



## Chicago Freight Car **LEASING COMPANY**

**Refurbished railcars have been transiting the Port of Savannah as Ro/Ro cargo enroute to the Port of Fremantle in western Australia.**

GPA's Ocean Terminal located in Savannah has recently attracted additional refurbished railcars or wagons. "We have a great crew and very knowledgeable support staff," said Barry Conaway, GPA's assistant manager of operations at Ocean Terminal. "With the proper gear and the proper people, we were able to handle the railcars with ease."

In FY2005, GPA exported 28,961 TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) to Australia and imported 7,740 TEUs from Australia, accounting for a total container trade of 36,701 TEUs.

Chicago Freight Car Leasing Company's (CFCL) subsidiary CFCL Australia Pty. Ltd. (CFCLA) refurbishes railcars into railway wagons in the U.S. and then leases them in Australia. CFCL currently has a fleet of approximately 7,500 covered hopper railcars.

Partially refurbished wagons are shipped via Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines (WWL) to be completed in Australia, which provides CFCL with less entry cost, as well as substantial work for CFCLA's Australian partners, according to CFCL's Project Manager for Locomotives and Rollingstock Michael J. McGee. CFCL also buys locomotives to dismantle for parts in the U.S. and ships the parts to refurbish wagons and locomotives on-site in Australia.

McGee appreciates the professionalism of shipping with WWL. "Our goal is to become their best incremental customer," McGee said. "We'll never be WWL's biggest customer, but CFCL can potentially ship up to 50 wagons per year." In a relatively short period of time, CFCLA has become the leading private supplier of locomotives and rollingstock in Australia.

"The nice part of working with the GPA and WWL," said McGee, "is they have identified what we're trying to accomplish and tailored a unique program to expedite our entry into the Australian market."

GPA staff provided the necessary experience on staff to rig the railcars for transport.

McGee said CFCL Australia is in a unique position in the railway business, providing these wagons an important work tool for the rehabilitation and construction of rail infrastructure in Australia. "It's not very often you get to work on projects destined to improve vital trade routes and energize the Australian economy," McGee said. "We've accepted the challenge of this exciting task and look forward to a bright future." ■