



# Fortnightly Update

## NATIONAL RAIL SAFETY WEEK 2009

National Rail Safety Week (NRSW) 2009 is coming up soon! From Friday 24th until Friday 31st July, the rail industry of Australia and New Zealand will once again unite efforts to draw media attention and educate road users on level crossing safety.

The week will be launched with an official dinner at the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne on 24th July. The event will also act as a fundraiser for the establishment of a Rail Safety Foundation in Australia.

Chris Cairns, former international cricketer and founder of the Chris Cairns Foundation, will help kick-start NRSW at the Melbourne launch by speaking about his New Zealand level crossing experiences.

Rail Operators and Government agencies are planning various safety events for the week to educate communities on how to behave safely around railways, particularly at level crossings.

This year for example, **Yarra Trams** in partnership with **V/line**, **Fulton Hogan**, **Coleman Rail**, **GHD**, **Transfield Services** and **PTSV** are running a special rail safety branded tram in support of NRSW. The messages on the wrapped tram encourage drivers and pedestrians to act with care and avoid distractions near light and heavy rail.

National Rail Safety Week 2009 would not be possible without the support of:

- » ARTC
- » Asciano
- » Connex
- » Coleman Rail
- » Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (TAS)
- » Fulton Hogan
- » FreightLink
- » GHD
- » Great Southern Rail
- » KiwiRail
- » NZ Transport Agency
- » PTSV
- » PTA WA
- » QR
- » RailCorp
- » RISSB
- » Rio Tinto
- » TransAdelaide
- » Transfield Services
- » V/Line
- » Yarra Trams

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. If you're interested in becoming part of this event, please contact Emma Pettiford on (02) 62704512 or [epettiford@rissb.com.au](mailto:epettiford@rissb.com.au)



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### IN THIS ISSUE

- » Transforming Rail: A Key Element in Australia's Low Pollution Future

### HOT TOPICS

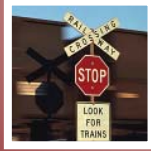
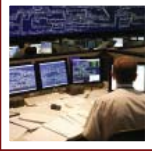
- » New List of External Policy Issues

The ARA has compiled a list of key external policy issues so that members can readily identify investigations, reviews and inquiries which are important for their work and business.

Visit: [www.ara.net.au](http://www.ara.net.au)

### EVENTS

- » ARA Members' Dinner - Brisbane  
Wednesday 27 May 2009



## TRANSFORMING RAIL:

### » A KEY ELEMENT IN AUSTRALIA'S LOW POLLUTION FUTURE

Late last year, the CRC for Rail Innovation, in collaboration with the ARA, initiated a project to understand the pre-conditions for a substantial modal shift and upgrading of Australian rail transport, especially in the context of high global fuel prices and a carbon price. The project also tries to estimate the economic, social and environmental benefits arising from these two transformations and to assess the policy options, funding models and the corporate responses required for these changes to occur. The project was led by Prof. Peter Sheehan from Victoria University.

The project is now complete. The final report 'Transforming Rail: A Key Element in Australia's Low Pollution Future' and 10 supplementary papers are now available on the CRC website.

Key findings of the research include:

- » Fundamental structural reform to transport is required if Australia is to meet its carbon emissions objectives.
- » Sharp reductions in transport emissions are necessary to achieve Australia's climate goals; this requires going beyond emissions trading to a new generation of transport policies.
- » A modal shift from road to rail will have large economic, social and environmental benefits.
- » The report estimates that a \$20b investment in rail over 10 years would
  - reduce transport emissions by an additional 11% over the benefits forecast for the emissions trading scheme,
  - provide economic benefits of \$27-47b (net present value between 2010 and 2020).
- » Carbon prices are necessary but not sufficient; other policies are required to support the massive private and public investment implied. Policies in the following areas seem most important:
  - In freight transport, the costs generated by large

long distance trucks are not passed through fully to users. There is a widely recognised case for mass distance location charging to be introduced, as in other countries, to correct this market failure.

- Direct public investment is required in major rail infrastructure (such as rail track and associated works and equipment), which suffers from all three forms of market failure. Support for private and public investment in areas such as signalling and control systems, advanced modal interchanges and other forms of coordination is required. There is also a need for the development and implementation of standards for rolling stock and infrastructure to improve transport system performance.
- To modernise Australia's rail system, massive investment will be necessary by operating companies, whether public or private, and by firms in supplier industries. Given market failures, public initiatives in the form of R&D support programs and enhanced depreciation allowances for certain classes of expenditure are necessary.
- Finally, investment in the electrification of large scale rail systems, such as those of the North-South corridor, linked to sources of renewable energy, should be given serious consideration in the light of the long term social returns that can be generated.

High social returns, and lower emissions, will accrue from transforming rail.

For more information please contact the CRC for Rail Innovation on (07) 3221 2716 or visit our website [www.railcrc.net.au](http://www.railcrc.net.au).

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