



PRESS RELEASE

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Enough is Enough: Level Crossing Fatalities Must Stop

The level crossing accident on Saturday 10 March is the fourth major accident in the last twelve months involving heavy vehicles.

The unnecessary tragic loss of lives would be preventable if road users obeyed the road rules while using the crossings. Furthermore, the derailment of locomotives and train carriages causes significant network delays and damages in excess of tens of millions of dollars every time.

Even though railway level crossing accidents are of low frequency when compared to road accidents, they have the potential to cause catastrophic damage.

“Do we have to wait until there is a collision between a heavy vehicle and a passenger train causing multiple fatalities before we get road authorities to take the matter seriously?” asked Mr Bryan Nye, Chief Executive Officer of the Australasian Railway Association (ARA).

“It is now time for Governments and those responsible for level crossing safety, such as enforcement agencies and road safety authorities to consider this problem as one of their priorities and take positive steps to solve it.” continued Mr Nye.

“Police and road traffic authorities around the country need to stop showing a blatant disregard for the issue of railway level crossing safety. These people need to step up and show they care by taking action.” Mr Nye said. It is also time for the trucking industry to start educating their drivers of the danger of illegal driving behaviour at level crossings.

“The rail industry is taking active steps in reducing the risk, decreasing the number of accidents and promoting safety at railway level crossings,” said Mr Nye. “Our goal is to have zero accidents at crossings, and we are working diligently to achieve this goal.”

Trains cannot stop quickly and cannot get out of the way to avoid vehicles. It is the time this message is made perfectly clear by the Road Safety Authorities to all drivers before we face a calamity.

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