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“Act safely at level crossings!” for International Level Crossing Awareness Day

The Australian rail industry is delighted to welcome International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) for its fourth year tomorrow, 7 June 2012.

42 countries are participating in ILCAD which focuses on education and the promotion of safe behaviour at and around level crossings, using the common message “Act safely at level crossings!”

Rail is one the safest modes of transport, but where road and rail intersect at level crossings, risks are present.

The Australian rail industry recently launched the trackSAFE Foundation to further address the issues of level crossing safety and trespass and the resultant trauma caused to rail employees impacted by these incidents.

Australasian Railway Association (ARA) CEO and trackSAFE Board Director, Mr Bryan Nye welcomes the Day.

“ILCAD is an impressive initiative that brings international attention to level crossing safety which continues to be one of the rail industry’s major safety concerns,” Mr Nye said.

There are around 30 fatal level crossing collisions every year in Australia, as well over a thousand near collisions annually.

TrackSAFE will address level crossing safety through the development of a National Rail Safety Education Package for school students which will be pushed for inclusion in the national curriculum. Annual Rail Safety Week will also run from 13-19 August in Australia this year, to raise public awareness and bring attention to level crossing safety and the dangers of trespassing.

“We continue to drive education and awareness campaigns in Australia as level crossing collisions are consistently shown to be the direct result of driver behaviour and failure to observe warning signs and signals,” continued Mr Nye.

“A near collision can be the difference of just a few seconds,” continued Mr Nye.

“If a large truck and passenger train were to collide, the outcome is potentially catastrophic in lives lost and social and economic impact,” Mr Nye said.

On 7 June, an international conference will take place from in Paris. International rail and road stakeholders, behavioural experts and those involved in prevention will participate in this official kick-off that will be broadcast live around the world.

“We commend the organisers of ILCAD on this valuable initiative and encourage organisations across Australia and the world to support the Day,” said Mr Nye.

“Anything that raises awareness around level crossing safety, especially on an international scale is vitally important to all of our efforts” concluded Mr Nye.

Detailed information about ILCAD can be found on the website at www.ilcad.org.

For more information about trackSAFE, visit www.tracksafefoundation.com.au.

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