

Projects

Implementation of Rolling Stock Approval Reforms

Transforming rolling stock approvals to improve interoperability across Australia's rail network.



LOCATION

Victoria

CLIENT

National Transport Commission

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Background

NineSquared is leading a major reform program led on behalf of the National Transport Commission (NTC), focused on addressing inefficiencies and inconsistencies in rolling stock approval processes across Australia.

Historically, fragmented regulatory requirements and differing approval processes across jurisdictions have created barriers to interoperability, increased costs and complexity for operators, and limited the efficiency of the national rail network. These challenges have been particularly significant for operators seeking to deploy rolling stock across multiple networks, where variations in testing requirements, approval processes and safety assurance expectations have constrained productivity and innovation.

As part of the [National Rail Action Plan](#), the NTC identified [rolling stock approval reform](#) as a priority initiative to support a more integrated, competitive and modern rail system. The objective of the program is to streamline approval processes, improve consistency across jurisdictions, and enhance confidence in safety assurance while maintaining rigorous regulatory standards.

Our role

NineSquared is engaged to lead a multi-disciplinary team delivering this reform program. The engagement centres on designing and implementing practical reforms to support a nationally consistent approach to rolling stock approvals.

A key component of the program is the pilot of a single, national application process for registering rolling stock operating on the National Network of Interoperability (NNI). This pilot aims to test whether a streamlined process can reduce duplication, improve transparency, and deliver efficiencies for both industry and regulators.

The team has also been responsible for investigating opportunities to harmonise [testing requirements](#) and locations, ensuring that rolling stock can be assessed consistently across jurisdictions.

Complementing this work, NineSquared is supporting the development of guidance on safety assurance, supporting a clearer and more consistent articulation of requirements across the approval lifecycle.

Through targeted stakeholder engagement with government agencies, regulators and industry participants, the program is aligning diverse perspectives and building consensus on reform pathways. The outcomes of this work are contributing to one of five priority National Rail Action Plan initiatives, delivering tangible progress toward improved interoperability, enhanced productivity and a more cohesive national rail system.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, find one of our experts at ninesquared.com.au/people