Media Release

Friday, 28 August 2015

Work starts to improve safety at Indooroopilly rail bridge

Work to prevent over-height vehicles colliding with an Indooroopilly rail bridge started this week, following an alarming 12 bridge strikes at the location in the past two financial years.

Queensland Rail Executive General Manager Network Tim Ripper said new, specially designed protection beams would be installed on both approaches to the bridge, located on Allwood Street, in a bid to prevent further incidents.

“The Allwood Street rail bridge is already fitted with a number of protection measures including height clearance signage and even a state-of-the-art Bridge Impact Detection System, which uses infrared laser detectors and CCTV to detect over-height vehicles and provide a visual warning to drivers via active signage,” Mr Ripper said.

“Despite this, we continue to see careless driver behaviour and far too many bridge strike incidents at this location.

“Bridge strikes are not only extremely dangerous, but they can also cause frustrating delays for road and rail users, as we cannot resume trains until inspectors confirm the integrity and safety of the bridge.

“Last year alone, rail bridge strikes affected more than 300 trains, causing frustrating delays for more than 90,000 train commuters.”

“These new, specially designed beams will not only prevent bridge strike incidents, but will also reduce the likelihood of a vehicle rolling over should it strike the beam.”

Mr Ripper said road users would see works commence this week, with the project expected to be completed in November 2015.

“Queensland Rail is working closely with Brisbane City Council, who will also install new signage to inform drivers of the protection beam’s clearance height and direct over-height vehicles to an alternate route.

“Some partial road closures will be scheduled while the works are completed. Closures will be scheduled in advance outside of peak times, with traffic management in place to direct road users.”

There were 52 reported bridge strikes across the South East Queensland rail network in the 2014-15 financial year – a slight increase from the 56 incidents reported the year prior.

Motorists who damage Queensland Rail infrastructure, including bridges, face penalties of up to $8,800, in addition to the repair bill.

- ENDS -

Media Contact: Queensland Rail Media – (07) 3072 2180 / media@qr.com.au

Queensland Rail Limited ABN 71 132 181 090