



Representing all Multi-Combination Operators

MEDIA RELEASE

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RAIL CROSSINGS NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION

The Australian Road Train Association believes a co-ordinated and united approach in addressing rail crossing safety and awareness will result in a significant decline in incidents when road and rail cross, ARTA Chief Executive, Duncan Bremner, said today.

“This is an issue that affects all road users, and one that obviously needs to be more effectively addressed,” Mr Bremner said.

ARTA’s position endorses recent comments by the industry’s peak body, the Australian Trucking Association, that collisions between rail and road operations remains a significant issue despite representing a relatively small percentage of road user crash rates.

Mr Bremner said the road train sector was acutely aware of the issue in light of recent incidents involving multi-combination vehicles in Victoria and the Northern Territory.

“While the incidents with heavy vehicles are few, when they do occur, they are often cataclysmic.

“Just as with awareness regarding other interaction on the road - such as that between cars, trucks, motorbikes, and pedestrians - this needs to be a joint initiative where the road-users and rail sectors work together to make our transport networks a safer place to be.

“Our friends in the rail sector are a vital part of the Australian logistics solution, and we look forward to working together with them to find solutions that address this crucial safety issue.”

Mr Bremner said potential solutions could include:

- An automatic radio and UHF alert system as used in urban road tunnels to alert drivers of incoming trains (such as utilised in the Sydney Harbour and M5 tunnels)
- A proactive national campaign to examine the risks at all level crossings, and greater use of road user warning devices, be they rumble strips, additional signage, through to boom gates
- High visibility measure such as beacons and high visibility reflective strips on trains
- A long term infrastructure program focussing on grade-separated crossings

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