

# **ARTC will duplicate Liverpool Ranges rail line**

The long wait for a decision on how to increase rail freight movements from the New England North West to the port of Newcastle is finally over.

The Australian Rail Track Corporation has announced it will spend nearly \$300-million to duplicate the track through the existing alignment of the Liverpool Range, near Murrurundi.

The change will allow 50 million tonnes of export coal to be hauled from the Gunnedah Basin within a decade.

ARTC spokesman, Brad Emery, says a number of options were considered.

"We looked at all the benefits of the other options which included tunnels and other realignments on the surface and we found that the best and most cost effective method of increasing capacity on this line is going to be to duplicate the current line.

"We need to increase capacity from the Gunnedah Basin, projections are that the throughput is forecast to grow to around 50 million tonnes by 2020," he said.