Safety in design and behaviour go hand in hand

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Commuters in Sydney were delighted when the much-anticipated Sydney Metro Northwest, Australia’s biggest public transport project, opened its doors to the public in May this year.

“The Sydney Metro Northwest is Australia’s most advanced railway system – and that extends to safety as well,” says Ray Murphy, SMEC National Manager Rail.

As part of the team responsible for designing much of the railway and supporting infrastructure, Ray says that safety in rail goes beyond site safety.

“As engineers and designers, it is our job to create railway systems that are both safe and efficient.”

Some of the safety design features included in the Sydney Metro Northwest include improved CCTV surveillance, platform screen doors, platforms level with train floors, and minimal gaps between platforms and trains.

With Rail Safety Week 2019 kicking off today, Ray says that safety in both design and behavior go hand in hand.

“It is important that everyone take the time to learn about staying safe on our trains. Rail Safety Week is a good reminder that rail safety is everyone’s responsibility.”

Ray added that as technology continues to change at a rapid rate, so too will engineers’ ability to design more advanced safety features on future projects.

“When it comes to what we will be able to do in the future, the possibilities seem endless.
“But it is always important to remember that technology and design only work when users, the community, take the time to understand their environment and act safely,” he said.

Rail Safety Week is an annual community awareness week held in Australia and New Zealand designed to engage the community in safe rail practices.

Through the Rail Safety Week, the TRACKsafe Foundation aims to create a heightened awareness of the importance of rail safety.

Up to 85 rail, police and government organisations from across Australia and New Zealand participate in Rail Safety Week.

About SMEC:

SMEC is a global engineering, management and development consultancy delivering technical excellence and specialist solutions to our clients, partners and communities. In 2016 SMEC joined the Surbana Jurong Group, which is headquartered in Singapore and has a global workforce of 16,000 employees across 120 offices in more than 40 countries in Asia, Australia, UK, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas.