



ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST & HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA

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ATHRA ALERT #34 – May 2007

NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigations

Ariah Park Fatality Report

ATHRA Alert No. 18 reported on the tragic accident at Ariah Park, NSW on 15 April 2006 where a volunteer Guard lost his life while coupling the locomotive to a passenger train.

The NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigations (OTSI) has recently released its completed investigative report into this accident. It can be accessed from their site at <http://www.otsi.nsw.gov.au/rail/IR-AriahPark-final.pdf>

The report lists a number of contributory factors and makes a number of recommendations specific to the parties involved. The report also recognises the important community contribution made by rail heritage operators and that some have limited capacity to maintain effective safety management systems. In this latter regard, the report recommends changes in the relationship between ITSRR and the heritage sector in NSW.

ATHRA understands that the Regulators will collectively consider the report at the next meeting of the Rail Safety Regulators Panel in late May.

Key Messages:

The inherent dangers in our activities must never be under-estimated. Safety is everyone's responsibility. The OTSI Report is important reading for members and workers at all tourist and heritage railways and tramways.

It is expected that each Regulator will address the issues within the report directly with the tourist and heritage railways and tramways within their jurisdiction.

Recommended Actions:

- The OTSI Report should be read by all members and workers at your railway or tramway regardless of their position.
- Pending specific action by your Regulator, Board Members and Accreditation Officers at every tourist and heritage railway and tramway should review the OTSI Report recommendations and implement any that have relevance to their particular circumstances.