



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

# SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 14



Issued: 29<sup>th</sup>. May 2006

## AUTOMATIC SIGNAL PASSED AT DANGER

### Incident:

On the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006 4MB4, a Pacific National Intermodal Train, passed an Automatic Signal at stop in the Goulburn to Fish River Section. The signal turned to stop when the train was approximately 30 meters from the signal. The driver was not able to stop the train before entering the section and as a consequence the signal was passed at danger.

### Investigation findings:

The down main from Goulburn to Fish River was closed for an advertised possession, the Protection Officer obtained a Track Work Authority for the up main to provide adjacent line protection for his worksite. As 4MB4 approached the automatic signal some distance from the worksite an excavator, within the worksite, was permitted to cross the up track. As the excavator travelled it contacted both the up and down rails at the same time turning the automatic signal in front of the train to stop.

### Contributing Factors:

- The Protection Officer failed to identify the impact of the worksite on automatic signals beyond the limits of the protection.
- No safeguards or supervision of the excavator movement caused the contact with both rails turning the automatic signal to stop.

### Action Required:

When plant, equipment or work practices that have the potential to affect track circuits are identified by the Protection Officer they must be included in the Pework Briefing session prior to work commencing.