

# Confidential Safety Information Reporting Scheme

## **Condition of rail bridge**

A report from an employee of Sydney Trains was received about the condition of the rail bridge over the Camden Valley Way at Leppington.

*The speed on that bit of track is 115 km/h. But since last week the speed over a section of the track has been reduced to 60 km/h in both directions due to fatigue related issues to the infrastructure. I am very concerned about my safety and the safety of our loyal customers who travel over that track in our trains every day.*

## **CSIRS Requirement**

As part of the OTSI investigation, a Safety Valve Notification (SVN) was issued to Sydney Trains asking them to address these concerns and provide OTSI with the results of its findings and any remedial safety actions deemed necessary.

## **Investigation outcome**

Sydney Trains advised that they had investigated the claim made by the reporter and they provided details of their investigation. An extract of this response follows.

The speed restrictions were applied after cracks were noted in the surface of the cess near a rail overbridge abutment. Detailed geotechnical reviews were undertaken by the constructor of the South West Rail Link. These reviews indicated that there was 'no indication to suggest there was global instability in the four and six foot'. And that it is 'highly unlikely that here is a global stability issue with the existing embankment that will have a direct impact on the performance of the tracks'.

The NSW branch of the ONRSR was informed of the issue and one of their technical specialists attended the location along with representatives from Sydney Trains, the constructor and Transport for NSW. Rather than an example of safety being compromised as suggested by the reporter Sydney Trains suggests that the safety of rail operations has always been the priority during management of this matter.

## **OTSI Action**

The outcomes of the inquiries made by both OTSI and Sydney Trains have been recorded in the OTSI Safety Investigation Database for future review and trend analysis. OTSI has advised the reporter of the response and actions provided by Sydney Trains.