

Rail Safety Week (24-31 July 2009)

About Rail Safety Week 2009

Established in 2006, National Rail Safety Week (NRSW) is an Australasian Railway Association (ARA) initiative aimed at increasing community awareness about rail safety and improving behaviour at and around railways.

The week enables QR and other Australian rail providers to positively promote safe road user behaviour at level crossings to in their local communities whilst lending itself to other areas of rail safety, including trespassing, vandalism, platform safety, security and passenger safety.

Level Crossing Collision Facts

Across the QR network there have been:

- Six collisions at level crossings this year.
- An average 17 collisions a year between road users and trains at rail level crossings.
- There have been more than 200 near misses between vehicles and trains at Queensland's level crossings this year. (This includes sounding the train horn, applying the brakes and applying the emergency brakes.)
- There have been 96 collisions with QR infrastructure at level crossings this year (boom gates, signage etc).
- In the past five years (to December 2008) there were 800 level crossing boom gates broken.
- There were 53 broken boom gates in the first quarter of this year.

QR analysis of collisions in the past seven years:

- 99% were directly attributable to the road user
- 96% occurred at public level crossings
- 50% occurred at crossings with boom gates and/or flashing lights
- 25% of collisions involved heavy vehicles

Level Crossing Investment

- QR and the State and Federal Governments are investing more than \$60 million in upgrading level crossings with improved signage and active protection such as flashing lights and boomgates. Six have been completed so far, with signage upgrades at a further eight. 74 will be upgraded by June 2010.
- QR is spending \$1 million on advertising and community education, to educate students and drivers on level crossing and rail safety.
- The Community Education Team has formally delivered the education program to 64,299 Queenslanders in 222 metropolitan and regional locations during the first six months of 2009, through schools and community group visits and events.

Making Our Communities Safer

- QR is asking motorists to do their bit, pay attention, be aware and drive to the conditions.
- Whether it's carelessness or impatience, all drivers should remember that stopping at a level crossing may take a few minutes, but not stopping could cost them a lot more.
- Most drivers do the right thing, but those who flout the road rules put the lives of others at risk, including other motorists, train and car passengers as well as QR's train staff.

