



FOOTPLATE

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH / LOCOMOTIVE DIVISION

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LONG-TERM SOLUTION REQUIRED FOR EPPING TUNNEL LIGHTS

Please find below the press release issued today regarding the lighting (strobing) problem in the Epping tunnel.

"Train drivers today called on RailCorp to urgently fix the strobing lights problem in the Epping-Chatswood tunnel.

Allan Barden, Passenger Organiser for the RTBU's Locomotive Division, also called on RailCorp to guarantee drivers would not suffer any long-term effects from the strobing in the tunnel.

"Drivers first noticed this problem shortly after the opening of the line," Mr Barden said.

"Since then, around a dozen drivers have complained of headaches, nausea, fatigue and dizziness.

"After consultation with the union's OH&S committee, RailCorp put in place an interim measure to limit the number of runs that drivers perform through the tunnel.

"Drivers are currently doing no more than two runs through the tunnel before taking a break.

"In the long-term, this solution is not good enough.

"We need to see a genuine solution that eliminates the effects of the strobing on drivers, and potentially passengers."

Mr Barden said drivers were demanding RailCorp provide medical advice on the short and long-term effects of the strobing.

"The health of drivers must be protected – not just for the drivers themselves, but for the long-term safety and operation of the entire network."

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