



ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST & HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA

ABN 19 755 744 868

ATHRA ALERT #41 – March 2009 Public Consultation – SMS Guidance for Tourist & Heritage Operators

The Rail Safety Regulators' Panel (RSRP) has released for public consultation the draft Safety Management System Guidance for Tourist and Heritage Railway Operators. The Rail Safety Regulator in each state and territory will forward the material to all affected industry stakeholders in their jurisdiction. The guidance material addresses each element required within a Safety Management System and provides assistance with the requirements to achieve compliance.

The guidance material can be downloaded from the Rail Safety Regulators' Panel web site using the following link: http://www.rsrp.asn.au/publications.cfm?pub_id=17. The guidance material follows the National Transport Commission's Model Rail Safety Bill and Regulations which is currently being implemented throughout Australia. The Model Consolidated Rail Safety Bill can be downloaded from the NTC web site using the following link: <http://www.ntc.gov.au/filemedia/Publications/ModelLegisRailSafBillRegConDec07.pdf>. The Regulations can be downloaded from the ComLaw web site using the following link: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/asmade/bytitle/FC08C355BFDC53E0CA257360001E8844?OpenDocument>. The above links are repeated on the ATHRA Alerts web page: <http://www.athra.asn.au/alerts.htm>.

The closing date for comments has been set as **22nd April 2009**. Given the volunteer basis of the sector, ATHRA believes this period is inadequate and has requested an extension.

ATHRA asks every railway to fully review the document even if your current system complies with the Model Act or its equivalent in each state.

Recommended Actions:

- Distribute this Alert to those people within your organisation responsible for the preparation and implementation of your Safety Management System.
- Provide feedback on the guidance material by the due date.
- Forward a copy of your feedback to rail.safety@athra.asn.au to enable ATHRA to collectively represent the position of the sector.