



# Gladys Berejiklian MP

Minister for Transport

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NSW TO HOLD FIRM ON TRAIN DRIVER FATIGUE AND DRUG TESTING STANDARDS**

Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian today reaffirmed the NSW Government's view that fatigue management and drug and alcohol testing requirements for train drivers in NSW must not be relaxed when the National Rail Safety Regulator is established in January 2013.

Ms Berejiklian will meet with state and federal transport ministers in South Australia tomorrow as part of the Standing Council on Transport and Infrastructure.

Along with other jurisdictions, NSW has signed the agreement to implement the National Rail Safety Law to standardise rail safety regulation across Australia. However the members of the Standing Council will consider national rules for fatigue management and drug testing at this week's meeting.

**"NSW supports the establishment of the National Rail Safety Regulator and its aims to cut regulatory red tape and provide a consistent national approach, however we will not allow the compromising of safety outcomes around fatigue and drug testing in NSW."**

NSW has some of the strongest fatigue management requirements in Australia, designed to protect passengers from the risks caused by train drivers whose ability and judgement may be impaired by a lack of rest.

Similarly, NSW standards are very high in regard to drug and alcohol testing. The NSW law requires 25 per cent of rail safety workers to be subject to urine, breath or oral drug testing and positive results to be reported for investigation and possible prosecution.

"The NSW approach has been in operation for a number of years, has worked well in what is the busiest part of the Australian rail network and is consistent with approaches to fatigue management in the USA and Europe," Ms Berejiklian said.

**"The NSW Government will be taking the necessary steps to ensure the state's current strong fatigue management and drug testing standards remain in place in this state."**

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