

**ASSOCIATION OF
TOURIST AND HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA**

ABN 19755744868

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ATHRA ALERT #27 - July 2006

Draft National Model Rail Safety Regulations & Draft RIS

The long-awaited draft National Model Rail Safety Regulations (together with Draft Regulatory Impact Statement, etc) have been released for comment by the NTC and are available at <http://www.ntc.gov.au/NewsDetail.aspx?page=A0240030550000002000199>. The draft Model regulations are part of a package of work to support the Rail Safety Model Bill which all State and Territory governments are obligated to implement (see ATHRA Alert #22 – June 2006 “Transport Ministers approve Rail Safety Model Bill”).

Whilst the draft regulations draw heavily on AS 4292.1:2006, NAP version 2.0 and the current draft Victorian regulations in outlining SMS requirements there are differences. The draft regulations also address topics beyond SMS requirements. Current efforts to implement AS 4292.1, NAP2 or the Victorian requirements can be considered being an intermediate stage on the journey towards compliance with the National Bill & Regulations *[Whether such implementation is 50% or 90% of the journey and whether that journey is via the most direct route are matters for debate!- Ed]*

The draft Regulatory Impact Statement comments on expected impacts on the Tourist & Heritage sector, including cost and the potential to cause groups to cease operations. It also canvases the possibility of providing exemptions for classes of low-risk operations to avoid this outcome.

Key Messages

Explanatory/Consultative sessions will be held in all States (not territories) from 30 July (Tas) to 15 August (SA) at T&H-sector friendly times. See www.ntc.gov.au for details.

Comments on the drafts are invited from any interested parties and should be forwarded to Paul Salter at the NTC (psalter@ntc.gov.au Tel 03 9236 5043 fax 03 9642 8922). The period for comments closes Friday 18th August 2006.

Recommended Actions:

Attendance at the NTC sessions by representatives from Accredited T&H organisations is strongly encouraged. Previously exempt groups (e.g. Queensland tramways) and organisations which may contemplate operations in future (e.g. static museums with rolling stock) ought to also consider attending.

To contribute to the ATHRA submission or discuss sector implications contact the Convenor of ATHRA's rail safety group (Graeme Breydon, rail.safety@athra.asn.au). If you decide to provide direct comments to the NTC on the drafts, please provide a copy to rail.safety@athra.asn.au

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For further details: rail.safety@athra.asn.au

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