
Summary of the CEO Industry Reference Group Meeting

29 November 2019

The key outcomes from the meeting include:

1. ONRSR's Chief Executive, Ms Sue McCarrey reported:
 - ONRSR has recognised a skills gap in Australia in relation to documenting the "safety assurance case" for changes and ONRSR is considering what assistance in the form of guidance/education can be provided to assist operators in this area.
 - As of 2 December 2019 ONRSR will be fully national with the transition of Victoria (including light rail and tourist and heritage).
 - ONRSR's Rail Safety Report is on track to be released early December 2019.
 - Recently released ONRSR safety messages were noted;
 - Lessons Learned: ONRSR and GWA – Whyalla Runaway Incident
 - Safety Message: ONRSR Investigation Findings: Worksite Protection Incidents
 - Safety message: Passengers caught in rolling stock doors - Risks, causes and controls

2. RISSB's A/Chief Executive Officer, Ms Deborah Spring reported:
 - The recruitment process for the RISSB Chief Executive Officer continues.
 - The 2019-20 work plan is on schedule to deliver 24 products with 4 products due for release in early December.
 - The National Rules project is on track to be delivered at the end of January 2020.
 - The third release of the Australian Rail Risk Model (ARRM) has been delivered.
 - The RISSB membership fees structure, both short and long term, is being reviewed.
 - The National Rail Action Plan presented to the Transport Infrastructure Council on 22 November 2019 was approved with RISSB named as the organisation that will action several areas in the harmonisation/interoperability session.
 - Discussions with ARA are continuing on the implementation of the National Track Safety Induction Course.
 - RISSB's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 2 December 2019 (just prior to the start of AusRail PLUS).

3. The ARA's General Manager – Passenger and Corporate Services, Ms Emma Woods reported:
 - The new Chief Executive Officer, Caroline Wilkie will commence on 17 February 2020.
 - The ARA has provided an industry submission to the Productivity Commission review and has registered to appear before the hearing being held in Canberra on 4 February 2020.
 - ARA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 4 December 2019. Bob Herbert AM will step down as Independent Board Chairman and Danny Broad will transition to the role. Six Directors will be stepping down. Five Directors have renominated, and interest has been expressed by other members.

- Building on the evidence that there is a fast-developing skills crisis in the rail industry, ARA is preparing to go to tender for creative agencies to develop a campaign to attract skills and career aspirants to the rail industry.
4. ONRSR's Director National Operations Mr Derek Heneker reported:
- A project is underway aimed at better targeting effort and focus for the assessment of accreditation related applications and ensuring that ONRSR and the rail transport operator (RTO) have a common understanding of what is expected during the assessment process.
 - Planning of regulatory activities is underway to align with the national priorities for 2020.
 - ONRSR is looking at improving the investigation process and timeframes for completion of investigations. The primary objective will be to create a more hands on approach to investigation with greater attendance on site.
5. ONRSR's Executive Director | Policy, Reform and Stakeholder Engagement, Ms Julie Bullas reported:
- Wider consultation of the national cost recovery model is anticipated to commence early 2020. This is subject to reaching a preferred decision with governments on the policy issues.
 - ONRSR continues to support the Tourist and Heritage sector. A workshop was held on 20 September 2019 with a key deliverable being a framework consisting of:
 - Scalable tools developed by ONRSR
 - A suite of SMS modules
 - An induction program for new employees
 - A common approach to the handling of Tourist and Heritage operators internally by ONRSR
 - A central library of resources to be developed by ATHRA for standards, registers and trainer/assessors
6. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 20 March 2020 (subject to change).