

International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) 2 June 2017



Statement:

“Since last year’s International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD), the TrackSAFE Foundation has worked tirelessly to keep level crossing safety high on its agenda for the benefit of our nation.

We hosted an Australasian Level Crossing Safety Forum which brought together 90 representatives from the rail industry with police, government, the regulators, as well as road user groups and research bodies to share knowledge and collaborate on the issue. Delegates of the Forum workshopped the top 50 innovative approaches to level crossing safety from across Australia and New Zealand.

We then looked to investigate innovations overseas and hosted our first ever International Level Crossing Safety Study Tour. We led a delegation of 13 senior rail executives –from within the Australasian rail industry– to the USA and UK to investigate ways in which other countries manage risk around crossings and which strategies, technologies and innovations might be applicable in Australia.

The learnings we brought back from this Study Tour will feed into an action plan for Australia under the auspices of the newly revised National Level Crossing Safety Strategy. This Strategy provides renewed key focus areas, actions and measures for level crossing safety Australia-wide. It was officially launched by TrackSAFE in April this year, in collaboration with the National Level Crossing Safety Committee and the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator. In an Australian first, we will also offer level crossing safety scholarships to PHD students in Queensland.

So, the past 12 months has seen the TrackSAFE Foundation progress this nationally significant issue in various ways and connect with key players in the level crossing safety space both domestically and abroad. With around 130 collisions occurring between pedestrians or vehicles with trains at level crossings every year –and with some collisions tragically resulting in death or serious injury– level crossing safety remains one of the industry’s highest safety priorities.

Initiatives such as ILCAD (which has been held every year since 2008) reminds us to unite on this global issue and to continue making connections each year to address the challenges. At the same time, we’re working together to increase public understanding of the risks through education and awareness.

TrackSAFE congratulates ILCAD for their significant global outreach and encourages all players in the space to collaborate to ultimately combat level crossing incidents world-wide.”

By Naomi Frauenfelder Executive Director TrackSAFE Foundation.

About TrackSAFE: The TrackSAFE Foundation was established to endeavour to reduce rail incidents and address the resultant trauma caused to rail employees impacted. For more information visit www.tracksafefoundation.com.au

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