

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Special Commission of Inquiry (SCOI) into the Waterfall Rail Accident released its Final Report on 17 January 2005. In accordance with the Commission's recommendations, the NSW Government agreed that the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) should report quarterly on implementation progress. This is the eighth Quarterly Report. It outlines progress made between 1 October and 31 December 2006.

Implementation Summary

Further progress was made during the quarter with 1 recommendation nominated for closure by agencies and a further 5 verified and closed by ITSRR.

ITSRR validated and closed out 5 (3%) recommendations (all pertaining to RailCorp) in the following areas:

- Training of guards in the use of the MetroNet radio system in an emergency;
- Development of risk-based training needs analysis;
- Development of a new passenger containment policy;
- Clear safety accountability statements and reporting lines for all management positions; and
- Recertification plans to ensure the safety competency levels of managers are of an adequate standard.

At the end of the reporting period, the cumulative implementation progress to date for all 177 recommendations (including 127 recommendations and 50 sub-elements) was as follows:

- 149 (84%) recommendations verified and closed¹;

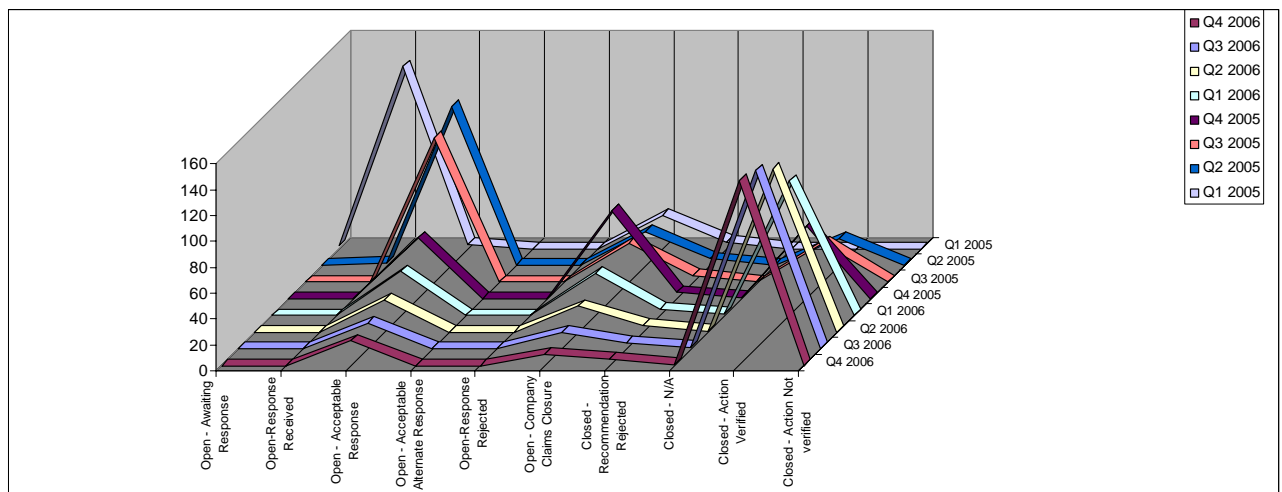
¹ including 5 that were rejected by the NSW Government and 1 which is no longer applicable

- 9 recommendations (5%) claimed for closure by agencies are continuing to be verified by ITSRR;
- 1 (0.5%) recommendation (the implementation of automatic train protection) previously claimed for closure by agencies has been given a revised target date with its status amended to open-acceptable response;
- 1 (0.5%) recommendation (the introduction of national communications technical standards) will be implemented by 2010; and
- 17 (10%) recommendations referred to the National Transport Commission (NTC) have revised implementation timeframes based on advice from the NTC.

This brings the total number of recommendations currently closed or claimed by agencies to be closed (and being verified by ITSRR) to 158 or 89% of all recommendations.

The current status of all of the safety actions, compared to that in previous quarters, is summarised below:

GRAPH 1: PROGRESSIVE STATUS OF ALL RECOMMENDATIONS BY QUARTER



As time progresses, it is expected that the peak will shift along the x-axis until all recommendations are closed.

Quarterly Progress

Recommendations Verified and Closed

In the reporting period, ITSRR verified and closed 5 recommendations. All were the responsibility of RailCorp. They were:

- Training of all guards by RailCorp in the use of MetroNet radio including a detailed training program that demonstrates that guards know how to use the system in an emergency (Recommendation 5);
- Development of a risk-based training needs analysis whereby RailCorp bases its training on a sophisticated Training Needs Analysis protocol (Recommendation 70);
- Development of a new RailCorp passenger containment policy and project plan for implementation (Recommendation 88);
- Establishment of clear safety accountability statements and reporting lines for all management positions (Recommendation 103); and
- Development of recertification plans to ensure the safety competency levels of managers are of an adequate standard (Recommendation 107).

Recommendations Claimed for Closure (and being verified)

During the reporting period, 1 recommendation was claimed for closure by RailCorp. This recommendation relates to the annual revision of maintenance plans for all trains (Recommendation 52).

Slippage

During the reporting period all scheduled timeframes were met.