

Confidential Safety Information Reporting Scheme



Security fence integrity

It was reported that there was a hole in the fence near the freight line pedestrian underpass at Lewis Street, Yagoona. This hole had been reported some 18 to 24 months earlier, yet it has not been repaired.

In addition, it was reported that there is a gate near the pedestrian underpass at Yagoona that has not been padlocked for a number of weeks.

CSIRS Requirement

The Office of Transport Safety Investigation (OTSI) sought verification of the claims from the infrastructure operator, as well as specific comment about the mechanisms within the operator's safety management system to maintain the integrity of security fencing and gates.

Investigation outcome

The reported defects were confirmed by the operator and were repaired on 18 June 2004.

Investigation of the site found that the hole and unchained gate could not be seen from the track. As a result, track patrols were unable to identify these defects.

The operator advised that its technical maintenance plan requires that track patrols be carried out twice weekly. Three monthly detailed walking inspections and ad hoc maintenance visits are designed to identify those defects which remain undetected by track patrols.

A public complaint system called 'Your Say Line' had received similar reports in August 1999 and January 2001, regarding the fence at the same location near Lewis Street. Repairs were effected on both occasions.

Safety Action

In addition to repairs and rectifications already made, the infrastructure operator has undertaken to conduct a review of the inspection regime for boundary fencing by its engineering division.

In the meantime, the Lewis Street site has been noted for regular inspection attention.

OTSI Action

OTSI has advised the reporter of the responses, actions and plans provided by the responsible operator.

The Transport Safety Regulation division of the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator has been advised of this and previous incidents so that it can monitor the effectiveness of the Safety Actions undertaken and proposed by the operator.

This incident and outcomes of the inquiries made by both OTSI and the responsible operator have been recorded in the OTSI's Safety Investigations' Database for future review and safety trend analysis.