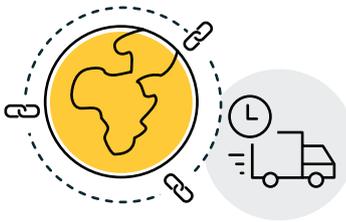


RAIL INNOVATION AND THE POST PANDEMIC OPPORTUNITY

The impact of COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of a strong Australian rail innovation and technology culture. The pandemic impacted global supply chains and continues to affect the rail industry. There is an opportunity now to strengthen our focus on innovation to support more resilient supply chains in the future.



Many businesses in the rail industry source specialist technology, equipment and other products from overseas. Most Australian rail businesses say COVID-19 has impacted global supply chains.

Disruptions

68 per cent of rail businesses experienced international supply chain disruptions

Delays

Rail organisations have reported the delivery of equipment from international suppliers has been delayed

Rising costs

Rail businesses expect higher prices for critical equipment to extend into 2021



The experience of COVID-19 has highlighted the value of a productive and efficient local supply chain. There is an opportunity now to harness manufacturing stimulus measures to establish a stronger focus on innovation and technology in rail.

A more productive rail network

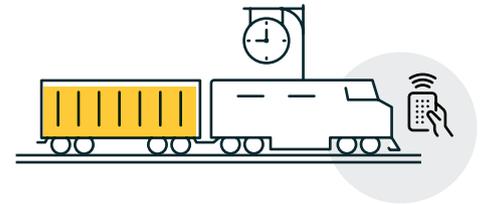
Innovation and technology investment could boost local supply chain efficiency and rail freight productivity

Creating value

Australia's strengths would support the development of a high value, high tech local rail manufacturing sector

Supporting local demand

Rail businesses will need to hold more inventory in a post pandemic world, which is likely to lead to higher demand for local and reliable content



Both rail freight and public transport were identified as essential services during COVID-19. Innovation and technology adoption helped keep these vital services running during the pandemic – and a focus on innovation in the future could build further resilience into the network.

Resilient freight networks, all the time

More efficient supply chains supported by technology and innovation will help the rail freight sector respond to future climate change events

Technology to drive confidence in public transport

During COVID-19, new technology was used to monitor passenger numbers on Sydney train carriages in real time to support social distancing. Investment in innovations like this help keep services operating and support a faster return of passengers to the network.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For further information, please contact ARA General Manager Supply Chain **Natalie Currey** at ncurrey@ara.net.au