



AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION LTD

7 July 2012

Mr Donavon Croucamp  
Director Operational Delivery  
Department of Transport  
Level 6, 121 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Croucamp

**Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) – Future Exercise Periodicity**

As you are aware, ARTC has been subject to annual terrorism exercises under the Terrorism (Community Protection) Act Vic (2003) (The Act). The efforts of Victoria Police and the Department of Transport to support the exercise activity are acknowledged, and ARTC devotes considerable staff effort to planning and conducting the exercises. There have been useful learnings from the exercises; not only for our Victoria based staff, but also for staff in NSW and South Australia. ARTC is appreciative that the Victorian Government is prepared to devote funding to such training outside Victoria on a regular basis.

ARTC is also aware that the Act is due for review in 2013, and we have been assessing the balance between the cost of compliance and the benefit of the learnings. ARTC's view is that the learnings have a persistence of greater than a year; hence the benefit level could be maintained by conducting the exercise every two or more years. Such a change would double the benefit to cost ratio, whilst maintaining the confidence of the Department of Transport in the readiness of ARTC to respond to any real threats that may emerge. ARTC also notes that other rail infrastructure managers in Victoria exercise each year in accordance with the Act, and ARTC becomes involved at points of interface relevant to their exercises. Rail is thus being exercised to a significant degree, and could potentially have each of the rail infrastructure managers exercised on a rotation basis. The recently issued "Land Freight Transport Infrastructure Risk Context Statement" from the Australian Department of Infrastructure and Transport indicates the relative attractiveness or otherwise of the metropolitan rail network to an attack versus the interstate rail network, and ARTC is guided by this.

In the natural disaster space, ARTC periodically has to deal with floods, fires and track blockages (derailments, landslides, falling trees, stray animal strikes and the like), We are in a constant state of preparedness, and regularly liaise with emergency services and specialist contractors as they need to enter the rail corridor to deal with some of these matters. Based on the foregoing, ARTC does not believe that additional learnings would accrue from the conduct of likely scenario natural disaster exercises.

ARTC seeks your views as to whether the Department of Transport would support the terrorism exercise periodicity for ARTC being extended from one to two or more years for the reasons outlined above. ARTC would be pleased to discuss these matters at your convenience, and please direct any queries to the undersigned in the first instance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. N. Campbell', is written over the typed name.

Phillip Campbell  
General Manager Technical Standards and Environment