



22 December 2014



Ms Samantha Parsons
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes
Review
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

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Dear Ms Parsons

Inquiry into Rail Safety National Law (WA) Bill 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission. The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) is the responsible regulator for administering the Rail Safety National Law (RSNL), and has been established by passage of state-based application law in South Australia, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Tasmania, Victoria and the ACT.

The ONRSR welcomes the enactment of the RSNL in WA, which will bring the objectives of national reform one step closer to realisation. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) recognised the benefits of national consistency to the Australian rail industry in 2009, directing the establishment of a single, national rail safety law and regulator.

This represents a number of practical benefits, such as:

- a single national accreditation or registration
- removing duplication in regulatory activities across jurisdictions
- centralised reporting and a national source of safety information
- a single national set of fees
- the assurance of consistency in regulatory requirements.

WA has chosen to progress implementation of the RSNL as 'mirror' legislation (rather than 'application' legislation) in order to retain its sovereignty, whilst supporting the objectives of COAG. In doing this, the sovereignty of the WA Parliament is upheld and any future changes to the law must be approved by the WA Parliament.

Moving forward, the ONRSR hopes that the WA Parliament will continue to strive for national consistency for the benefit of both the Western Australian and the broader Australian rail industry.

Please contact me on 08 8406 1510 if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. McCarrey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sue McCarrey
CHIEF EXECUTIVE