

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 38/19
Ref: ATSB Report
06/03/2019

ATSB Investigation and Report – Signal ME45

Dear members,

At the end of last month an interim report completed by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) was published in relation to a near miss SPAD at Bowen Hills in January 2018.

Engineering controls have been implemented to upgrade the visual of signal ME45 including that the stopping mark on platform 2 at Bowen Hills be relocated to enable drivers to have a better view of ME45 when stationary and upgrading ME45 signal to LED lighting.

The interim report investigated all aspects of the incident including driver competencies and MOC's (Maintenance of Competencies). The investigation and following media releases casted doubt on the MOC process. The report states *"It should be noted that the ATSB is not stating that QR's Citytrain drivers are not competent; rather, the application of the process for assessing competency has significant limitations"*.

Once again, the ATSB at no time have indicated that traincrew are not competent, contrary to what could be eluded to in todays Courier Mail. Rather, that there may be issues with the process of a delivering a MOC.

Representatives of the AFULE have been meeting for some time with QR management to review the current MOC procedure. It is important to note that a MOC is not an examination but rather a process or tool to revise your competencies and an opportunity to refresh your knowledge and assess what gaps need to be addressed within that forum.

The AFULE is dedicated to continue discussions with QR and in fact all rail operators to assist the effective delivery of MOC's for our members.

Please contact your state office on 3844 9163 or statesecretary@afule.org.au for further information.

In Solidarity,

Michael McKittrick
State Secretary

Traincrew representing Traincrew