



# PLENTY OF TRAINS THROUGH BOWMANS

WORDS BOB SAMPSON

*Hundreds of containers are moved about arriving and departing from the Balco/Bowmans Rail huge site virtually every day at Bowmans. Container trains operate in all manner of directions: Kanandah, Bungala, Port Pirie, Bolivar, Port Adelaide and Outer Harbor. BOB SAMPSON*

Following the disastrous fire in Balco’s hay processing plant at Bowmans early last year, a new warehouse and processing plant equipment is now in full use after an official reopening a few months ago. Bowmans Rail continues to operate a high number of rail freight services – with almost all of those ‘calling into’ the facility en route to and from various locations.

In general the Bowmans Rail services include:

- Two (or three) return container trains from Bowmans to Port Pirie each week.
- Four (or five) return mineral sand trains from Cristal Mining Kanandah to Port Adelaide each week.
- Six (or seven) return container trains from Bowmans to Outer Harbor per week.
- About four of the Bowmans to Outer Harbor container trains attach or detach containers en route at Bolivar, on behalf of SCT. On occasions a separate light engine runs from Outer Harbor to Bolivar and returns with the loading.

- Two return solar farm container trains from Outer Harbor to Bungala (north of Stirling North) each week.

The vast majority of loading on the Port Pirie, Bowmans and Bolivar movements to Outer Harbor are containers with export grain, other agricultural products, wine or smelted ingots, while the Kanandah to Port Adelaide movements convey large tonnages of mineral sands.

The Bungala container trains convey a wide range of materials and equipment to the solar power farm facility, under construction about 10kms north of Port Augusta. On some occasions, the return empty container train from Bungala calls into Bowmans to swap containers and also to add loaded containers of export hay and grain. These Bungala services will run at least until around September this year, and if the next stage of the solar farm expansion is approved, it’s very likely these services will continue until April 2019. ■



*On Friday 22 June 2018, a Bowmans Rail container train from Bowmans to Outer Harbor makes progress near Osborne, headed by CM3309 CM3308 (with loco GL108 marshalled mid-way in the consist).  
CHRISTOPHER BROOMHEAD*



*Inside of one of the enlarged Balco hay processing sheds at Bowmans, previously destroyed by fire 18 months ago.  
BOB SAMPSON*