



AUSTRALASIAN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION INC

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PRESS RELEASE

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Rail Industry Driving for a National Education Program at Level Crossings

The Australasian Railway Association (ARA), in collaboration with the National Railway Level Crossing Behavioural Coordination Group is convening “*Safer Road User Behaviour at Level Crossings – A National Workshop*” on Thursday 21 February 2008 in Melbourne, Victoria.

The principal goals of the workshop are to inform key stakeholders of the current and future work programs to improve road user behaviour around level crossings as well as to seek input into future directions in relation to road user behaviour at level crossings.

Senior representatives from Government, industries, enforcement agencies, road research agencies and transport unions will be discussing the way forward to enhance safety at level crossings for road and rail users.

“Level crossing collisions are a growing concern for all of us and this workshop will provide an opportunity to examine a range of issues and initiatives to effectively address this issue,” said Mr Bryan Nye, Chief Executive Officer of the ARA.

“We have invited to the workshop a senior representative from the Rail Association of Canada, Mr Mike Lowenger, who has been extensively involved in the development and implementation of Direction 2006 and Operation Lifesaver, public education programs which, since 1981, have helped reduce crossing collisions by 60 per cent. He will provide insights into these highly effective programs,” continued Mr Nye.

“This workshop marks an unprecedented collaboration between Government and Industry, Road and Rail, enforcement agencies and the Unions to improve safety at level crossings,” concluded Mr Nye.

Mr Nye and Mr Lowenger are available for interviews before and after the workshop.

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