



Response to State of Queensland application for Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) exemption - New Generation Rollingstock (NGR)

To whom it may concern,

From the outset I declare my involvement in this matter has been extensive both in an official capacity as a Queensland Rail Accessibility Reference Group (ARG) member and that as Director of Inclusion Moves that has acted as media and governmental relations adviser to the ARG.

I and through me Inclusion Moves **fully endorses the work and submission of the ARG**. Especially with respect to the recommendation to not grant an exemption in this case “the ARG does not support the granting of any temporary exemptions.’

The exemplary work of the ARG steps through a number of reasons for this recommendation which I fully endorse and employ the AHRC to avail themselves of.

Only a full inquiry into the NGR procurement process will bring to light the mistakes made during the early days of the project however even taking that issue off the table given the longevity of time since members of the ARG pointed out to the government of the day that there were issues of disability compliance and functionality (August 2015) there can be absolutely no recourse to continue on unabated to the situation we have before us today.

The State of Queensland has been reticent in the extreme with its dealing with the disability sector. Leaving the sector with absolutely no surety that proposed rectification plans will be enacted. The very fact they were released prior to sign off and detailed engineering examination by the train manufacturer shows this government to be more interested in media optics rather than delivery of human rights for people with disability in Queensland.

With recent endeavours by Queensland Rail to put as of today 5 NGR trains on the track in their non compliant fashion they simply can't be taken seriously in terms of good social citizens. Observation officers have been placed within the vestibule area of the NGR trains operating in this author's view to ensure no issues of poor customer service or discrimination pop up prior to submissions closing today. I should mention it is the author's belief that these observers cease operation post closing date for submissions. Simply not a coincidence.

So in summary the AHRC hold the rights of people with disability in Queensland in their hands. They must send a clear message to the State of Queensland that this stalling, denial of problems and last minute desperation for exemption is not what the AHRC considers to be within the spirit of the DDA and therefore must be outright rejected. Not just for NGR sake but to ensure no further government attempts to use the same ploy to deny people with disability their human rights to inclusion as citizens.

Contact: - Geoff Trappett OAM - Phone: [REDACTED]

Twitter: [@inclusionmoves](https://twitter.com/inclusionmoves) - Website: www.inclusionmoves.com.au