

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**KEEPING THE NATION ON TRACK
RAILROAD AUSTRALIA RETURNS FOR SEASON 2**

WORLD PREMIERE THURSDAY 11 MAY ON DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Discovery Channel's highest rating local production ever is back for Season 2. Premiering **Thursday 11 May at 7.30pm**, **Railroad Australia** returns to explore what it takes to transport ever-growing numbers of passengers and crucial resources across one of the most extreme and hostile places on the planet.

Hauling some of the largest cargo loads across the country, this series dives into the inner workings of Australia's railway network to meet the armies of workers who work tirelessly day and night to keep the nation's lifeblood flowing, with help from some of the biggest and most powerful trains in the world.

In Season 2 of **Railroad Australia** our crews face some of the worst storms in a generation, breakdowns that send maintenance teams into the sweltering heat of the desert for urgent repairs, and jobs that require them to haul vital materials on the only line across the vast Nullabor Plain to keep Perth, one of the most remote cities in the world, operating.

The series also uncovers just what it takes to become a qualified train driver, follows a group of train enthusiasts as they attempt a revered Sydney rail network challenge and bears witness to an unusual grudge match that pits man against machine in a race through the mud-spattered landscape of Victoria's Goldfields.

Australian rail operators are global leaders and with unprecedented access, **Railroad Australia** goes behind the scenes to meet the train drivers, locomotive servicing crews and track maintenance teams on some of the toughest, most demanding and spectacular journeys on Earth.

Preview Episode 1 [HERE](#) | Download Images [HERE](#)

**Railroad Australia Season 2
World Premiere
Thursday 11 May at 7.30pm AEST
Only on Discovery Channel**

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RAILROAD AUSTRALIA SEASON 2

EPISODE GUIDE

Episode 1 | Premieres Thursday 11 May at 7.30pm AEST

Legendary Outback train driver, Bernie Baker needs every bit of diesel muscle he can muster as his classic Streamliner engines face a whopping 2500km trip from Parkes in New South Wales to Port Augusta in South Australia and back again. Agricultural haulage company Fletchers International Exports is gearing up for their biggest challenge of the year: harvest in the New South Wales wheat-belt. But first, Fletcher's loco "The Pamela Gaye" needs major surgery. Then it's Man versus Steam in a treacherous race through the stormy Goldfields of Victoria. Steam train driver Alf Grigg in a 63-year-old locomotive takes on a pack of cyclists, including his son Brendan. Who will be the winner?

Episode 2 | Premieres Thursday 18 May at 7.30pm AEST

Bernie Baker is about to begin a 1200km journey home, hauling over 1.5 kilometres of coal wagons. But only four of his five Streamliner locos are working. If one more goes down, so does the mission. Two veteran locomotives risk destruction in a race for glory. It's 50 years since the end of steam and to mark it, two giants of the industrial age - the R7, built in the UK and the D3, built on home turf at the Newport Railway Workshops in Melbourne - will race each other through the city and across the plains of Victoria all the way to Geelong. At Fletchers International Exports, Shaun Magnusson is putting together a record-breaking mega train to cope with the biggest harvest in years. Can he get the train loaded in time and can it cope with the Blue Mountains and some of the steepest grades in the country?

Episode 3 | Premieres Thursday 25 May at 7.30pm AEST

In the South Australian desert Bernie Baker and side-kick Warren Murphy are still getting mechanical problems at an alarming rate. They're trying to pull a 1.6km train of coal wagons with five 1950s streamliner locos. To get up the long steep gradients that lie ahead, they need at least four of the five engines working at full capacity but it isn't looking good. At the Roundhouse, home of the Junee Railway Workshop, the team is going around in circles. Supervisor Chris Sweeney has more problems than he bargained for. He must service and repair an ageing loco and get it back on track before the end of the day. At just 16, James Gray bought an abandoned diesel locomotive, the 42101, for only \$12,000. After 20 years of blood sweat and tears, James' loco is as good as new. Now he wants to learn how to drive it. Enter instructor Dave Boyd, aka "Jaws".

Episode 4 | Premieres Thursday 1 June at 7.30pm AEST

With 30,000 tonnes of iron ore on every train, damaged tracks are a danger to miner Fortescue Metals Group's (FMG) business and its people. It's a massive enterprise and success relies on the uninterrupted delivery of iron ore to the coastline. Today, the track repair team has a narrow window to fix four rail fractures detected by ultrasound. After two decades of hard work, James Gray has finished restoring his loco. Now he's learning how to drive it. James and his loco will be put to the test on the punishing Cockatoo run out of Sydney. 160kms of tough climbs and tight corners with veteran instructor Dave Boyd aka Jaws watching his every move. Fully booked with sick locomotives, the repair of the Junee Roundhouse's longest serving patient has just hit a snag. The bearings in its traction motors need to be replaced. It's a major job for fitter Taylor Horan with unexpected twists and turns all the way.

Episode 5 | Premieres Thursday 8 June at 7.30pm AEST

FMG's Iron Ore train is travelling empty 290km into the scorching desert for loading at the mine. Ahead for driver Jeff Wilson lie gorges and steep hills and with rain threatening, the track could get slippery and slow. Jeff has a tight deadline, with delays potentially costing FMG millions of dollars. Experiencing the wilds of Tasmania is not for the faint hearted and Mount Owen, is one of the most pristine and deadly wilderness regions in Australia. The West Coast Wilderness Rail has a dedicated team to handle anything the mountain throws at them. 120-year-old steam engines haul tourists up the mountain, crawling their way across gaping ravines and through claustrophobic cut outs. Can the maintenance team lead by Bogga get the track open in time and keep the trains running? Beginning and ending at Central Station, four extreme train enthusiasts attempt the revered All Stations Challenge. They must travel, by train, to all 178 stations that make up the Sydney network in one day. Only a select few have ever achieved this Marathon meets Rubics Cube.

Episode 6 | Premieres Thursday 15 June at 7.30pm AEST

Bernie Baker is back! He's bringing 20 pristine diesel Streamliner locos to the town of Goulburn, New South Wales for a three day Streamliners festival of diesel madness. But with major flooding in his way, will Bernie even make it? Jeff Wilson from FMG is hauling a mammoth load of iron ore, 36,000 tonnes per train from mine to port. It's imperative he gets there on schedule - time is money as massive iron ore ships wait to be loaded. In South Australia's Flinders Ranges, it's the Afghan Express versus the Pichi Richi Explorer in a mad capped train race that shows why once you've done steam you'll never look back.

Episode 7 | Premieres Thursday 22 June at 7.30pm AEST

After surviving the floods in Forbes, Bernie Baker's dream of hosting the very first Streamliner exhibition in Australia is still facing disaster. The horror weather conditions have put off the crowds, potentially turning the fundraiser into a flop. But fortune favours the brave and Bernie decides to keep on keeping on. With a bumper harvest in full swing, Southern Shorthaul Railroad (SSR) have modified 18 coal wagons to transport grain to cater for the high demand, giving these obsolete wagons a new lease of life. The stakes are high, if the wagons aren't water tight, and the grain is ruined, SSR's reputation will be too. Back in Junee at the Railway Workshop, 28 wagons need to be reconfigured for a client but an unavoidable lack of manpower could spell disaster for the owner Andrew Clinton. The team need to get a shift on especially now that another client with a deadline has just rolled through the gates.

About Discovery Networks Asia-Pacific

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About Discovery Channel

Discovery Channel, the flagship network of Discovery Communications, is devoted to creating the highest quality pay-TV programming in the world and remains one of the most dynamic networks on television. First launched in 1985, Discovery Channel reaches 209 million subscribers in Asia Pacific. It offers viewers an engaging line-up of high-quality non-fiction entertainment from blue-chip nature, science and technology, ancient and contemporary history, adventure, cultural and topical documentaries.