



# Fortnightly Update

## TRAIN PROTECTION & CONTROL SYSTEM INTEROPERABILITY WORKSHOPS

The Train Protection & Control System Interoperability Workshops were held in Melbourne on 27-28 July 2009.

The aims of the workshops were to identify technical issues, and to discuss a strategic way forward to achieving interoperability. It is important to highlight that this is not about specifying technologies or interfering with the business decisions of individual railways.

The workshops were very well attended with excellent contributions from all interests represented (including track owners, operators and suppliers). Outcomes include:

- » Working towards TPC interoperability is important now, to avoid failures we've seen in the past.
- » Interoperability is technically achievable.
- » TPC interoperability is necessary, but will take additional time and effort by railways to achieve.
- » The business case for TPC interoperability, despite its intuitive logic, is not clearly described and should be quantitatively and qualitatively documented.
- » There is a tension between allowing flexibility for individual railways decisions and achieving interoperability for the industry as a whole.
- » An industry framework for achieving TPC interoperability would be a valuable mechanism for success and should be developed.

The immediate objective is to agree on a framework for interoperability to guide future decisions which affect the whole industry.

If you would like to have more information about this topic, please contact Brett Hughes on (02) 6270 4508.

by **Brett Hughes**  
Director Policy  
[bhughes@ara.net.au](mailto:bhughes@ara.net.au)

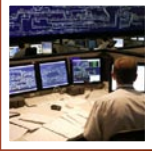


### HOT TOPICS

- » Consultation – Discussion paper on the proposed amendment of the rail safety (Drug and alcohol testing) regulation 2008
- » Submission on Inquiry into the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment
- » National Greenhouse and Reporting Obligations

### EVENTS

- » ARA Members' Dinner - Perth 7 September 2009
- » AusRAIL Plus 2009 17 - 19 November 2009



## ARA ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS

Earlier this month, the ARA convened two Workshops to address environmental issues pertaining to the rail industry. The first Workshop was the Rail Environmental Regulations Improvement Workshop which was held on 6 August 2009 in Canberra.

The Workshop was attended by senior representatives from various state and national environmental protection agencies, departments of transport, rail suppliers, rail operators and track managers. The aim of the Workshop was to determine priorities and future directions which will complement both the industry and the government on environmental management and regulation.

The second Workshop, held on the following day, discussed various elements of the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board's Exterior Environment Standards for Rolling Stock.

The aim of the Workshop was to discuss and understand critical environmental issues to achieve consensus on their resolution for the draft Exterior Environment rolling stock standards being developed. Issues discussed included external noise, dust and ground-borne vibration.

The Workshop was attended by senior representatives from various state and national environmental protection agencies, departments of transport, rail suppliers, rail operators and track managers. The outcomes of the Workshop will contribute to the development of the Standards.

**by Brett Hughes**  
Director Policy  
[bhughes@ara.net.au](mailto:bhughes@ara.net.au)

## RAIL INDUSTRY AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

The Australasian Railway Association (ARA) is pleased to announce that the period for reception of nominations to the Annual Rail Industry Awards for Excellence is open. These awards acknowledge individuals and corporate organizations promoting improvements within the rail industry.

The Rail Industry Awards for Excellence are open to all sectors of the rail industry and to all employees within the rail industry; they are not restricted to Executive or Senior management.

An Award Presentation Ceremony will take place at the AusRAIL Gala Dinner to be held on 19th November 2009 in Adelaide. Each winner will receive a trophy and a certificate recognising their achievement.

The ARA is asking the nomination forms to be lodged at the ARA Secretariat in Canberra by 14th October 2009.

If you wish to download a nomination form and the selection criteria for the awards please visit our website: [www.ara.net.au/site/eventindustryawards.php](http://www.ara.net.au/site/eventindustryawards.php)

**by Dora A Ugalde**  
Communications Manager  
[dugalde@ara.net.au](mailto:dugalde@ara.net.au)



*Rail Industry Awards  
for Excellence 2008*