

## Summary of the CEO Industry Reference Group Meeting

25 March 2022

The key outcomes from the meeting include:

1. ONRSR's A/Chief Executive, Peter Doggett reported:
  - An outline on ONRSR's achievements for 2021-22 including the launch of the National Level Crossing Portal, the progress of the Cost Recovery Model consultation, and the progress towards the implementation of the National Data Strategy.
  - A briefing on ONRSR's 2022-2025 Statement of Intent and Corporate Plan. The documents will be released following endorsement at the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers Meeting.
  - ONRSR will be conducting their third Stakeholder Survey mid 2022.
  - ONRSR are undertaking their bi-annual review of National Priorities with an internal workshop held on 24 March.
  
2. RISSB's Chief Executive, Deborah Spring reported:
  - RISSB is on track to deliver an additional eight ACOP products on their work plan by the end of June, for a total of 18 for FY 2021/22. Major Projects is also on track to deliver a total of nine projects for this financial year.
  - RISSB and ARA are working collaboratively together on Type Approvals with a research study to quantify opportunities to streamline type approvals and identify time and cost savings to commence shortly.
  - RISSB is undertaking a study to look at what needs to be done in rail to be carbon neutral by 2050. The study will identify projects to support industry to achieve this and, in particular ACOP products.
  - RISSB is on track to deliver five projects in the harmonisation stream of the National Rail Action Plan.
  - RISSB is in the process of finalising the FY 2022-2023 Work Plan.
  - The RISSB Rail Safety Conference is scheduled for 3-4 May 2022 in Melbourne.
  - The RISSB customer survey will be issued shortly.
  - RISSB are restarting their face-to-face training program with the first course in April. There are currently three face-to-face courses - Safety Critical Communications, Investigate Rail Safety Incidents and Derailment Investigations. This is in addition to the e-Learning on-line courses.
  - Horizons 4.0 commenced in March with over 120 participants, double from the previous program.
  - ALCAM training is being developed for industry.
  
3. ARA's General Manager, Policy and Government Relations, Simon Bourke reported:
  - Return to Rail in the passenger sector is a key priority for the ARA considering the pandemic and impacts on rail patronage.
  - ARA's Sustainability Strategy was released in 2021 and includes a three-year program covering six key themes.

- The joint research project with Roads Australia and the Infrastructure Sustainability Council is nearing completion.
  - A focus for ARA is on freight and supporting a mode shift from road to rail and the associated actions needed to support this shift.
  - Three working groups are supporting the delivery of the Rail Freight Action Plan, mode shift, competitive neutrality and interoperability and regulation. All groups are developing position papers.
  - ARA have established a Heavy Haul Executive Committee, focusing on four key issues identified by rail. The issues are specialist rail skills, above rail, access and regulation, and port access.
  - ARA have released a new report Building Rail Skills Capability. Four key areas have been identified,
    - leadership, collaboration
    - strategic workforce planning
    - attracting, recruiting and retaining talent
    - skilling our workforce
  - A Workforce Development Strategy is being finalised with five areas of action identified.
  - The Rail Industry Worker Program continues to grow with more than 90,000 workers in the system.
  - Implementation of the Rail Supply Chain Blueprint released in 2021 is underway, with a focus on procurement, local content and type approvals.
  - ARA will be holding a Rail Sustainability Conference later this year in Sydney
  - The Understanding Rail online course has re-commenced for 2022.
  - AusRail 2022 will be held in Brisbane in December.
4. ONRSR's Chief Operating Officer, Peter Doggett reported:
- Rail Safety Officers are catching up on operator visits post the easing of COVID restrictions.
  - ONRSR are reviewing corporate changes in operators, big and small, and the approach to the risk profile of these operators.
  - ONRSR are working with rolling stock operators to provide clarity on permissions for rolling stock types on their accreditation notices. There will be no changes to permissions.
  - There is a focus on the Rail Safety Officer training and development program.
  - The quality of investigations received from some operators has caused some concerns, with ONRSR having conversations with individual operators plus undertaking a wider education process on ONRSR's expectations.
5. ONRSR's Executive Director | Policy, Reform and Stakeholder Engagement, Julie Bullas reported:
- The draft amended regulation reflecting the National Data Strategy data reporting requirements was approved by Ministers in February 2022, and work is underway to progress the regulation to enable implementation in all states and territories on 1 July 2022. The documentation outlining the new requirements has been available on the ONRSR website since October 2021.
  - The Cost Recovery Pilot of the Management and Control sub factors is currently underway with 12 operators, and is scheduled for completion in May 2022.
  - ONRSR is consulting with governments, unions and maintenance advisory group industry stakeholders on the in-cab audio and video draft drafting instructions.

- ONRSR is working with stakeholders to develop a Consultation Guideline which will outline what constitutes proper consultation based on safety legislation case law. It will also clearly articulate the expectations of the Regulator.
- The regulation change for the 2022-23 accreditation fee is currently progressing to Ministers to come into effect on 1 July 2022.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 12 August 2022 (subject to change).