2013. Every effort has been made to make this map a useful reference, however the map has not been field checked and some information may not be accurate.



Your feedback

We value your assistance in helping us to update our maps. If you discover errors or omissions on this map, please let us know via email or send your annotated map to us. We will replace your map with the corresponding edition.



Acknowledgements

Geoscience Australia gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Australasian Railway Association in providing photographs and narrative information for this map. Visit www.ara.net.au to find out more.

Copyright

© 2014 GEOCAT 79566
© Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) 2014.
Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence

Geoscience Australia Sales Centre
GPO Box 378, Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: 1800 800 173 or 02 6249 9966
Fax: 02 6249 9960
Email: sales@ga.gov.au
Website: www.ga.gov.au



Railways of Australia

1:5 000 000 scale map of Australia's railway system



2014