

# Addressing Road User Behavioural Changes at Railway Level Crossings



**Kevin Taylor**

*General Manager, Rail Industry Safety & Standards Board*

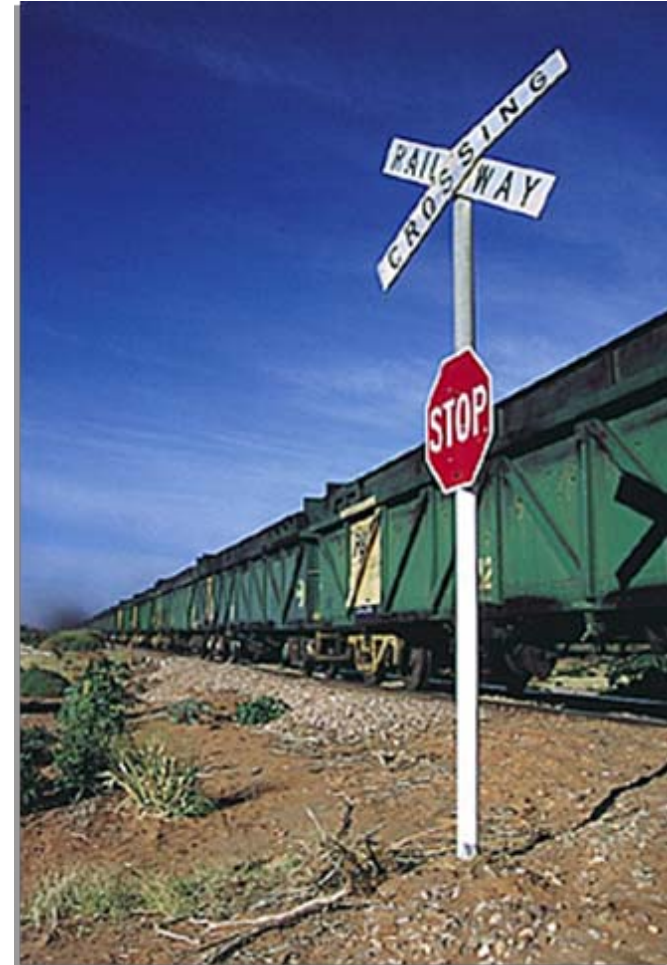
**SAFEROADS 2008**

# Scope

- Discuss the Level Crossing situation
- Highlight some disturbing statistics
- Discuss the projects and initiatives to address the Level Crossings problem; and
- Highlight future initiatives
- Random use of video clips to support topics above.

# The Level Crossing Setting

- 100 collisions / year
  - Ave 37 fatalities/year
    - Ave 22 pedestrians/year
  - Excess AU\$100 million
- 9400 public level crossings
  - 28 % active control
  - ARA re-counting
- ATSB Report - April 2008
  - 9/12 collisions involved heavy vehicles



# Statistics

- Over 80 % of fatal accidents occur in daylight during fine weather, on straight, dry roads
- 46% are a result of unintended driver error
- In 2 / 3 fatal accidents, the point of impact is the front rather than the side of the train
- 2 / 3 occur at rural level crossings or urban crossing outside Capital Cities
- Accidents occur at passive and active controlled crossings in an approximate 50 / 50 split

# Kerang, Vic – 5 June 2007

- Semi-trailer and passenger train
  - 11 fatalities
  - 20 injuries



- Drew attention to the RLX issue
- Victoria taking strong lead

# Government Response

- Government response to major collisions
  - 2003 National Railway Level Crossing Safety Strategy
    - ARCSIG: RLX safety rail infrastructure & RLX policy
    - ARA tasked with behavioural initiatives



# National Railway Level Crossing Behavioural Coordination Group (BCG)

- An Australian Transport Industry first
- Coordinated national approach to road user behaviour at RLXs
- Senior Industry and Government road and rail representatives from each State
- Develop, deliver and evaluate projects and research over 2 years

# National Behavioural Survey

- First national RLX study across all jurisdictions
- Self reported behaviours & attitudes of over 4400 RLX road users
- Findings
  - 24% reported illegal usage of RLXs
  - 1 in 5 had driven over an RLX & not known until after the event
  - 1 in 5 were unaware of RLX infringement penalties
  - 1 in 4 had engaged in risky behaviour
- The following video clips support these findings

# Driver Behaviour



# Exemplar Education and Enforcement Pilot

- Compliance with active and passive controls (four sites)
  - Sites monitored to measure compliance
  - Local education campaigns
  - Enforcement
  - Behaviour re-measured
  - Control sites monitored
- To underpin future programs

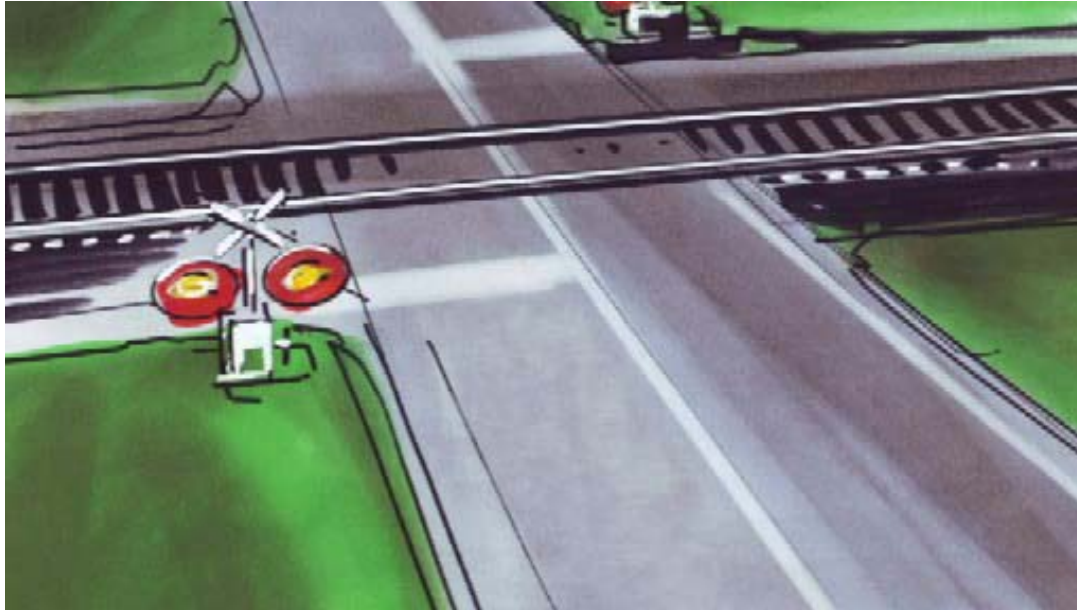


# Behavioural Initiatives

- Inventory
- Website
- Communications Package
  - Guided by the national survey and education and enforcement pilot findings
  - Available to all jurisdictions, Rail Industry and local Government
  - Ensures consistent level crossing safety messages



# ‘Life Before Your Eyes’



# Proposed Projects

- Proposed work program: a systems approach
  - Evaluate infrastructure from a whole of system perspective
  - Detailed study of vulnerable road users
  - Contribute to the development of the NTC's enforcement guidelines
  - Provide input to the Rail Cooperative Research Centre
  - Continue enhanced communications



# Conclusion

- Much has been achieved in addressing the Level Crossing problem
- But much more to be done
- BCG Program of work will assist

# Contact Details

**Kevin Taylor**  
General Manager  
Rail Industry Safety & Standards Board

Email: [ktaylor@rissb.com.au](mailto:ktaylor@rissb.com.au)

Phone: 02) 6270 4521

Fax: 02) 6270 4516

