

# **Research Program: P4**

## **National Competence Assurance for Train Drivers**

### **Objective:**

This research aims to build a national competence assurance framework that includes both the experience of drivers and those who train and manage them.

### **Project scope:**

The project will look at the following areas:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of current competence assurance practices across a range of settings? For example, what are the implications of the use of in-cab assessors who typically only observe routine drives?
- What features will be necessary in a national competence assurance framework?
- How might such a framework be operationalised in the existing range of contexts?
  - What groundwork needs to be undertaken within companies?
  - What allowances need to be made for size, nature of business etc.?
- What benchmarks should be established to trigger assessment and retraining?
- What support systems (e.g. record keeping) will be required to facilitate these processes?

### **Benefits:**

It is envisaged that the national competence assurance framework would reduce training costs by efficiently targeting existing levels of competence and providing recurrent training only where and when needed, with concomitant increase in performance and safety. The framework would also facilitate transfer of staff between operators avoiding unnecessary and costly retraining where it is not needed.

### **Expected outcomes:**

The expected outcome of this project is a final report and recommendations for the national competence assurance framework.

### **Project timeframe:**

15 months (April 2009 – June 2010)

### **Project Chair:**

Name: Helen Fullarton, Railcorp

Email: [helen.fullarton@railcorp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:helen.fullarton@railcorp.nsw.gov.au)

### **Project Leader:**

Name: Dr Liza O'Moore, University of Queensland

Tel: (07) 3365-3899

Email: [l.omoore@uq.edu.au](mailto:l.omoore@uq.edu.au)