

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 eighteenth Quarterly Report. It outlines progress made between 1 April and 30 June 2009.

Implementation Summary

During the reporting period further progress was made on implementing the following three recommendations:

- RailCorp advised ITSRR that Cabinet has given in-principle funding approval for the introduction of the ATP program. Preparation of a business case for the first stage of the rollout of the program for the outer metropolitan network is currently underway. The next key milestone for this project is the NSW Treasury Gateway Review of this business case which is to be completed by 31 July 2010 (Recommendation 32).

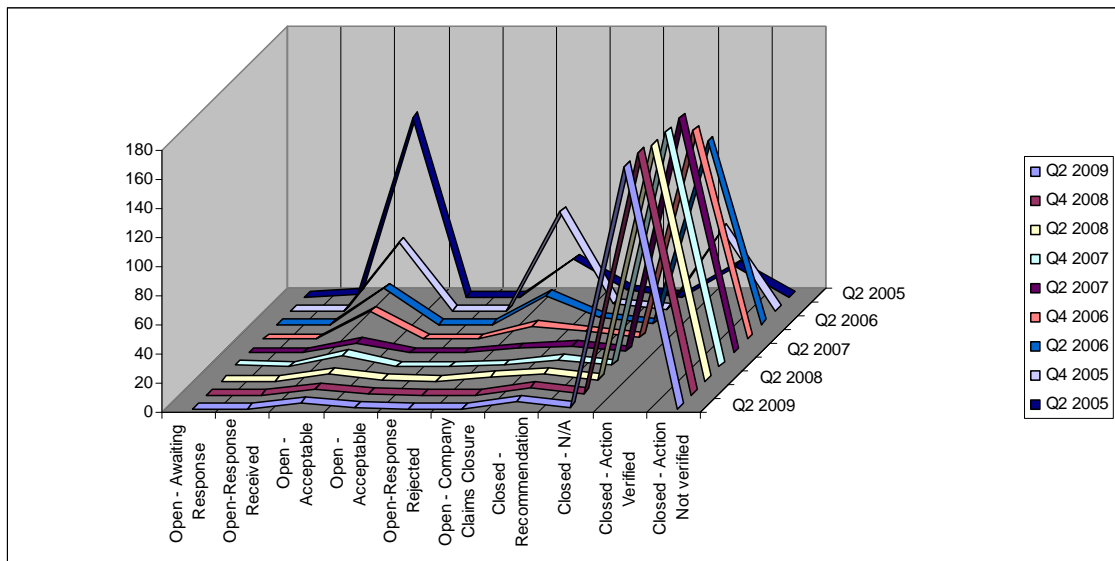
- The National Transport Commission (NTC) notified ITSRR that it no longer intended to include development of national regulations for data loggers into its 2008-09 work program. Instead, the NTC suggested that the making of regulations could be incorporated into legislation to be administered by the proposed national rail safety regulator (Recommendations 36 and 37).

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:

- 172 (97%) recommendations verified and closed
- 1 recommendations open acceptable response has a new interim target date (Recommendation 32)
- 2 recommendations referred to the NTC have new interim target dates (Recommendations 36 & 37)
- 1 recommendation open acceptable response (Recommendation 38)
- 1 recommendation open acceptable alternative response (Recommendation 43).

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.

METHODOLOGY

This section briefly outlines the processes ITSRR has instituted to develop and monitor the Implementation Plan for the Government's response to the SCOI Final Report into the Waterfall Rail Accident. Full details of these methods can be found in Appendix 2.

Implementation Plan

ITSRR reviewed the SCOI Final Report and determined the actions required to implement each recommendation (in line with the Government's response) and which company or agency has responsibility for that action. These expectations formed the basis for determining whether the response put forward by a company or agency is appropriate to meet the recommendation and/or satisfy the safety objective of the recommendation.

Responsible agencies assigned indicative timeframes for each safety action and ITSRR reviewed the appropriateness of them to ensure the timeframes were feasible and that processes were in place to adequately monitor progress as well as to give sufficient notice and justification to ITSRR for any changes to the implementation plan. Timeframes agreed with responsible companies or agencies have, to the greatest extent possible, been made realistic and achievable. Details of the Implementation Plan for outstanding recommendations and progress against the plan may be found in Appendix 3.

Classification System for Recommendations

In order to provide a graduated view of progress against the Implementation Plan, ITSRR developed a classification system to indicate the relative status of each recommendation. The taxonomy for the Classification System has been drawn from accepted international practice. Appendix 1 includes tables and graphs of the current implementation status of recommendations.

Slippage

In reporting slippage against the agreed timeframes in the Implementation Plan, ITSRR uses the following guide:

- If a claim for closure was expected by the conclusion of the reporting quarter but was not received then it is recorded as slippage;
- If a claim for closure is submitted to ITSRR by the end of the reporting quarter but the target date was earlier in the quarter, it will not be recorded as slippage; and
- If a revised target date for implementation was received from an agency but action will be completed within the original reporting quarter then it is not recorded as slippage. However in the event that the revised target date is not met, ITSRR will record the event as a slippage.