

Radio communications at Fassifern

It was reported that Fassifern station only has a 'base radio' to provide warnings of malfunctions, such as signal failures, to train crew.

When such events occur, the reporter will try to contact the crew of approaching trains but this is not always possible. At Fassifern, there is no MetroNet system available to communicate with crews. The reporter has been given indication that MetroNet will be installed but it seems to be a prolonged exercise and been given low priority.

CSIRS Requirement

The Office of Transport Safety Investigation (OTSI) sought verification of the claims from the infrastructure operator.

Operator Response

The infrastructure operator investigated the claims and advised that a review of locations without MetroNet Train Radio (MTR) was completed in March 2004. The review considered current and future requirements. The review identified Fassifern, along with Bondi and Rhodes, as priority locations for installation of the MTR system.

Safety Action

The infrastructure operator will have completed an implementation program for the rollout of MTR at other locations by early September 2004.

By late November 2004, the infrastructure operator will have installed the MTR system at Fassifern.

OTSI Action

OTSI has advised the reporter of the response, 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 report so that it can monitor the effectiveness of Safety Actions undertaken and proposed by the operator.

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