

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## TRUCKING OPERATORS URGED TO REMIND DRIVERS ABOUT LEVEL CROSSING SAFETY

With National Rail Safety Week beginning today, the Australian Trucking Association is calling on all trucking operators to remind their drivers about the importance of level crossing safety.

The theme of this year's National Rail Safety Week (which runs until 31 July) is 'all level crossing collisions are avoidable' and ATA Chairman, Trevor Martyn, said truck drivers must be aware of their responsibilities when going over crossings.

"On average there are 100 accidents at level crossings each year, which results in an average of 37 deaths. These accidents could easily be avoided if every road user, whether they are truck or car drivers, cyclists or pedestrians, give level crossings the respect they deserve," Mr Martyn said.

"That's why we are asking trucking operators to use this week to make sure all their drivers are aware of the rules when approaching level crossings."

The ATA recommends that truck operators:

- remind drivers of the importance of stopping at level crossings. Many accidents at level crossings occur because drivers have driven the route hundreds of times and relaxed their vigilance;
- encourage drivers to 'stop, look, listen and think' when approaching passive level crossings; and
- make sure drivers, when using private and farm crossings (which are often gated), do not park on the lines to open or close the gate.

Mr Martyn said the ATA welcomed the support shown by the Australian Government for improving level crossing safety.

"The Government is upgrading 284 level crossings across Australia at a cost of \$150 million," Mr Martyn said.

"Parliament also recently conducted an inquiry into rail safety, where the ATA made a few simple suggestions that could dramatically reduce the risk of accidents at level crossings.

"Ideas like cut-in radio warning systems or ensuring a clear line of sight at level crossings have the potential to make crossings safer, at very little cost to the community."

To further promote level crossing safety, the ATA, together with the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB), have developed a display on the dangers of level crossings. It has been installed in the ATA's travelling road safety exhibition, *The Road Ahead*.

The Road Ahead visits schools, communities and events across the country, providing simple advice about sharing the road safely with trucks – and now trains - to young people who will soon be behind the wheel.

For more information on National Rail Safety Week visit [www.ara.net.au/site/nrsw](http://www.ara.net.au/site/nrsw).

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***National Voice of the Australian Trucking Industry***