

# Rail regulator

RAIL REGULATION UNIT

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## Rail builds closer links with communities

Regional councils and territorial local authorities are focused on working for the good of their communities. They are often a starting point for regional services and organisations contemplating working with rail. Rail is component of new sustainable transport solutions aimed at meeting demands for efficient and effective infrastructure throughout New Zealand.

Your Land Transport NZ Rail Regulation Unit administers the regulatory authority of the Railways Act 2005 to ensure:

- continuous safety improvement in rail operations
- improved compliance with approved rail safety cases
- rail participants who are better informed
- a rail regulation framework responsive to modern demands.



New Zealand's rail industry comprises more than 90 licensees, including ONTRACK, Toll New Zealand, Veolia, Heritage and Tourism operators and industrial operators where rail is the transport option of choice.

Rail is a community asset. Many regional councils and territorial authorities are directly engaged in rail through operations that shift freight, and move industrial, timber, coal and, importantly, dairy products within their territory. Passenger operations include the Northerner, the Tranz Alpine and Tranz Coastal Express trains, and commuter trains in Wellington and Auckland where the frequency of rail movements is on the rise. They bring trains through towns and cities across the country.

A number of cities and towns capture the historical heritage of rail to draw visitors and experience New Zealand scenery that cannot be accessed by road. Trains are used to service reservoirs in the Waitakere and Orongorongo Ranges. Power cables in tunnels under Auckland city are serviced by an underground railway. A train is operated by potter Barry Brickell in the Coromandel to get clay for the pots that are kiln-fired and provide a visitor experience.

The Land Transport NZ Rail Regulation Unit plays an important role in keeping rail participants and the rail infrastructure safe through annual assessments of licenced operators. Primary roles of the Rail Regulation Unit include:

- assessing performance
- monitoring and profiling operators
- licensing rail participants
- developing rail safety guidelines and setting standards
- developing a rail regulatory framework
- undertaking rail safety promotion and education.

It is a co-regularity role where licence holders share in the responsibility of maintaining and enhancing the application of regulations and good safety practice into their everyday activities.

Regional councils and territorial authorities have a role to play in working with rail to improve safety, particularly at level crossings, and reduce trespass onto rail tracks.

The Land Transport NZ Rail Regulation Unit will keep you informed about issues facing rail and work with you to ensure your community is protected through education about safety issues.



Rail Regulation Unit team members were on the track at Te Roti near Hawera early on Sunday morning to observe ONTRACK maintenance staff carrying out a sleeper lay to upgrade the Marton–New Plymouth line with pre-stressed concrete sleepers. Watching the laying machine at work were, from right, National Manager Rail Regulation John Oldroyd, Senior Advisor Rail Graeme Hudson and ONTRACK Track Engineer Duncan Neild.

## Working with rail on compliance issues

Rail regulation is an important responsibility that underpins the reputation of New Zealand's railways system. Licensing and assessing processes are rigorous and involve consultation with other agencies, including the Department of Labour.

We work with all rail service providers, including ONTRACK, TOLL and Auckland rail operator Veolia, in a co-regulatory environment.

Our approach is to work closely with our licensed operators and to engage with communities and people who have an interest in rail.

Regional councils and territorial authorities are an important conduit to regional services and organisations contemplating working with rail. They are also key partners in working on rail safety awareness programmes and facilitating traffic flows at level crossings.

There are some 1400 public level crossings within New Zealand and there is a concern at the incidence of rail crossing accidents, among them fatalities. Trespass is another issue that contributes to accidents on rail tracks.



We as rail regulator are careful to assess all the factors that can possibly contribute to a rail accident and endeavour to minimise them through operator systems that comply with standards and regulations developed over many years within rail in New Zealand.

There is an opportunity for a wider responsibility within New Zealand communities to keep rail safe.

We value the input from regional councils and territorial authorities and look forward to working with you in the future.

**John Oldroyd**  
National Manager Rail Regulation

## Land Transport NZ Rail Regulation Team

The Land Transport NZ Rail Regulation Unit is highly experienced in the assessment of the regulations contained in the Railways Act 2005. This background ranges from operator experience within the rail system to government policy analysis.

### Principal Advisor – Rail

#### Merv Harvey

Responsible for quality assessment within the team, Merv has been engaged with rail for more than 30 years and has worked first hand on managing compliance with regulatory issues. This understanding promotes a collegial relationship with participants, allowing the opportunity for enhancing the effectiveness of the regulations in maintaining safety.

### Senior Advisor – Rail

#### Graeme Hudson

Managing regulator liaison with rail licensees and key stakeholders is an important role that is undertaken by Graeme, who has been with railways for 30 years. He has worked in a variety of roles, including managing infrastructure training. He interprets regulatory requirements for operators from a voice of experience and helps new licensees apply the regulations.

### Advisor – Rail

#### Anna Cleary

Building relationships with partner organisations across the community is an important role in spreading the message of rail safety, and Anna has a freshness of approach that encourages innovation in appealing to the public on safety issues. An experienced assessor, Anna enjoys working with her clients to explore how compliance with the regulations can be improved and adapted.

## Contact us

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