

Confidential Safety Information Reporting Scheme



Tree in Rail Corridor

A report was made that there were trespassers on motorcycles in the rail corridor who were riding onto the ballast shoulder in order to get around a large tree that was encroaching in the corridor. In one incident a group of motorcycle riders were in the corridor and a train driver had to make an emergency brake application to avoid a collision. The matter was reported to rail infrastructure managers but according to the reporter no action had been taken.

CSIRS Requirement

As part of the OTSI investigation it was established that the tree in the rail corridor was causing access and sighting problems. RailCorp was contacted and requested to investigate the problem and take action in regard to access to the rail corridor and any obstruction adjacent to the tracks.

Investigation outcome

RailCorp undertook an investigation of the area which found that the concerns raised by the employee were valid in relation to an obstruction in the rail corridor and as a result the tree was removed. In order to stop trespassers entering the rail corridor the fencing in immediate vicinity was checked and the fencing was repaired to exclude non-authorised personnel in the rail corridor.

OTSI Action

A copy of this summary report has been passed to the Transport Safety Regulation division of the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator. OTSI has also advised the reporter of the response and actions provided by the responsible operator.

This report and the associated response will be retained by the Office of Transport Safety Investigation for future safety trend analysis.