
Summary of the CEO Industry Reference Group Meeting

27 November 2020

The key outcomes from the meeting include:

1. ONRSR's Chief Executive, Ms Sue McCarrey reported:
 - ONRSR's Engauge issued this week with an article on Track Worker Safety. ONRSR have been collecting additional information, outside of occurrence reporting, to get a better picture of the causes of incidents.
 - A second safety animation has been developed, for the ONRSR website, a train run away where communications broke down. Operators have been advising ONRSR that they are using the safety animations to sit with staff to have a conversation on the issues as a learning experience.
 - Consultation continues on the Cost Recovery Model. Where online sessions have been held, Melbourne and Perth, ONRSR will follow up in person, where possible, to clarify any issues.
 - ARA and ONRSR are continuing consultation on the National Rail Safety Data Strategy.

2. RISSB's Chief Executive Officer, Ms Deborah Spring reported:
 - RISSB's ACOP Work Plan is tracking to schedule, with four products delivered to date and another two scheduled to be developed by the end of December.
 - RISSB's new Major Projects Stream is also tracking to schedule. It has eight key strategic focus areas including Track Worker Safety, National Vehicle Register, National Rules, Train Control Interoperability and Noise.
 - As part of the Track Worker Safety portfolio, training has been reviewed with an industry survey undertaken to identify the gaps. As a result of this RISSB will be offering two online courses Communications for Protection Officers and Fundamentals of Risk Management. They will be available early in 2021.
 - RISSB are developing a good practice guideline for planning works in the rail corridor and this should be available the end of December 2020.
 - The specification of the development of the National Vehicle Register has been finalised with input from industry and an expression of interest called.
 - The National Rules Reference Group have agreed on the first nationalised rule AHNR 2001 Network Communications. The second rule the group has agreed to work on to be harmonised is Walking in the Danger Zone.
 - The Stage Two report on interoperability technology solutions and funding models is being finalised.
 - Consultancies have been engaged on noise – horn and wheel squeal.
 - The new equitable funding model is progressing.
 - Stakeholder engagement continues to be a key focus area for RISSB, with four new members added this financial year.
 - The RISSB Rail Safety Virtual Conference 2020 held in October was virtual and had a record number of attendees. Although the conference was well received, feedback from attendees was that face to face conferences are preferable. The next RISSB conference will be held in May 2021 in Sydney. It is likely to offer both face to face and

online participation. The RISSB Technological and Innovation conference will be held in August 2021 and probably in a similar format.

- RISSB have launched their Podcast Series RISSB Conversations. RISSB Webinars will continue again in the new year, starting in February, on a fortnightly basis.
 - RISSB has launched its Horizons 3.0 Program with applications for 2021 open until 11 December 2020.
3. The ARA's General Manager - Policy, Research and Advocacy, Mr Simon Bourke reported:
- The ARA launched its research report, Finding the fast track for innovations in the Australasian rail industry in October 2020.
 - The ARA Value of Rail report has been updated and released. It examines rail's contribution to Australia from a safety, economic and environmental perspective.
 - The Best Practice Principles for Rail Construction Procurement Guideline was released this week.
 - The ARA continues to be heavily involved in the National Rail Action Plan process and are participating in regular meetings.
 - The ARA's Understanding Rail course will be transitioning to a module-based online course, developed with input from working groups of subject matter experts.
 - Work is continuing on the research report Faster Rail in Australia, with a launch expected in February/March 2021.
4. ONRSR's Chief Operating Officer Mr Peter Doggett reported:
- ONRSR are refocusing their efforts for the national priority Track Worker Safety. The focus will be protection officers, network controllers and training and competencies. ONRSR are looking at operators and how they are satisfied that these positions are competent. It also includes training organisations. ONRSR are limited as they are not the education sector regulator but can refer issues to the education sector regulator if required.
 - As COVID restrictions are lifting ONRSR are almost back to normal with site visits, with the exception of Victoria.
5. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 12 March 2021 (subject to change).