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MEDIA RELEASE

Pacific National launches new East West Service

Today, Pacific National will commence a new East West rail service as part of its premium *Express* business.

The new Melbourne to Perth *Express* service has been introduced as a result of demand from customers. This service will compete directly with road on one of Australia's most critical freight corridors.

Pacific National Divisional General Manager, Paul Garaty commented, "the need to create more rail capacity for freight customers is a sign of things to come. With fuel prices increasing and the continuing focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, rail mode share will only increase in the future".

The new service will provide freight customers with the ability to have freight depart Melbourne late on Thursday night for arrival into Perth Sunday morning. Pacific National's capacity to operate its Perth terminal seven days a week means customers can process this incoming freight ensuring freight delivery for Sunday or early Monday morning.

This *Express* Service will cater for time sensitive freight such as refrigerated items, parcels and priority goods. Pacific National has invested in equipment such as 48" curtainsiders and refrigerated containers and will utilise its extensive fleet of locomotives and wagons to deliver this new service.

"Our ability to deliver capacity as a result of customer demand is integral to Pacific National's competitive advantage in the interstate rail market. As the leading national operator it is important that we can continue to provide superior services to our valuable customers", said Mr Garaty.

"Our *Express* service has performed strongly over the past year and we expect significant growth in this part of the business going forward. The introduction of another service demonstrates the increasing need to provide a viable alternative to road for freight transport users", said Mr Garaty.

Professor Garnaut's *Climate Change Review Final Report*, released this week, has highlighted the need for Governments to recognise the role that rail will play in the future. With rail being three times more energy efficient than road transport there is a real potential for rail to provide a solution to reducing green house gas emissions.

"The desperately needed modal shift can only occur if Governments are willing to encourage rail use on all corridors including the North South freight line – Australia's busiest freight corridor", said Mr Garaty.

"We welcome Professor Garnaut's report and the recommendations outlined in the "transforming transport" section. We will continue to lobby Government on rail related policies and encourage practical and effective rail infrastructure investment decisions", said Mr Garaty.

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