A Message from the CEO

Welcome to the first edition of the ARA Quarterly Update for 2014. This year has well and truly kicked into gear with a jam packed edition full of the latest news and initiatives happening within the ARA and the wider rail industry.

In this edition:

- Read up on ARA’s most recent submissions, reports and program updates in our ‘Advocacy’ section;
- Be brought up to date on the latest national activities occurring in the industry in ‘Rail Activity’;
- Catch up on the latest government announcements impacting rail in ‘Tracking across the Nation’;
- Be briefed on the new advancements taking place in ‘TrackSAFE’ and our ‘Workforce Development’ area; and
- Take advantage of the range of ‘ARA Courses and Events’ kicking off this year, including the re-branded and re-formatted Australasian Rail Industry Awards!

Also we are encouraging readers to send through photos they’ve taken of the great trains and tracks across Australia, selected shots will then be published in our new ‘Top Train Pics’ section of the newsletter. We have got the ball rolling with a stunning scenic shot from our members across the ditch KiwiRail, to view click here.

Looking down the track that is 2014, the ARA will be working hard to implement its core objectives and the vision of our members.

It will be another big year, with evidently a lot on our agenda. It is important that rail, now more than ever, has its voice heard loud and clear.

Yours sincerely,

Bryan Nye OAM
Chief Executive Officer

www.ara.net.au

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Advocacy - Freight

Rail’s position on Road Pricing

There is widespread agreement amongst ARA members that the current pricing system for heavy vehicles is not working. There is no link between the revenue collected and where it is spent and the heaviest trucks travelling long distances on national highways win at the expense of lighter trucks and those on urban and rural roads.

The ARTC, Aurizon and Asciano along with the ARA have been pushing for road charging reform for heavy vehicles, the joint submission to the Productivity Commission on the issue can be viewed by clicking here. Our position is based on mass – distance – location (MDL) charging along with a reform of the way infrastructure improvements are planned. Several meetings have been held with key Departments from the Federal and State Governments, aimed at highlighting the rail industry’s support for reform.

In December 2013, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) took a crucial step in deciding to commission work on infrastructure policy, including proposals for heavy vehicle charging and investment reform.

This represents a key opportunity to introduce market based reforms that would drive more efficient pricing, investment, development and utilisation of road freight infrastructure in Australia.

The rail industry believes the expected productivity gains warrant urgent and decisive action by COAG at its next meeting (scheduled for April 2014) including initial steps being taken to pilot MDL charging and associated technology on a national highway for all heavy vehicles (greater than 4.5 tonnes) using the highway.

Change is needed as the freight task grows with road freight volumes on the north-south corridor expected to double by 2030. This will mean more trucks on national highways and increasing budget pressure on Governments at a time when there is increasing demand for other spending priorities in health and education.

Short Haul Conference

The ARA are organising a Short Haul Rail conference, ‘Making Short Haul Rail Work in Australia’, to be held in Hobart, Tasmania on 15th of May, with a pre-conference dinner on the night of the 14th at the famous Museum of Old and New Art (MONA).

TasRail have co-organised and will facilitate the event which will focus on what issues face the short haul industry around Australia and what learnings can be made had from other short haul operators nationally and internationally.

Outcomes from the conference will be reported in the next Quarterly Update edition.

www.ara.net.au
Freight Submission Summary

The ARA has recently made three submissions of behalf of its members which are relevant to the rail freight sector:

- An update to the National Land Transport Determination;
- A Federal Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia Inquiry into the Development of Northern Australia; and
- A Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into rail freight use by the agriculture and livestock industries.

With regards to the National Land Transport Determination, the Deputy Prime Minister was wanting feedback on the current declared ‘national transport network’. ARA’s feedback suggested that based on the criteria, the amount of the rail network included on the national network should be increased, with additional heavy haul network in the Pilbara region and Central Queensland included for example.

The ARA provided detailed feedback to the Federal Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia’s inquiry into the Development of Northern Australia. It is a firm belief of the ARA that if policies promoting the development of Northern Australia are to be a success, that planning for effective transport networks needs to be central to all stages of policy development. Without effective transport connections there are no ways of moving agricultural products to market, no mining development and no effective ways of linking populations resulting in isolated communities.

For these reasons, the ARA advocates that any subsequent Northern Australia Policy should have well developed long term transport plans, which focus on cost effective supply chains to get products from source to port, as well as connect growing communities across Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

And finally, with regards to the submission to the QLD Parliamentary Inquiry into Rail Freight use by the agriculture and livestock industries, the ARA provided a detailed submission with input from its members. The submission noted that the development of efficient freight transport infrastructure will generate improved value for the industries that rely on freight transport, assisting those industries to develop and grow. The ARA also appeared as a witness before the Parliamentary Inquiry, providing information first hand to the committee.

Full copies of all submissions can be obtained by contacting Bart Mellish, Manager Freight Policy, on 02 6270 4530 or bmellish@ara.net.au.

Advocacy - Urban Rail

Over the past few months the ARA has released three reports within the urban passenger rail space. For your information, below are brief summaries on each report and links to the full documents on the ARA website.

1. Commuter Costs and Potential Savings - Public transport versus car commuting in Australia: Released in December last year, this national review identified that Australian commuters could save more than $5,400 per year by leaving their car at home and commuting to the CBD with public transport. The ARA commissioned report also identified that CBD commuters could average a saving of $9,425 by not owning a car at all or deciding not to purchase a second household car. Cases were also broken down to a state-by-state basis, which further reflected the significant savings that can be made by switching to public transport in each Australian capital city.

2. Public Transport Investment: Quantifying the Value of Action versus the Cost of Inaction: Released in January this year, this economic study commissioned by the ARA, found that investing in rail is the most cost effective transport solution to reduce road congestion in Australia’s two fastest growing cities – Brisbane and Perth. It found the same reduction in traffic congestion by investing in rail instead of roads would cost 57 per cent less in Brisbane and 38 per cent less in Perth. The study confirms that investment in rail provides greater value for money than roads and is a more cost effective option to reducing congestion in our cities.

3. Innovative Funding and Financing for Public Transport: Released in February this year, this ARA Report highlights the fact that world-class transport systems can be achieved in Australian cities if governments at all levels get smarter about funding public transport investment. To engender policy discussion on how public transport investments are funded and financed in Australia, the report explores funding tools successfully used in cities, states and countries around the world and touches on financing reforms to encourage greater investment from the private sector.

All three reports are available on the ARA website.

For further information on any of these reports please contact Emma Woods, Manager Urban Policy, on 02 6270 4512 or ewoods@ara.net.au.
Advocacy - Infrastructure

Productivity Commission’s Inquiry into Public Infrastructure and Infrastructure Costs

The Australian Government has tasked the Productivity Commission to undertake a 6-month public inquiry into ways to encourage private financing and funding for major infrastructure projects, including issues relating to the high cost and the long lead times associated with these projects.

The ARA has made a preliminary submission on this matter to the Commission. The submission is available on the ARA website. In essence, the submission acknowledged the financial constraints experienced by the Commonwealth and State Governments and explored a number of alternative funding and financing mechanisms including using superannuation funds, value capture, re-introduction of CPI increases to fuel tax and congestion charging.

With respect to the costs of infrastructure, the ARA has advised the Commission that the main contributors of high costs of rail construction in Australia includes complex procurement process, high cost base, inappropriate contracting arrangements, inadequate infrastructure planning, uncertain project pipelines and standards and overly burdensome regulatory requirements.

It is envisaged that the Commission's Draft Report will be released in March/April 2014. The ARA will make a submission to the Commission on the Draft Report with more information on ways to encourage private investment in the rail sector, the type of assets and opportunities that are available as well as a more detailed analysis on costs of rail construction. The submission will be made in conjunction with the ARA’s Chief Financial Officers Forum and the Rail Contractors Group.

To get involved in and for more information about the Inquiry please contact Rhianne Jory, Associate Director Environment and Regulation, on 02 6270 4504 or rjory@ara.net.au.

Advocacy - Environment

SCLAA Energy Efficiency Program

The ARA is working with the Supply Chains and Logistics Association of Australia (SCLAA) in the Energy Efficient Solutions for Australian Transport and Logistics SMEs project.

This project aims to comprehensively identify energy saving opportunities across the entire supply chain and logistics industry, including warehousing, distribution, road, rail, sea and air transportation across all sectors.

It is targeted to SME’s with 1 – 200 full time equivalent employees. This program will be run in 30 locations across Australia, including 22 regional and rural areas and all 8 Capital Cities and also through webinars.

To get involved or to find out more information on the Program, visit www.sclaa.com.au.

For more information on environment related issues in rail please contact Rhianne Jory, Associate Director Environment and Regulation, on 02 62704504 or rjory@ara.net.au.
ARA submission on the Emissions Reduction Fund

In conjunction with the repeal of the Carbon Tax Bill, the Coalition Government also intends to commence its emissions reduction initiative, the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) by July 2014.

In late December 2013, the Government released a Green Paper on this issue. The ARA has discussed an industry submission with the Environment Working group and has made a submission on behalf of the industry. The submission is available on the ARA website.

According to the Green Paper the ERF will be designed to achieve large scale and low cost emissions reduction as its primary objective. Emissions reduction methods will be developed to calculate genuine and additional emissions reductions from new actions that are not mandatory and have not been paid for under another government programme.

Initially the Clean Energy Regulator would run frequent tender rounds to bring forward the delivery of emissions reduction and apply a benchmark price which will be the maximum amount it would pay per tonne of emissions reduced. A safeguard mechanism will also be introduced to provide incentives to reduce emissions above historical business-as-usual levels.

The ERF presents a real opportunity for rail to gain recognition for its environmental credentials and receive assistance from the Federal Government through this program. In its submission, the ARA discusses potential opportunities for emission reductions within the rail sector including a modal shift incentive scheme for freight, a regenerative energy storage technology, an LNG locomotives implementation and Green Stations.

Advocacy - Manufacturing & Supplying

RMG report on benefits for better procurement of Passenger Rolling Stock

The ARA Rail Manufacturers Group (RMG) has continued to raise the profile of the ‘Opportunities for Greater Passenger Rolling Stock Procurement Efficiency’ Report, released last November at AusRAIL PLUS by the Deputy Prime Minister, Warren Truss.

The ARA has sent letters along with copies of the Report to all State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and state and federal Treasurers, requesting to meet to discuss the report findings and potential opportunities for future government procurement of rolling stock.

Report Findings:

• Over the next 30 years, $30 billion will be spent by Government on the procurement of heavy rail passenger rolling stock to meet the increasing demands of public transport and replace ageing fleets.
• Addressing current procurement challenges present a considerable opportunity for efficiencies, offering governments the ability to generate direct savings of nearly $6 billion.
• Crucial savings are there to be made and through providing rail businesses with more consistent work, and less sporadic orders, they are projected to be able to retain nearly $15.5 billion in economic activity.
• It will support Australian jobs, regional development, higher productivity, result in a more functional and well-coordinated supply chain and increased innovation for the industry.

In contrast, failing to address existing inefficiencies may well result in the demise of the Australian rolling stock manufacturing base, which is projected to be worth $16 billion of economic activity.

For further information on the Rail Supplier activities please contact Garry Whiting, General Manager Suppliers on 02 6270 4511 or at gwhiting@ara.net.au.
RSNA generates an estimated $35.7 million worth of new business for innovative local firms at AusRAIL PLUS

At AusRail Plus 2013 the ARA, Department of Industry, and NSW Department of Trade and Investment funded the Rail Suppliers Network Australasia (RSNA) exhibition stand. The stand received an unprecedented level of support across industry and government.

The stand marked the launch of the RSNA, a new network representing small and medium-sized Australian rail firms. It also gave the opportunity for 22 Australian firms to showcase their value-add technologies that were aligned with the rail manufacturing industry’s technology roadmap, On Track to 2040. The stand displayed the state-of-the-art capabilities of these firms across three areas of Australia’s competitive technological advantage that the roadmap identified: materials and manufacturing; monitoring and management; and power and propulsion.

Rail Suppliers Network Australia Stand Highlights:
- 22 Australian firms exhibiting cutting-edge technology.
- $35.7 million business opportunities identified over the next 3 years.
- 172 new business leads identified for firms.
- 46 business meetings held.
- 55 new potential customers/partners accessed as a result of the stand.
- 6 networking events hosted on the stand, attended by over 200 people.

Advocacy - High Speed Rail developments

Members Bill introduced to make High Speed Rail a reality

Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, The Hon. Anthony Albanese, introduced a ‘High Speed Rail Planning Authority Bill 2013’ in parliament in December last year, which the ARA welcomed by commending the Labor government for its forward-thinking and unwavering support of the nation building project.

ARA CEO Bryan Nye stated publically that the commitment from the federal Labor government to see a high speed rail network established in Australia had been strong and consistent, throughout its time in government and now in opposition:

“This kind of belief and commitment is just what we need from our political leaders if we are to make high speed rail a reality,” said Mr Nye.

“It is time to stop talking and start acting. A High Speed Rail Planning Authority will ensure key action items are implemented, such as the preservation of the corridor to future proof the project.”

In August this year, the Labor government’s High Speed Rail Advisory Group released a report declaring that there is clear evidence that high speed rail must be an integral part of Australia’s future.

The report outlined four clear, low cost recommendations for immediate action, these are:

1. Establish a High Speed Rail Authority
2. Formally commit to high speed rail and settle arrangements with state and territory governments
3. Protect the corridor (initially through national legislation); and
4. Refer high speed rail to Infrastructure Australia for initial assessment

Mr Albanese has taken action on the first of the four items of the Report – to establish a High Speed Rail Authority. The ARA strongly urges members of parliament to support the Bill and to have the vision that we expect from our leaders to ensure a more efficient, less congested transport network along Australia’s east coast in the future.

To view ARA’s media release on the announcement of the Bill, click here.

www.ara.net.au
ARA Committee Update

Disability Policy Working Group (DPWG)

The DPWG was re-formed in 2013 with an aim to provide a platform for industry experts in disability access to discuss, develop and deliver a range of policies and activities relating to this critical issue. The DPWG is currently working on a number of projects including seeking legal recognition of industry Code Of Practice and developing an industry policy on the use of motorised mobility devices at railway stations and on trains and key principles for disruptions management specifically for people with disabilities.

Chief Financial Officers Forum

The CFO Forum was reformed in 2013 with an aim to provide a platform for rail CFOs to discuss, develop and deliver a range of policies and activities that are of interest to the industry. The CFO Forum’s focus at the current time is to identify opportunities for greater private investment in rail particularly from the Superannuation industry.

Environment Working Group

The EWG was re-formed in 2013 to provide advice to the ARA on key issues relating to the environment. The current focus of the EWG is on 1) the repeal of the carbon and the impact of this change on the rail industry, 2) providing industry input into the development of the Government’s Emissions Reduction Fund and 3) environmental regulatory reforms.

Rail Contractors Group

The RCG was formed in 2010 to facilitate discussion, exchange of ideas and deliver activities that benefit the rail contractor sector. The current focus of the RCG is to 1) evaluate current costs of rail construction in Australia in comparison to those of the road sector and international peers as well as 2) compare and benchmark the contractors’ safety performance.

Working groups

All ARA members are able to join in the above or other listed Committees and Working Groups within the association. To see the full list and relevant contact details, visit www.ara.net.au/working-groups.

www.ara.net.au
Rail Activity

Order of Australia medal honoured to Bryan Nye

This Australia Day saw specially selected Australian’s acknowledged for their dedication and commitment to the country, its economy, its liveability, its industries and more.

The ARA’s CEO Bryan Nye was amongst those recognised and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to the rail transport industry and to the business sector.

Bryan has dedicated the past decade towards ensuring the growth and prosperity of Rail throughout Australasia. He has undoubtedly in that time raised rail’s profile amongst governments, media and the general public whilst also forming a strong united voice for and industry that deserves to be heard.

Bryan took over the ARA in 1994, moving the ARA to the nation’s capital, establishing a head office, new staff and commencing the journey of raising rail’s profile to key stakeholders across the nation and the wider region. It was a mighty task, one he grabbed by the horns and hasn’t let go of since.

Stand-out achievements over the years have included:

- Successfully establishing the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) in 2005 and changing, for the better, the way safety was approached in the industry.
- Establishing the TrackSAFE Foundation in 2012 and bringing to light the long kept quiet issues of rail suicide and incidents on rail, whilst also seeking to support traumatised train drivers and rail employees.
- Successfully advocating for the implementation of the Inland Rail project and taking up a position on the Federal Government’s Implementation Group.
- Strongly advocating for an Australian high-speed rail network along the east coast; and
- After four years of negotiation, securing the allocation of the highly sought after radio spectrum for rail across the country and therefore future proofing the industry.

On behalf of all the team at ARA, congratulations Bryan on this esteemed recognition, the rail industry is forever grateful to have you on board.

Australia and UK Rail Research Bodies Collaborate

The recently established Australasian Centre for Rail Innovation (ACRI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UK’s Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) committing to share knowledge, ideas and develop a strong dialogue, all for the betterment of rail across Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Executive Director of ACRI, Vicki Brown and the Deputy CEO of the RSSB, Anson Jack co-signed the MoU at the 10th World Congress on Railway Research, held in Sydney last November.

The British and Australasian Rail Industries have much in common and the MOU sets out a shared vision of working together to support each other, share knowledge, grant controlled access to existing research projects, and to identify opportunities to achieve more value for ACRI and RSSB Participants through collaboration.

Allowing each party to contribute to each other’s work will result in greater efficiencies in the production of research to meet the increasing demand for the use of rail as an efficient, environmentally friendly mode for, heavy haul, freight and passenger movement. Collaboration is often the key to unlocking the potential held in research.

ACRI has been established to take research forward for the Australian and New Zealand Rail Industry when the Co-operative Research Centre for Rail Innovation finishes on 30 June this year.

The RSSB is the UK’s Rail Industry body that has been undertaking research development and innovation programmes for the last ten years.

To find out more about ACRI visit www.acri.net.au.

www.ara.net.au
RISSB to host Major Rail Occurrence Forum (Derailments)

29 - 30 April 2014 | Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel, Circular Quay

Register now to take advantage of the “EARLY BIRD RATE” ending on the 7 March 2014.

The RISSB Major Rail Occurrence Forum (Derailments) has been designed to build on and continue the analysis of major occurrence reports and to seek Industry learning from them. By reviewing major occurrence reports, Rail Organisations have the opportunity to learn from the lessons without having to suffer the same occurrence.

Derailments are usually high consequence events which have the potential to be extremely costly to the rail industry. These costs can affect loss of reputation, loss of customer confidence, loss of finance and in the worst cases potential loss of life or injury to our customers and our people.

This Forum is designed for Rail Safety Advisors and Managers involved in major occurrence management and compliance.

The Forum will be graced by a number of high quality presenters from the Rail Industry who, along with a number of RISSB representatives, will present interesting papers.

The presenters are:

- Carolyn Walsh, Commissioner ATSB (Facilitator);
- Peter Foley, General Manager, Surface Safety Investigation ATSB;
- Mal Kains, Senior Investigator Brookfield;
- Michael Tooma, Partner, Head of OHS and Security Asia Pacific and Head of Government Australia Practice Norton Rose Fulbright;
- Kevin Taylor, CEO RISSB; and
- Laurie Wilson, RISSB's Manager Infrastructure.

A number of other notable presenters have been invited to provide papers at this important event.

A number of case studies will be drawn upon throughout the forum to illustrate the issues noted above, while reinforcing the learnings from these occurrences.

Click here to download registration form. Note: Registration form will open in your internet browser, please download registration form to your desktop, complete form and click submit.

Click here to download printable PDF flyer.

For more information please email Raquel Martin at rmartin@rissb.com.au

The forum will:

- address the importance of national derailment data;
- address the impact of derailments on the industry;
- provide the tools required for a systemic derailment investigation;
- provide reduction strategies for derailments;
- highlight derailment reporting requirements;
- provide the latest occurrence statistics;
- address the legal ramifications associated with derailments;
- outline commercial vs safety imperatives; and
- develop a framework for derailment prevention champion.

Friends of Rail

This year the ARA will be establishing the inaugural Parliamentary Friends of Rail. Co-chairing the initiative will be Liberal backbencher John Alexander, Federal Member for Bennelong, and Labor backbencher Stephen Jones, Federal Member for Throsby – both strong advocates for rail.

The vision of Friends of Rail is to strengthen the rail industry in Australia, through creating opportunities for leaders in both government and the business sector to meet and discuss informally, under ‘Chatham House’ rules, issues of key importance to Australia’s economic future.

Australia has the sixth largest rail network in the world, and in both freight and passenger markets rail plays an integral role in the operation and growth of our nation, moving over 1 billion tonnes of freight and facilitating 780 million customer journeys per year. Yet there are always ways to improve our freight supply chains and get the most out of our vital public transport networks.

Members of Friends of Rail will be engaged on key rail issues, participate in policy discussions and interact with top industry leaders and fellow rail advocates.

The ARA will be inviting members of industry to the first meeting of the year in due course. Any queries please contact Alicia Hewitt at ahewitt@ara.net.au or on 02 6270 4531.

www.ara.net.au
‘Better for Business’ campaign says choose rail

When it comes to freight logistics, reliability and value are everything. Australian businesses need a cost-effective way of getting their products where they are due, when they are due, every time.

This is why the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has launched its first ever marketing campaign ‘Better for Business’ to highlight the significant investment made in the interstate network between Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and the benefits rail can provide to business.

ARTC has delivered a $3 billion upgrade to east coast freight rail lines over the last five years. This $3 billion investment promises businesses a network that is more reliable, supports more trains and offers second morning delivery.

Investment has seen significant upgrades to the track, newly built infrastructure as well as rail operators continuing to modernise and improve the national interstate intermodal rail fleet. These all mean better reliability, better performance, better value and a better story for your business when it chooses rail.

Visit [www.betterforbusiness.com.au](http://www.betterforbusiness.com.au) to watch a video, download a fact sheet or case study and find out more ‘freight facts’ about why it’s time for your business to reconsider rail.

www.ara.net.au
Tracking around the Nation

Northern Territory
The ARA Rail Manufacturers Group (RMG) The Northern Territory government celebrated the 10th anniversary of the AustralAsia Railway earlier this year, stating it was a significant milestone in the development of Northern Australia.

The 3000 kilometre railway line links the whole of the Territory with the rest of Australia and has acted as a vital trade corridor throughout the years.

The rail line moves more than five million tonnes of freight each year. It also connects mine sites with the Port of Darwin, transporting more than three million tonnes of bulk minerals each year.

Also celebrated was the 10th anniversary of The Ghan, which was given a historic ‘bum salute’ by a ‘cheeky’ few who were re-enacting how locals first welcomed The Ghan to Darwin all those years ago.

New South Wales
The NSW Government announced that from the 31 January the Opal electronic ticketing card will be able to be used at an additional 55 train stations, giving thousands more customers a cheaper, faster and more convenient journey.

Opal has been extended to train stations from Redfern to Strathfield, Strathfield to Hornsby, Chatswood to Wyong, and Epping to Chatswood. This will further integrate the card with Sydney’s other public transport systems, the ferry and the bus, which also accept the Opal (on selected routes).

The NSW government announced that more than 45,000 Opal cards have already been registered, with more than 2 million trips already taken using the electronic ticketing system.

By the end of 2014, 40 ferry wharves, more than 300 train stations and more than 5,000 buses will be Opal accessible, with light rail due in 2015.

South Australia
The ARA commended the South Australian government’s recent launch of the first electric line from Seaford to Adelaide.

The Weatherill government has a proven track record of investing in rail infrastructure and services, with more than $1.75 billion going into revitalising the states rail network.

A recent ARA commissioned report also found that by taking public transport, Adelaide commuters would spend less with a whopping $3,200 per year to be saved just by leaving the car at home and commuting to the CBD with public transport.

The $291.2 million Seaford Rail Extension project includes new electric trains, improved amenities, two new stations, Park ‘n’ Ride facilities, as well as a new Seaford bus interchange.

It is reassuring to see the Weatherill government take ownership of its public transport projects, in particular rail, even in these tough economic times.

Now it is more important than ever to recognise the importance of public transport investment to ensure our cities are productive, liveable and better connected into the future.

Queensland
The Queensland Government released its ‘Moving Freight’ Strategy in December, which included a strong focus on rail.

The ARA commended the Newman government for taking action on establishing an important framework for the future of freight movements within Queensland, Australia’s most decentralised state.

ARA particularly endorsed the pre-eminence given to the issue of road congestion by seeking to expand the use of rail freight, such as the development of the North Coast Line; Western and South Western rail systems; and the Mount Isa to Townsville rail corridor. These will all help to provide appropriate priority for rail freight and to improve regional rail for agricultural and general freight.

Critical steps were also outlined by the QLD government to future proof key infrastructure projects and ensure a more efficient freight network, especially around key freight hubs such as the Port of Brisbane and intermodal terminals.

Ongoing support for the Inland Rail, a project that will take seven hours off transit times from Melbourne to Brisbane, remove trucks from the Pacific, Newell and Hume Highways and boost regional development along the entire 1,700km route, was also supported and appreciated by the ARA.

In its submission to the draft strategy, the ARA stated that a key priority for Queensland is that rail remains competitive versus key road routes, particularly in areas serviced by both the Bruce Highway and the North Coast Line.

To view Draft ARA’s submission on the Strategy [click here](#) .
TrackSAFE Update

Australasian Railway Level Crossing Safety Forum

On 19 and 20 March 2014 TrackSAFE and the ARA will run an Australasian Railway Level Crossing Safety Forum in Melbourne. Hosted by V/Line and Public Transport Victoria the Forum will see up to 70 delegates from government, the rail industry, police, road user groups and research bodies come together to share knowledge on State and National programs and experiences in level crossing safety work. Particular focus will be given to education, enforcement and awareness, infrastructure, technology and research and how they can positively influence behaviour.

While the rail and heavy vehicle industry is moving toward national regulation, level crossing programs and level crossing risk mitigation remain something which is generally managed at the level of State jurisdictions or even individual rail organisations. Following the disbanding of the National Railway Level Crossing Group there is no longer a national level crossing strategy group and yet much of the research being undertaken and strategies being implemented overlap or have relevance across these jurisdictions.

The aim of the Forum is to bring together key stakeholders and utilise workshops throughout the course of the two days to allow maximum information sharing to identify where programs complement and overlap and where a national approach to level safety can be utilised.
Workforce Development

Workforce diversity in the spotlight

In September 2013, the ARA launched its new strategic objectives for the next five years. In the workforce development space, this involves encouraging industry members to collaborate to create a positive image of rail by appealing to and supporting wider gender, age and ethnic diversity across the board. Promoting diversity will allow rail to draw from the broadest pool of talent and position rail as an employer of choice.

This year the Australasian Rail Industry Awards will see for the first time the introduction of an award for Workforce Diversity. The Workforce Diversity category is open to organisations, not individuals, with programs currently underway or complete that can demonstrate:

- How the organisation has identified a diversity issue within its business and have taken steps to remedy the situation;
- Provide statistical data supporting the efforts of the organisation in the area of diversity; for example, the percentage of staff in the organisation in, including but not limited to, gender, age and ethnicity;
- Details of the development, delivery and outcomes of the initiative; and
- How the initiative has added to the benefit of the industry in relation to diversity.

For more information on the industry awards event, how to become a sponsor, or how to nominate, please refer to the Australasian Rail Industry Awards article in this update.

The ARA is also pleased to support the ‘A Taste of Harmony’ taking place during the week of the 17-24 March. This initiative celebrates diversity in Australian workplaces by encouraging colleagues to share food and stories from different cultural backgrounds.

Registration is simple and free and there are no fund raising activities required – it is simply about demonstrating positive corporate citizenship.

This is a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of rail as a career of choice for people from all backgrounds. The ARA encourages all members to get involved and demonstrate rail’s collective commitment to diversity and enhance our image as an employer of choice. Visit www.tasteofharmony.org.au.

Enhance your career choices

In the time of challenging global economic and business environments and with growing competition in the domestic labour market, it is important for a person to maintain their ‘employability’.

Recognising the need for more flexible and affordable training options, selected Australian universities and training providers are offering individual learning subjects from rail post-graduate programs as professional development courses in rail engineering and operation.

With support from tutors, mostly comprised of experienced industry professionals, participants learn by undertaking real-world project studies and assignments linked to the needs of employing organisation.

Importantly, these part-time online study options are available to all rail professionals located anywhere in Australia or overseas. The courses also provide the unique opportunity to meet and network with colleagues from other states and countries adding great value to a person’s career.

Whether you are looking to qualify for a new job, develop further in your current role or looking for a change in your career, these courses will help to enhance a person’s competencies and broaden the range of available career options.

For more details about rail specific tertiary level courses please click here.

www.ara.net.au
Workforce development workshops

The ARA has supported the research undertaken by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Rail Innovation, over the past seven years. Research in the workforce development area has revealed that workplace mentoring, talent management and career planning are among the fastest growing professional development activities and may play an important role in strengthening the rail industry, building core competence and sustainable competitive advantage.

The CRC is sponsoring three one-day Workforce Development workshops for those interested in optimising and building either their own career or the careers of others in rail.

The three workshops will be held in the following locations throughout March:
- 25 March 2014 - Brisbane
- 26 March 2014 - Melbourne
- 27 March 2014 - Sydney

The workshops will outline important and practical steps to make sure rail leaders get the best results for their organisations and professionals can understand how to develop their careers in confidence.

For more information on these workshops, please contact Chris Newman at the CRC on 07 3412 9543 or cnewman@railcrc.net.au. Alternatively click here to register.
ARA Rail Industry Courses 2014

Run by the rail industry for the rail industry, these courses are great value. Discounts are available for ARA members, and also for IRSE and RTSA members for their respective courses.

For further information contact Janet Cameron, ARA Events Coordinator at events@ara.net.au or 02 6270 4527 or visit the events page on the ARA website.

Understanding Rail Course

- 2-3 April 2014 – Sydney
- 30-31 July 2014 – Melbourne
- 29-30 October 2014 – Adelaide

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the Australian Rail Industry, from the various elements that make up railway track to the strategic direction of the industry. Designed for those new to the rail industry, as well as those who have recently assumed a different or broader role, the course is also popular with those who have been in rail for years and enjoy a refreshing update of the entire Australasian Rail Industry.

Insight into Railway Signalling Course

- 28 March 2014 – Sydney
- 22 May 2014 – Brisbane
- 10 September 2014 - Melbourne

This introductory course provides an insight into the technology, processes and principles used by railway signal engineers. It is designed for those who liaise with signal engineers, interface to railway signal systems, coordinate with signalling projects or provide operational requirements for signalling systems.

Rail Industry Networking Dinners 2014

Following the success of the ARA Networking Dinners in 2013, with 170 attending the Sydney dinner, and 150 attending both dinners held in Melbourne and Adelaide, we are looking forward to an even more successful 2014. Dates and venues will be advertised in email Event Alerts as soon as confirmed.

For further information or to subscribe to receive alerts please contact Janet Cameron at events@ara.net.au or on 02 6270 4527.

Insight into Track Engineering Course

- 5 May 2014 - Adelaide (in conjunction with the CORE Conference)
- 24 September 2014 - Brisbane

This introductory course provides an insight into the technology, processes and principles used by railway track engineers and an understanding of the interface between track and other railway systems.

Insight into Rolling Stock Engineering Course

- 5 May 2014 - Adelaide (in conjunction with the CORE Conference)
- 23 September 2014 - Brisbane

This introductory course provides an insight into the principles used in the design, manufacture and maintenance of rolling stock including locomotives, passenger cars, multiple unit trains and freight wagons.

Australasian Rail Industry Awards 2014

The countdown is on with the opening on the new Australasian Rail Industry Awards website and Award nominations happening this month!

The rail industry is invited to participate in the newly formatted annual event - with a new look, new categories, new judging panel and a not to be missed dinner held at Melbourne's Crown Casino in July this year.

Full details on the Awards will be promoted in an email and on ARA's website and social media accounts in the coming weeks, so be sure to keep an eye out.

Any queries please contact Alicia Hewitt, ARA Communications Manager on 02 62704531 or ahewitt@ara.net.au.
Top Train Pics

Stunning scenic shot sent in by ARA member KiwiRail, visit www.kiwirail.co.nz.

Send us your top train and track images, it might be published in the next edition of quarterly update! Send images to Alicia Hewitt at ahewitt@ara.net.au.

Photographer: Andrew Hamblyn