

Timeline

A history of rail in South Australia



1854

The first broad gauge railway from Goolwa to Port Elliot, horse drawn, connecting Murray River trade with ocean shipping.

1856

The first railway to be worked by steam - Adelaide to Port Adelaide - site of the National Railway Museum (formerly Port Dock Station Railway Museum). Opening of the Adelaide to Gawler railway.



1906 - 1907

Expansion of cheaply constructed railways in the Murray Mallee area and on Eyre Peninsula to encourage agricultural settlement.



1922

W A Webb appointed South Australian Railways Commissioner.

1950s

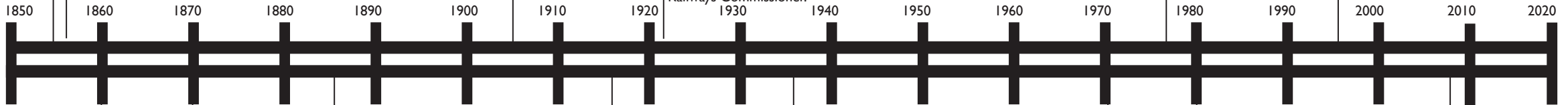
Construction of early diesel locomotives begins - Red Hen (suburban) and Bluebird (country) railcars begin operating - all are built at the SAR Workshops at Islington.

1978

Australian National Railways accepts the transfer of all South Australian non metropolitan railways.

1995

Broad gauge between Melbourne and Adelaide becomes standard. All mainland state capitals are directly connected by standard gauge.



1860

Extension of line from Gawler to Kapunda to facilitate movement of copper ore to the coast.

1870

Mid north line was opened up. Lines were built linking farms in the hinterland with shipping outlets - Port Pirie, Port Broughton, Wallaroo and Port Wakefield.

1886

Adelaide linked by rail to Melbourne - joint project of the South Australian Railways (SAR) and the Victorian Railways.

New mines are opened at Broken Hill and Iron Knob, resulting in the privately owned and operated Silverton Tramway Co and BHP tramways.

1917

The Commonwealth Railway is formed upon completion of Trans Australian Railway construction - Port Augusta and Port Pirie is linked by standard gauge.

1937

Broad gauge is laid from Salisbury to Port Pirie. Commonwealth Railways extend their trans continental line from Port Augusta to Port Pirie - creating meeting of three different gauges at Port Pirie.

1970s

SAR replaces the majority of its steam locomotives with diesel.

1980s

SAR splits into the State Transport Authority, which ran the Adelaide Suburban system and Australia National Railways which took over the country rail.

1980s

Standard gauge line from Tarcoola to Alice Springs opens - the new Ghan commences operation.

1982

Standard gauge from Crystal Brook to Adelaide opened resulting in the construction of the Keswick terminal.

2008

Opening of the Tom 'Diver' Derrick Bridge - consists of a single track, dual gauge, high-level, opening rail bridge across the Port River, with connections to the existing rail system.

