



# Information Alert



## IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONALLY CONSISTENT RAIL SAFETY LEGISLATION

Since 2005, the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) has worked with the National Transport Commission (NTC), the NSW rail industry and other Australian regulators to develop and introduce nationally consistent rail safety legislation.

NSW is committed to reforming the *Rail Safety Act 2002* to improve safety management and strengthen rail safety regulation. As such, ITSRR released the *Draft NSW Rail Safety Bill 2007* for public consultation in March 2007 and has since developed draft regulations to be released for consultation in August 2007.

ITSRR received 12 public submissions in relation to the Bill. A number of these submissions raised complex issues which have taken time to fully consider. As a result of the consultation process taking longer than expected, there will not be time for the revised Bill to be introduced into Parliament in the current session which ends on 29 June.

This means that NSW will not meet its commitment under the *Inter-Governmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Road, Rail and Intermodal Transport* to implement local legislation based on the National Model Bill by 1 July 2007. With the exception of Victoria, no other jurisdiction will have implemented the National Model Bill by this date.

ITSRR now expects that the *Rail Safety Bill 2007* will be introduced into NSW Parliament in the spring session which commences in late September 2007.

During August 2007 ITSRR will provide feedback to stakeholders in relation to comments on the consultation draft *Rail Safety Bill 2007* in addition to conducting a public consultation on the regulations. The regulations consultation will also provide an opportunity to identify any further issues with the *NSW Rail Safety Bill 2007* which need to be resolved before its introduction into Parliament.

For background information on the National Model Legislation, visit the ITSRR website – [www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au](http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au)

More information on the regulations consultation will be provided soon.

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