

# Happy Christmas from Railfuture



Picture: NETWORK RAIL

*LINE BLOCK: Workers struggle to clear the line to Kyle of Lochalsh in 2016*

Happy Christmas to Railfuture members and all those campaigning for a bigger, better railway. Spare a thought for the many rail workers who will be working.

## **Railfuture gets set for the Government rail review**

The Department for Transport has invited Railfuture to respond to its Rail Review which was set up in September and headed by former airline boss Keith Williams. Responding to complaints that the review would not consider nationalisation, Mr Williams told the BBC: "I am independent. For me all the options are on the table."

Railfuture chair Chris Page has asked policy director Ian Brown to coordinate the Railfuture response to the review. All Railfuture branches and groups could look at the the consultation at:

<http://bit.do/eCFyr>

Railfuture needs to respond to specific questions. Please send your views on key issues to [ian.brown@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:ian.brown@railfuture.org.uk) Ian will coordinate the overall Railfuture response within the January deadline. His aim is to produce an effective submission which will encourage further discussions with the Government's review team.

**railaction**

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## China's great leap forward with high speed rail

China is introducing 553 new high speed rail services in 2018, a 9% increase on last year. By the end of the year, there will be an extra 1,500 miles of high speed line to add to China's 15,500 mile network.

The new lines will mean 12 cities, including Fuxin, Chaoyang, Chengde, Tongliao, Mudanjiang, Rizhao, Lianyungang, Yancheng, Yaan and Lijiang, can now benefit from high speed rail services.

The Chinese Ministry of Transport believes that high speed railways now serve more than half of its cities with populations of more than 1 million.

China now claims it has the world's most modern railway system and the most developed high-speed rail network.

New suburban Metro rail networks across the country are also packed with commuters but China's amazing economic success story has also led to private cars jamming the roads and airlines are also busy. Rail development continues apace. Beijing has approved a 50 mile long high speed line to connect the busy port city of Ningbo to Zhoushan, on an archipelago off China's coast, with a 10 mile section of the line in a tunnel under the sea. In addition to the undersea tunnel, a road-rail bridge will be built to link parts of the archipelago. The American company Boeing is this month opening an aircraft factory in Zhoushan, which is in one of China's official national scenic areas.

In November, a new 180 mile long high speed railway line started operating between Harbin and Mudanjiang, in a region where the temperature can be as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius in winter. Construction of the railway line started in December 2014 as one of the key projects in China's high-speed rail network scheme.



*TRIAL RUN: A high speed train at Hangzhou in December 2018 bound for Huangshan on the new 165 mile long line*

### Railfuture press releases

Railfuture press releases can be read in full at

[Railfuture press releases](#)

A review of other Railfuture appearances in print and broadcast media can be seen at:

[Railfuture in the news](#)

### Railfuture submissions

Railfuture responds to many formal consultations about the railways.

Submissions can be downloaded from:

<http://www.railfuture.org.uk/consultation+responses>



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**What's on**

Many rail-related events are listed on Railfuture's website:

<http://railfuture.org.uk/events>

**railaction**

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