



PRESS RELEASE

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CRC Reports Released: Rail Environmental Regulations Need Improvement and Emissions Trading

The existing environmental regulations that the rail industry faces are in thorough need of improvement, the Cooperative Research Centre for Rail Innovation (Rail CRC) has found.

The research report released today indicates that there is a need for harmonisation in three areas: (1) the structure of environmental legislation (the framework); (2) the administration or regulatory processes; and (3) the actual prescriptive regulations.

The research aims to determine the impact and costs of the current lack of harmonisation with respect to legislation and regulation concerning the environmental performance of the Australian rail sector.

A business case for development of a single national framework for environmental best practice and comprehensive analysis of existing regulations pertaining to rail operations will be developed.

The report, **Environmental Regulations Pertaining to Rail - Towards a case for change Issues Paper**, outlines key questions and concerns in relation to existing environmental regulations in Australia.

It constitutes phase 1 of the Rail CRC's project called **Environmental Regulations Pertaining to Rail: Developing Best Practice**.

The Rail CRC also welcomes the release of the Garnaut Report, including acknowledgement of the desirability of a shift to lower emission modes such as rail and public transport. The Rail CRC is undertaking research into emissions trading as it relates to the rail industry. Its initial report, **Emission Trading: Developing Rail Industry Foresight** released today represent a small part of the \$500,000 Emissions Trading and Climate Research currently being conducted by the Rail CRC.

The report provides a preliminary analysis of emissions trading. It forms the basis of more detailed studies that will test the various models and scenarios identified during the course of this preliminary research.

The report discusses the Stern Review, the major UK report on climate change. It also reviews the EU ETS experience and relevant transport literature, and the emissions trading action in Australia leading up to the recent change of government.

To get a copy of these two Rail CRC reports please visit www.railcrc.net.au

David George (CEO Rail CRC) says “the release of these research reports represent an important early milestone in the \$100m CRC for Rail Innovation research program. They illustrate the broad scope of rail related research being undertaken by the CRC”.

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