

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NEW DIGITAL TRAIN RADIO NETWORK DELIVERS ON WATERFALL INQUIRY**

RailCorp will begin a critical safety program in Sutherland to upgrade the train radio system in line with recommendations of the Waterfall train accident inquiry.

A new Digital Train Radio System (DTRS) will be installed, replacing the old analogue radios.

The new radio system will allow train drivers, train controllers, signallers and train guards on the RailCorp network to communicate with each other using the same system – fulfilling recommendation 38 of the Waterfall inquiry.

The new radio system will make the rail network safer for passengers and workers on CityRail, CountryLink and freight services.

New communications masts will be erected by the rail line to allow the DTRS to operate, starting with six sites between Sutherland and Goomera Ridge, just south of Waterfall.

The 2011/12 State Budget has allocated \$50 million for the DTRS project. RailCorp has engaged UGL Infrastructure Pty Ltd to design, construct and maintain the new radio network.

Project Manager, Tony Cunningham, said RailCorp will speak to residents in the area over the next three weeks about potential impacts during installation of the masts, as well asking for community feedback on draft Reviews of Environmental Factors which have been prepared for each of the six sites.

“The first masts will be installed by the rail line at Loftus, Heathcote, Waterfall and Goomera Ridge. In some areas we will need to install new radio masts and in others, such as at Sutherland and Engadine, we can simply add the new technology to existing structures,” Mr Cunningham said.

“Masts will be between 10 and 30 metres tall, with most around 20 metres tall, and will include a concrete base and some equipment cabinets.

“Unlike mobile phone towers which broadcast their signals in all directions, the DTRS masts will broadcast signals along the rail lines to ensure trains receive the right information from controllers.

“This is an important project to make our railways safer. Following the roll out of Digital Train Radio between Sutherland and Goomera Ridge, we will continue

installation across all electrified areas of the metropolitan and outer metropolitan network,” Mr Cunningham said.

For more information about the first six sites, or to view the draft Review of Environmental Factors for each site, visit [www.railcorp.info](http://www.railcorp.info)

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