

26 MARCH 2013

---

## Train driver's 'Top Ten List' of worst level crossings released

In an Australian first, rail safety organisation TrackSAFE has today announced the top ten worst level crossings in each state, from the perspective of train drivers.

TrackSAFE has written to State and Federal Transport Ministers across the country, urging increased funding for the upgrade of these dangerous level crossings.

"It is the train drivers who go over the same stretch of track day in, day out, over many years who know where the most risky level crossings are", TrackSAFE Director and Australasian Railway Association (ARA) CEO Mr Bryan Nye said.

There are around 70 collisions annually at level crossings where road users fail to obey the road rules and 35 deaths every year resulting from level crossing and trespass incidents.

TrackSAFE notes that these level crossings do not take the place of those determined by each state though their dedicated committees.

"State level crossing committees perform an incredibly important role, and have prioritised lists of level crossings that need to be upgraded", Mr Nye said.

"TrackSAFE involvement comes from wanting to keep pressure on the issue and allow train drivers to inform the debate" Mr Nye continued.

"Most train drivers will witness a fatality, incident or near collision on the network in the course of their careers, too many will never be able to return to work", Bob Nanva, TrackSAFE board member and National Secretary of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union said.

Train drivers suffer profound and lasting trauma as a result of being exposed to incidents on the network.

"Approaching level crossings can be a significant source of anxiety for drivers who have witnessed countless near collisions at them. The more promptly risky level crossings are upgraded, the sooner drivers will feel safer at work", Mr Nye said.

"The best way of avoiding crashes between cars and trains is to get rid of level crossings. Governments must commit to prioritising the replacement of level crossing with bridges or underpasses on busy roads," TrackSAFE Board member and Australian Automobile Association Executive Director, Andrew McKellar said.

TrackSAFE was established to endeavour to reduce incidents on the rail network, and to provide world's best practice support to rail employees.

"Train drivers have important knowledge on this issue which must inform the discussion. There are thousands of near collisions at level crossings each year; each one of these is just seconds away from becoming potentially catastrophic", Mr Nye continued.

"Level crossing upgrades must remain on the political agenda for the good of our rail employees and the greater public", Mr Nye concluded.

*-TOP TEN LISTS OVERPAGE-*

---

### Media Contact

Bart Mellish  
+61 2 6270 4530  
+61 4 0788 1290  
bmellish@ara.net.au  
www.ara.net.au

Attachment One

**TOP TEN WORST LEVEL CROSSINGS BY STATE FROM TRAIN DRIVER'S PERSPECTIVES**

<b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b>	<b>VICTORIA</b>
Tynan Rd, Table Top Taylors Rd, Culcairn Benambra Rd, Culcairn Hermitage Road level crossing, Belford Sheepwash Rd, Calwalla, Glenquarry Lake Bathurst level crossing (near Canberra) Cemetery Lane, Singleton Old Port Rd, Port Kembla  Station Lane, Lochinvar Glennies Creek Rd, Glennies Creek	Cherry Street, Werribee Grange Rd, Carnegie Main Rd, St Albans South Gippsland Hwy, Dandenong South Aerodrome Road, Avenel Ashby Street, Trafalgar Fitzgerald Road, Ardeer Dock Link Rd, West Melbourne Grahamvale Rd and Northey Rd level crossing, Shepparton Eighth St level crossing, Mildura
<b>QUEENSLAND</b>	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>
Ardurad Road, Blackwater Normanby Street, Dingo Aerodrome Road, Mundoo Station Rd, Bethania Boundary Rd, Coopers Plains Beaudesert Rd, Rocklea South Pine Rd, Alderley Auckland St, Gladstone Malchi Rd, Gracemere Braeside Rd, Oxford	Pym Street, Dudley Park Railway Terrace, Coonalpyn Main North Rd, Winninowie Port Flinders Causeway, Port Pirie Monteith level crossing, West Taillem Bend Barrier Hwy, Ucolta Park Terrace, Bowden Park Terrace, Salisbury South Road, Croydon Torrens Road, Ovingham
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>TASMANIA</b>
Mclver level crossing, Perth Prinsep Street, Collie  Henty Road, Burekup  Mason Road, Kwinana Dorothy St, Gosnells Nicholson Road, Canning Vale Yarri Rd level crossing at Kalgoorlie, Parkeston  Mint St/ Archer St, Carlisle  Queens Park Stn North, Queens Park Oats Street level crossing	Midlands Highway, Conara Elwick Rd - near KGV Ave roundabout, Glenorchy Grove Rd - between Innes St and McKay Ave, Glenorchy Riverway Rd - between Main Rd and Herbert St, Glenorchy Wilmores Lane - off Bishopbourne Rd, Toiberry Mole Creek Rd - intersection Lemana Rd, Lemana Jct William St - intersection James St, Devonport Reiby St - near Alexandra Rd roundabout, East Ulverstone Derwent Park Rd - between Main Rd and Sunderland St, Derwent Park Esk Main Rd, Ormley

**Media Contact**

Bart Mellish  
+61 2 6270 4530  
+61 4 0788 1290  
bmellish@ara.net.au  
www.ara.net.au