
Summary of the CEO Industry Reference Group Meeting

20 March 2020

The key outcomes from the meeting include:

1. ONRSR's Chief Executive, Ms Sue McCarrey reported:
 - That due to the COVID-19 outbreak ONRSR is still open for business and will remain so as their role requires oversight of the safe operations of rail transport operators. For all non-core activities, ONRSR has ceased travelling or holding workshops. Where possible ONRSR will be using Skype and teleconference facilities, and other activities are deferred until such time as travel is again safe to undertake.
 - For core rail safety activities ONRSR is undertaking a risk-based approach. Where work is routine and can be put on hold it will be, however work that is considered necessary to manage higher risk situations will continue. ONRSR will continue to respond to serious incidents as they occur.
 - The last three months have been difficult for the rail industry with serious incidents that have resulted in a loss of life. Any learnings will be shared with the entire rail industry. A reminder for operators of the need to continually check systems and undertake due diligence to ensure that they do not become complacent.
 - A meeting is being held on Friday 20 March with ONRSR Directors of Operations to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on safety systems. Communication will be issued to industry post meeting.

2. RISSB's A/Chief Executive Officer, Ms Deborah Spring reported:
 - In response to COVID-19 as of cob 20 March RISSB staff will be working from home.
 - The RISSB Rail Safety Conference has been postponed to 27 and 28 October 2020. The format of the conference has been changed for 2020 and has been well received with strong registrations.
 - RISSB are still in the process of recruiting a new CEO.
 - RISSB launched the National Rules framework at the end of February through the creation of a new National Operations webpage of the RISSB Website. This webpage also houses all National Rules documents. The next step is to prioritise three or five rules for harmonization based on their ease of implementation and value. A survey has been sent out to industry to canvas which rules should be addressed. A workshop will be held on 2 April via teleconference with Industry Senior Executives to agree on the rules that will be harmonised. Governance is also being addressed as part of this workshop.
 - RISSB will be delivering 22 products in accordance with its FY 2019/20 work plan.
 - RISSB has been undertaking stakeholder engagement on its fee structure, both short and long term. RISSB's intent is to submit the proposed long-term equitable model to the November 2020 Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting as it will require regulatory changes.
 - Re-positioning of RISSB continues including the development of a new logo, membership brochure and case studies to better articulate its value add.
 - Due diligence of the transfer of ALCAM to RISSB is on-going.

- Due diligence is also continuing on the transfer of the National Track Safety Induction Course from ARA to RISSB.
3. The ARA's General Manager – Passenger and Corporate Services, Ms Emma Woods reported:
- ARA have implemented a changed operating model due to COVID-19 with no staff travel.
 - All workshops are being run by videoconference and all events to the end of June have been rescheduled.
 - ARA are holding teleconferences with operator CEOs and are proactively sharing how operators are addressing COVID-19. Share point is being used to share documentation between operators.
 - AusRail will be held in Adelaide 1 and 2 December 2020, with the due date for technical abstracts extended.
 - The Australasian Rail Industry Awards have been postponed to 19 November with the date for nominations extended until 26 June 2020.
 - ARA's new CEO Caroline Wilkie has commenced in the role and prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 had been out and about meeting stakeholders.
4. ONRSR's Chief Operating Officer Mr Peter Doggett reported:
- ONRSR are reviewing their approach to incidents and will be more responsive to incidents with investigators on site in a much shorter timeframe.
 - ONRSR is commissioning ACRI to undertake research on technology solutions in Australia and overseas for track worker safety. ACRI will engage a consultancy company which have yet to be determined. Once engaged the consultancy company will consult with major RIMS. It was requested that operators be open and honest about what works and what doesn't work.
 - If operators are changing procedures/testing, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, a risk assessment must be undertaken, change management processes must be followed and documentation must be clear on why changes have been made. An example of an issue is how the risks are being managed if you have been undertaking pre sign on drug and alcohol testing (especially if you have positives in these tests) and the decision is made to reduce the number of tests or cease doing them altogether. How else is the risk being managed?
5. ONRSR's Executive Director | Policy, Reform and Stakeholder Engagement, Ms Julie Bullas reported:
- The National Rail Safety Data Strategy workshops have been postponed to the last week of July/first week August 2020.
 - ONRSR is progressing policy positions for use in Cost Recovery Modelling, in relation to government contributions and the treatment of tourist and heritage operators, to the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials Committee in April 2020. An in-principle decision from government is needed before consultation with industry.
 - There continues to be too many late reports of Category A incidents, operators were requested to be mindful of this.
 - ONRSR is in the final stages of developing modules to support the development of the 29 SMS elements, initially developed to support tourist and heritage sector, but may also be beneficial to other small/low risk operators. Initially these were to be rolled out through workshops with tourist and heritage operators however will now be

launched electronically through ONRSR's website. Workshops will still be held once people are able to travel again.

- Rail Safety Workers are still returning positive drug and alcohol test results and that industry need to continue to work on this.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 7 August 2020 (subject to change).