

**Sent:** 19 December 2000 14:49

**From:** Geoff Tighe [

**Sent:** 19 December 2000 2:51 PM

**To:** National Access Regime Inquiry

Great Northern Rail Services Pty Ltd wish to make a submission to the Inquiry.

We support a National Access Regime Our (very small) Company provides a range of services to the rail industry in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia on both the Broad Gauge and the Standard Gauge tracks.

Perhaps our Company is unique in that each and every day we deal with all the Track Operators in the South-East corner of the continent.

No other operator in the nation has the situation where its drivers may be regularly faced with travelling over the track of two separate metropolitan franchisee operators, the broad gauge track managed by Freight Australia and the standard gauge track operated by ARTC.

Our concern is that the industry should make itself available to serve the nation's commercial interests in the most efficient and effective way possible. Simplicity should be the touchstone.

We are concerned that there are emerging signs that "facility owners" will make access difficult and/or more expensive than imagined. We believe that the cost of access will rise substantially as foreign-owned organisations fight to survive in an environment of low margins and falling exchange rates with the American dollar.

From our shallow understanding of the National Access Regime, we are concerned that insufficient attention is given to other related aspects of operation - specifically, public safety and greater consistency in the practical application of rules, procedures and policy amongst the States.

Geoff Tighe  
Chief Executive  
Great Northern Rail