

Nullarbor freight train loses most of its power

ADELAIDE: Did a UFO stop a freight train on the Nullarbor Plain yesterday?

Some thought so.

The train, heading to Kalgoorlie, left Adelaide on Wednesday and was nearing Ooldea, 150 kilometres east of Cook and near the Western Australian border, when the engine began playing up.

The driver noticed strange lights in the sky and reported them to train control.

A spokesman in Adelaide, Mr John Beatty, said there had been trouble with the locomotive and the crew had to uncouple several wagons to get up a long gradient into Ooldea.

During this extended shunting exercise, the power had

been so low that radio communications had been lost.

By the time the train had returned to get the unhooked

returned to get the unhooked cargo the delay had been reported down the line.

Had the lights been a UFO? And had the UFO drained the power from the engine?

The questions were being raised mostly by jokers. But someone in Port Pirie told the ABC.

Late yesterday a message from the driver was relayed to quell the rapidly building media interest: the only reason why he had reported the lights was in case an aircraft had been in trouble.

No aircraft have been identified.