

Challenges facing Regional Rail Operators



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Compliance and Regulations

- NSW legislation (rail safety act 2002)
- Rail Safety general regulation 2003
- Australian standard 4292 Rail Safety Management
 - part 1
- National Rail Safety Accreditation Package
- Australian Standard 4360
 - Risk Management 2004
- OH&S Regulation 2001
- Fatigue Management
- National Medical Standards
- Dangerous Good Code
- SSAN to transport ammonium nitrate
 - WorkCover to approve Risk Management Plan to transport AN



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Compliance and Regulations

- Under the new rail safety systems in NSW, operators are required, at a minimum the following prior to modifying operations:
 - 1. Interface Co-ordination Plan
 - 2. Risk Assessment
 - 3. Operating Procedures for that new activity / or modify current procedures
 - 4. Train and brief the relevant staff members in the new operations and procedures



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Compliance and Regulations

- Lack of integration between states and territories
- No Common standard safe working rules and regulations
- National Transport Commission to drive changes and to obtain state and territory agreement
- Audit process by regulators
 - Annual audit process and spot audits
- Level of change within the industry
 - National Accreditation Package
 - AS 4292.1 Safety Management System



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Market Volatility

- Current drought conditions affecting agricultural products
- Other rail operators competing for same agricultural products and volumes
- Identifying new business in non agricultural and weather depending products
- Condition of country rail corridors
 - small axle load locomotives only
 - Lack of funding to maintain regional rail facilities
 - What happens when the drought breaks?



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NSW Track Owners

- No One Stop Shop
- Railcorp
 - Manage network to Nowra, Mcarthur, Lithgow, Newcastle
- ARTC
 - Manage all other parts of the rail network within NSW
- Issues
 - One train two network approvals
 - No coordinated plan track possessions
 - Not commercially focused
 - Slow to implement change to benefit more efficient train operations
 - Political pressures on NSW passenger service
 - Morning and afternoon freight curfews in Sydney region



Employee skills

- Revolving door of train crew
- Shortage of qualified diesel/ electrical fitters
- Regional rail operators can not compete with current salaries offered by the mining industry
- Retention of staff



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Employee skills

- Move to AWA
- More flexible working arrangements
- Better working conditions
 - Annual review of salary
 - Private medical cover
 - Annual leave entitlement on overtime
 - Pay out one week sick leave entitlements per annum accumulation of remainder
 - Welfare fund for employee hardship
 - Introduction of a company share scheme for employees
 - Gym & study allowances
 - Competency base train/amalgamation of skills



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