
Summary of the CEO Industry Reference Group Meeting

12 March 2021

The key outcomes from the meeting include:

1. ONRSR's Chief Executive, Ms Sue McCarrey reported:
 - ONRSR over the previous few months have released consultation papers on Cost Recovery and the National Rail Safety Data Strategy. Consultation has closed and the feedback is being worked through and outcomes will inform the cost recovery model being progressed for Ministers consideration in May and the Data Strategy Steering Committee will consider that feedback at the end of March. This will inform the agreed data set.
 - Sue McCarrey and Julie Bullas have been meeting with Governments to discuss key policy issues.
 - Sue McCarrey advised that there has been an increase in SPADs reported. ONRSR are raising this issue across industry and the need for industry to address this trend.

2. RISSB's Michael Aviet on behalf of Chief Executive, Ms Deborah Spring reported:
 - Six Australian Code of Practice products have been published with a further eleven to be released before the end of the year.
 - The major projects of track worker safety, national rules, national vehicle register, and horn noise are tracking to schedule.
 - The outcomes of the RISSB and ONRSR joint ACRI project for track worker safety will be formally released to industry at the RISSB Rail Safety Conference.
 - The next national rule to be harmonised, walking in the danger zone, will be on the new work plan for 2021-22.
 - RISSB are establishing online training courses targeting competencies required for industry. They are not accredited courses. Six courses will be released over a two month period before the end of this year.
 - RISSB are moving into the Technical Advisory space, limited to safety assurance disciplines specific to rail.
 - A webinar will be held next week on the white paper for horn noise and wheel squeal noise in urban areas. The white paper will be released to industry this month.

3. The ARA's General Manager - Policy, Research and Advocacy, Mr Simon Bourke reported:
 - ARA are continuing their suite of research on critical industry issues, which will underpin the ongoing policy and advocacy agenda of the ARA. There have been five reports launched since 2020, which commenced with the Value of Rail Report last year.
 - ARA released the report *Finding the fast track for innovation in the Australasian rail industry* in October last year. They are currently in discussions with ACRI and RISSB on the recommendation in the report to establish a national body.
 - The recently released ARA report *Faster Rail* is proposing a three step approach - targeted investment in existing networks, advocating for new dedicated builds for fast rail lines, and planning for high speed rail in the future.

- ARA have launched the *Australian Rail Supply Chain* Report via an online webinar. The report examines the challenges and opportunities for the Australian rail supply chain and sets out nine key areas for action. They are now consulting with their membership to develop a blueprint to progress the recommendations.
 - ARA continue to encourage investment in light rail and will be launching a report in July.
 - ARA will be holding state based rail industry policy forum discussions with the first group planned for Queensland on 5 May, New South Wales on 15 June, Victoria on 7 July. There are plans for other states later in year.
 - The AusRail Plus conference will be held in person in Brisbane, 30 November -2 December.
 - The Understanding Rail Course has now been finalised and transitioned to an online course. The first course will commence on 22 April for a five week period.
4. ONRSR's Chief Operating Officer Mr Peter Doggett reported:
- ONRSR have been focusing on interface agreements between RIMS and RSOs (s106 RSNL) and their shared responsibilities. Details of shared safety responsibilities must be included in the interface agreement.
 - ONRSR have issued a letter to 19 major RIMs regarding level crossing wrong side failures. ONRSR will share industry learnings and are looking at producing a video as a means of doing this.
5. ONRSR's Executive Director | Policy, Reform and Stakeholder Engagement Julie Bullas reported:
- Feedback received on the National Rail Safety Data Strategy Consultation paper has provided general support at a high level. A two day workshop is being held at the end of March with the Steering Committee to discuss the feedback.
 - Twenty-two submissions were received in response to the Cost Recovery Consultation model and these have informed the model that is being considered by Ministers in May 2021.
 - The proposed fee rates for 2021-22 will be considered at the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers Meeting in May 2021. Invoices will be issued in September for payment by 31 October 2021.
 - The development of the National Level Crossing Portal is progressing well and is on target for a release in quarter three this year.
6. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 6 August 2021 (subject to change).