



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

# SAFETY ALERT

**ARTC NSW No.67**



**Issued 25/10/2013**

## **Planning Work in the Rail Corridor and Lookout Working**

### **Background**

A recent near miss safeworking incident occurred, where the boom of an excavator entered the danger zone whilst a train was approaching and a track gang were undertaking preparation works for the installation of sleepers using the Work on Track Rule Lookout Working. Investigations into the incident identified several contributing factors relating to planning work in the rail corridor and management of the worksite.

### **Discussion of the Incident**

Whilst the use of Lookout Working was sufficient for the preparation works of removing track jewellery on sleepers with hand tools was adequate, the introduction of an excavator to unload sleepers with potential to swing into the danger zone was not. Whilst this incident was caused by a genuine desire to get the job done and save time, all personnel are reminded that SAFETY is paramount and work should not be undertaken unless it is commensurate with ARTC rules. All site personnel have a responsibility for safety and should they feel that safety has been compromised or work undertaken is not in line with ARTC rules and procedures they are to bring it to the attention of the Protection Officer or Workgroup Supervisor immediately. All personnel are reminded of the following rules:

### **Planning Work in the Rail Corridor using ANWT 300**

Work planned for the Rail Corridor must be assessed for safety and its potential to intrude on the Danger Zone.

When making a safety assessment, Protection Officers must consider, amongst other factors, if;

- the work on track method of protection selected is appropriate for the work
- appropriate numbers of Qualified Workers are available to protect the work
- equipment used in the work will intrude into the Danger Zone
- the level of noise from equipment and rail traffic will be excessive
- rail traffic can approach from any direction.

The level of safety must not be reduced:

- to allow train and track vehicle movements, or
- because of a lack of trained workers.

A Protection Officers primary duty is to keep the worksite and workers safe.

The Protection Officer must be satisfied other work will not interfere with protection duties.

### **Lookout Working using ANWT 310**

When work is being performed using Lookout Working, only light, non-powered hand tools may be used. The use of powered tools/machinery is forbidden due to the fact that the noise level will reduce the ability of the lookout hear oncoming trains.

Work Group Supervisors when undertaking the role of Protection Officer must make sure that other work will not interfere with protection duties.

Lookout must not do any other work when undertaking lookout duties.