

RAIL FREIGHT STRATEGY 2023-2025

Strategic Focus + Initiatives



Focus Areas



Rail Freight Productivity



Resilience



National Interoperability



Sustainability

Rail Freight Productivity

Responsibility: ARA to project manage with ARA/FORG Corporate Affairs Working Group



- Develop and execute a national campaign on the findings of the ACRI Rail Freight Productivity Report, including government and stakeholder engagement and public launch of the report.
- Create a consistent rail freight narrative and key messages for united advocacy to support the campaign activity, share with members and refer to throughout advocacy activities and events.
- Investigate opportunities in partnership with members and industry to resolve the lack of high-quality data available to governments and decision makers about the Australian rail freight sector.
- Delivery of a dedicated rail freight event/conference in 2024.
- Contribute to the review of the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy.
- Continue support for the development of the Train Driver Rail Operations Skills Set to enhance harmonisation, promote attraction to industry of applicants with demonstrated interest and skills and to advocate for the entry of TAFE as a provider of rail training.

Resilience



Responsibility: ARA team in consultation with ARTC, Arc Infrastructure and Aurizon

- Continue proactive advocacy with the DITRDCA, Infrastructure Australia and relevant Ministers to secure business case funding for identified national freight network resilience projects.
- Pursue DITRDCA engagement on the supporting policy recommendations in the network resilience submission.

National Interoperability



Responsibility: Expanded Interoperability Working Group including operators, RIMs and relevant supply chain members

- Engage with members to proactively represent industry views to work being progressed by the National Transport Commission and the ACMA on interoperability, chiefly in relation to digital control and signalling systems, and rollingstock access.
- Organise a tailored briefing on the Inland Rail project for RFEC members, to inform a revised ARA position on how to best support the future of the project and develop effective messaging for government engagement to maximise interoperability, productivity and resilience benefits.

Sustainability



Responsibility: ARA Sustainability team

- Review and develop accurate and consistent sustainability messaging.
- Deliver the rollingstock decarbonisation critical path project with the support of the Rollingstock Decarbonisation Working Group and Heavy Haul Decarbonisation Working Group to support the industry's transition to net-zero emissions.