



# Media Release

22 July, 2007

## QR Joins National Rail Safety Week Campaign

QR (Queensland Rail) is participating in National Rail Safety Awareness Week, an initiative of the ARA (Australasian Railway Association), by holding a series of educational and media events to help raise public awareness of rail safety, with a particular emphasis on level crossing safety and trespassing.

Acting QR CEO, Stephen Cantwell, said the primary aim of the campaign is to raise awareness and understanding of both road user and pedestrian behaviour when they interact with rail infrastructure with the aim of reducing the number of incidents that occur every year.

"For example Motorists and pedestrians need to be aware that the same rules apply at rail level crossings as normal road intersections and they need to obey the road rules for their own, and the rail operator's, safety," said Mr Cantwell.

"On average in Queensland there are 19 needless collisions a year between a road user and a train at rail level crossings and half of these incidents happen at protected level crossings that have flashing lights, boomgates or both."

"We are also appealing to the public please don't trespass on rail corridors and only use the designated safe crossing points."

"Too many times there are near misses and avoidable deaths because pedestrians try to take short cuts, or blatantly disregard warning signs and safety infrastructure."

As part of the education campaign QR has organised for a bus driver and a truck driver to spend some time on a train driving simulator and also experience a 'ride along' on a Citytrain so they can see the actual journey from a train driver's perspective.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to help educate other professional drivers on the challenges train drivers face when doing their job," said Mr Cantwell.

"We all have a part to play in helping improve safety around rail infrastructure and getting the perspective of other professional drivers will assist with this process."

There has been a decrease of 30% in the number of level crossing collisions in Queensland over the last ten years, but according to Mr Cantwell even one is too



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many and he appeals to the public to take special care and obey all traffic signals when they approach these sites.”

“Trains on our network can be carrying passengers or freight, travelling at high speeds and can be up to two kilometres long. For example a 100-car freight train travelling at 80 kilometres per hour will need more than a kilometre to stop — that's approximately 18 football fields — once the train is set into emergency braking,” he said.

“It's also interesting to note that 80% of fatal collisions at level crossings in Australia happen in daylight, in fine weather and on straight, dry roads.”

“Every year our train drivers experience needless collisions and near misses at level crossings and QR wants to reduce the number of times this happens.”

Rail Safety Week is being held from Sunday 22 July to Saturday 28 July. QR will be conducting educational and media events in selected centres around the state throughout the week.

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