

Rail Safety Regulation

Resourcing for the NZTA rail safety regulatory function

- NZTA as the rail regulator has an expanding role in this high-hazard transport sector, which faces the risk of high consequence (multiple fatality) low probability events.
- The scale of continued change and investment in rail has considerably increased the risk profile of rail with more risk of interface issues on the rail networks and competing demands between freight and passenger rail services.
- The changing risk profile has resulted in increasing demand from the rail sector for stronger regulatory oversight. While there has been some increased investment in the NZTA rail regulatory function to support this, this has not been commensurate to the scale of additional rail investment.
- Without a commensurate investment in the NZTA rail regulatory function, our ability to regulate system integration and address safety risks will be compromised, increasing safety risks for rail participants, staff, passengers, and the public.
- NZTA will soon commence a review of its rail regulatory function to assess exactly what funding it needs to carry out its rail regulatory oversight duties fully and effectively. This will support a case for securing sustainable funding the rail regulatory function (for example for a rail funding and fees review, consultation and Cabinet engagement).

out of scope

[Redacted content]

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