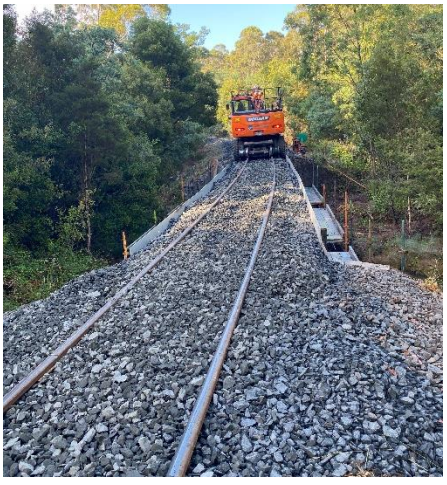
CAROLINE CREEK

# Ballast Bridge Guard

Date: **2025** Principal: **TasRail** Project Value: **$250k**

## TASK

TasRail was seeking to improve the ballast protection measures on the bridge across Caroline Creek by replacing the existing wooden arrangement with steel edges 16m on either side. The works were programmed to be completed during the CA Rail Shutdown period (2–16 January 2025).



## CHALLENGES

- Environmental challenges regarding the placement of scaffolding within Caroline Creek, with an environmental assessment and inspection performed before and after construction.
- Time constraints regarding the manufacturing of the new ballast guard design being so close to Christmas and planned shutdown for the galvanising crew.
- Multiple work groups including Tasrail's Infrastructure and contractor DTI occupying the track section with limited time during weekdays.
- Construction to take place with a planned Cement Australia shutdown allowing a 30hr train free window Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon, involving removal and replacement of entire track over the existing bridge including the disposal of existing ballast and timber Ballast guard, reinstalling new guard, replace the ballast and reassemble track to current standard allowing for Sundays normal train running schedule to resume on time.
- Design faults resulting in unachievable ballast depth and clearance standards due to existing bridge structures requiring high level decisions to complete a track lift to allow for train clearances.
- Changes to dates and times regarding the planned Cement Australia shutdown restricting access in the lead up to the works.

## OUTCOMES

The project was delivered successfully, on time and within budget with a better than forecasted profit margin due to the successful award of a separate rail contract planned to start at the same time allowing shared resources across both projects.

Practical completion inspection completed by the Tasrail Assets Manager found no defects for Shaw and presented an opportunity to provide a variation quotation regarding design faults.