Another customer secured as freight train service continues to grow

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The AustralAsia railway from Adelaide to Darwin continues to gather pace with Australia’s largest privately owned rail freight forwarder, FCL, today signing a contract with FreightLink, the railway’s owner/operator.

Chief Minister Clare Martin said that the deal would result in more freight being moved into and out of the Territory by rail.

“The deal is another railway highlight in what has been an exciting few weeks for the new freight train service,” she said.

“FCL Inter州ate Transport Services will now be one of the new rail operator’s biggest customers, generating an estimated 50,000 tonnes of freight.”

Ms Martin said that, under the deal, FCL will also operate FreightLink’s terminals in Tennant Creek and Katherine and plans to establish depots to accommodate an expansion of FCL’s rail based transport operations in these centres.

“This deal comes just days after FreightLink secured a contract to transport 120,000 tonnes of freight for Scott Group’s Northern Territory Freight Services,” she said.

“FreightLink’s annual first year target of up to 350,000 tonnes of existing domestic freight is now well within reach.”

“The company says it’s confident of increasing this by a further 450,000 tonnes of freight within three years thanks agreements with forwarders Toll Holdings, Northline and other domestic and international customers.”

Ms Martin said that it was encouraging that FCL was able to see the huge potential for transporting produce and refrigerated product out of the Territory and decided to give the railway a try.

“The early signs for the train are positive and its economic and time saving potential will only become more evident once the new railway becomes more established,” she said.

“Territorians have embraced this train and business too are coming on board.”

The first passenger service, The Ghan, leaves Adelaide on 1 February arriving in Darwin on 3 February. More than $15 million in tickets have already been sold.