



ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST & HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA

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ATHRA ALERT #36 – November 2007 ITSRR Discussion Paper Safety Regulation of Heritage Railway Operators

On 26 November 2007, the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator of NSW (ITSRR) announced that it is undertaking a review of heritage operations in NSW to assist heritage operators to meet their rail safety obligations. As part of this review, ITSRR has prepared a Discussion Paper that aims to identify potential barriers to heritage operators meeting their rail safety obligations and proposes a range of strategies to address those barriers. The paper is available for downloading from the ITSRR web site at <http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/> and following the link from the homepage under 'Latest News'.

The purpose of the ITSRR review is to:

- Determine if the heritage rail sector may be segmented into groups of accredited heritage operators by common operational contexts and if so, document these;
- Determine whether obligations under the 2007 Bill are appropriate to all or some of the segmented groups of heritage operators, and propose alternative obligations if they are not;
- Identify potential barriers to heritage operators meeting their safety obligations, for example access to appropriate engineering standards; and
- Propose a range of strategies to assist heritage operators to meet their rail safety obligations.

Key Messages:

- The ITSRR review is of crucial importance to all tourist and heritage railways and tramways in NSW as the outcome will directly impact on the accreditation model used in the future in NSW.
- The review warrants the attention of tourist and heritage railways and tramways around Australia as the accreditation model developed in NSW may have application in other jurisdictions.
- ATHRA supports the general principle of segmenting the sector as a mechanism for tailoring the regulatory requirement to match the levels of risk and capability and ATHRA will prepare a submission to the ITSRR review.

Recommended Actions:

- All tourist and heritage railways and tramways in NSW should read the Discussion Paper and send a submission to ITSRR addressing the questions asked and other relevant issues by the closing date of 21 December 2007.
- Tourist and heritage railways and tramways throughout Australia are invited to contribute to the ATHRA submission to ITSRR by sending their comments in relation to the Discussion Paper to chairman@athra.asn.au by 15 December 2007.