

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 fifteenth Quarterly Report. It outlines progress made between 1 July and 30 September 2008.

Implementation Summary

During the quarter ITSRR verified and closed Recommendation 71 subject to implementation of an approved program or plan. Recommendation 71 involves the creation within RailCorp of an appropriate position that has responsibility for ensuring each train driver's training needs are being met and any safety concerns are properly addressed.

Further progress was made on the remaining recommendations:

- During the reporting period ITSRR attended a presentation on RailCorp's Competence Management System (CMS). The CMS provides assurance of the maintenance and further development of the skills of existing staff and curriculum design and assessment strategies for the initial training of new staff.

ITSRR also met with RailCorp to discuss planned verification activities for the next quarter which includes ITSRR interviewing a representative sample of RailCorp staff with key roles in an incident/emergency situation as detailed in the RailCorp Incident Management Framework (IMF) (Recommendations 1 & 20).

- RailCorp has prepared a business case outlining the high-level costs and benefits of introducing automatic train protection (ATP) based on its successful trial earlier in 2008. The business case will be submitted for consideration by the Minister in October 2008. It will also be submitted

to the NSW Treasury which will assess whether the proposal is sound from a financial and economic perspective.

RailCorp's Board has approved funding for RailCorp to commence further development work on specific ATP options and configurations which will be necessary should the Government decide to proceed with the introduction of ATP on RailCorp's network.

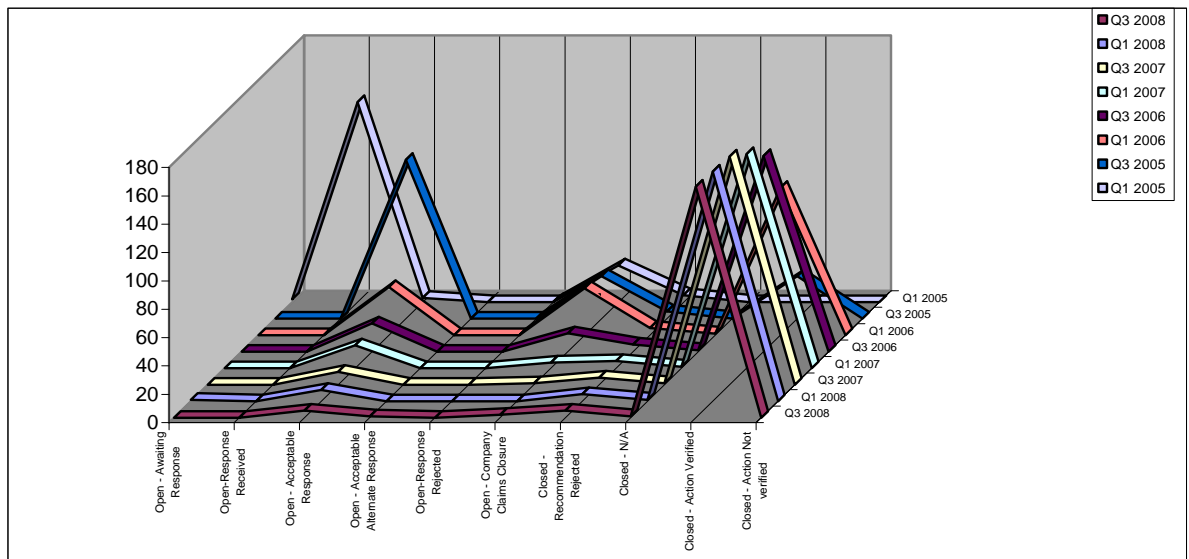
Once these processes have been completed, and provided the initial reviews are favourable, a submission will be put to Cabinet for a Government decision to approve funding and an implementation plan for the introduction of ATP (Recommendation 32).

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:

- 169 (96%) recommendations verified and closed
- 2 (1%) recommendations were claimed for closure (Recommendations 1 & 20)
- 1 (0.5%) recommendation open acceptable response (Recommendation 32)
- 1 (0.5%) recommendation open acceptable alternative response (Recommendation 43)
- 1 (0.5%) recommendation is scheduled to be implemented by 2010 (Recommendation 38)
- 3 (1.5%) recommendations referred to the NTC have interim target dates (Recommendations 30, 36 & 37).

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 has progressed the peak has shifted along the x-axis as the recommendations are closed.

Slippage

There were no slippages during the reporting period.