

# Big coal contract for QR National

QUEENSLAND Rail has formally split in two, with the newly-separated freight company, QR National, wasting no time in announcing a revised \$250m coal haulage contract as evidence of the merits of this year's privatisation.

QR will haul up to 5.1m tonnes of coal each year from Jellinbah East to the port of Gladstone, effective from last Thursday.

Jellinbah Resources, which has been serviced by QR for the 22 years the mine has been operating, said the 10-year contract was on "a more commercial basis" than earlier agreements.

QR National already has haulage contracts in place for Jellinbah's Lake Vermont operation and expects tonnage to almost double to 6m tonnes when the Northern Missing Link rail line is completed.

QR National Coal Executive General Manager Marcus McAuliffe said the record continued an improvement in performance in Queensland in recent months.

"In the face of competition, we have set out an ambitious reform agenda for our business," Mr McAuliffe said.

"Given the strong global demand for Australian coal, our customers want their tonnes delivered.

"These results show that we are doing that better than ever before," Mr McAuliffe said.

The rail operator also continues to increase its share of the Hunter coal chain feeding the port of Newcastle.

The Queensland Government Railways began 145 years ago.