

MEDIA RELEASE

Supply stopped in its tracks again

23 February 2026

Western Australia's supply chain has been dealt another blow, with the East–West rail line set to stay closed for at least a week following extensive flood damage in South Australia.

A once-in-200-year weather event left the industry reeling in January 2022 and businesses are now again worrying about stock levels, with concerns the track will be out of action for longer.

MBAWA CEO Matt Moran said local industry has raised significant concerns about the impact this disruption will have.

“Just over four years ago, water washed out the rail line in almost the same location. It caused a huge amount of disruption to the WA economy.”

“We need to stop applying band-aid fixes that local businesses pay the price for. We need to ensure contingency plans and upgrades are in place to ensure WA is not cut off.”

MBAWA believes it's important state and federal governments look for long term solutions.

“This is a test of our national resilience, and we need to have an honest discussion about what additional investment needs to be made to protect our sovereign capability and national security.”

“Not only that, but it's not financially feasible for WA businesses to act like doomsday preppers and squirrel weeks or months of excess goods away for a rainy day. Businesses in WA are already doing it tough.”

“Consumers will end up paying more if this problem is not fixed. It is the last thing our community needs with high inflation and house prices going through the roof.”

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About Master Builders WA

Master Builders WA services the needs of the entire building and construction industry, from residential to commercial, civil engineering businesses, principal contractors to subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers. We assist members by providing access to a wide range of specialised services, recognition through awards, as well as advocacy to government and industry. MBAWA also serves the Western Australian public by fostering best practice work standards.



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