



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



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SHARING THE ROAD SAFELY ... WITH TRAINS

A collaboration between the Australian Trucking Association (ATA) and the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) is set to deliver important safety messages about level crossings to school students across the country.

A new display on the importance of level crossing safety has been introduced to the ATA's travelling exhibition trailer, *The Road Ahead*.

The Road Ahead is a state-of-the-art semitrailer filled with interactive displays about road safety and the trucking industry. The exhibition centre travels to schools, colleges and shows around Australia and was funded by the trucking industry and its suppliers.

The level crossing display uses animations to educate visitors about the correct behaviour required by all road users at level crossings. For example, to avoid bicycle wheels getting stuck in railway tracks at level crossings, cyclists should always dismount and push their bicycles across the tracks.

The level crossing safety animations are supported by a static panel that shows the stopping distances of vehicles and trains to illustrate that trains cannot stop quickly as other vehicles.

ATA Chairman, Trevor Martyn said the display built on the ATA's long term message of sharing the road safely.

"While the focus of the exhibition has always been on sharing the road with trucks, at level crossings it's also important to share the road with trains," Mr Martyn said.

"Trains simply can't stop as easily as cars and trucks. For example, a fully loaded goods train can take up to one kilometre to stop. That's why it is important that all road traffic is cautious around level crossings and stop when necessary, or directed to do so."

The RISSB's parent body, the Australasian Railway Association's Chief Executive Officer, Bryan Nye, said school students will be the next drivers on our roads, so it is crucial that they are aware of and understand the correct behaviour required at level crossings.

"As the next drivers to be on our roads, we value the opportunity to educate students in level crossing safety" Mr Nye said

"Level crossing safety is the rail industry's highest safety priority, so we are encouraged to have the trucking industry's support of the cause and appreciate the opportunity to work together," Mr Nye said.

The launch of the display has been timed to coincide with National Rail Safety Week, which runs throughout Australia and New Zealand from today through to 31 July with the theme 'all level crossing collisions are avoidable'.

More information about The Road Ahead is available at www.atatruck.net.au/mobile. More information on National Rail Safety Week is available at www.ara.net.au/site/nrsw.

Media contacts:

ATA

Bill McKinley

02 6253 6900 / 0488 292 823

ARA/RISSB

Bryan Nye

02 6270 4501 / 0400 007 951