



PRESS RELEASE

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Level Crossing Research Database Released

The CRC for Rail Innovation's report titled 'Level Crossings Research Database' was launched by Mr. Phil Sochon, Chair of the CRC for Rail Innovation's Operations and Safety Research Program during a keynote speech today at AusRAIL 2008.

"Currently, there is no clear evidence of the effects of enforcement programs or educational and training initiatives in contributing to safer motorist behaviour or how such initiatives can be implemented simultaneously", said Mr David George, CEO of the CRC for Rail Innovation.

This report was commissioned by the CRC for Rail Innovation to investigate the effectiveness of engineering, enforcement and education approaches to improving safety for motorists and rail users at the road/rail interface.

The project reviewed the literature relevant to each of these approaches, with particular emphasis on their relevancy to the Australian context.

"The literature review found that while there has been considerable research in the area of engineering at level crossings, there is little research in the areas of enforcement or educational initiatives.

The report also highlighted where future research priorities lie. These include further analysis of the role that familiarity plays in unsafe driving at level crossings, an examination of the costs of crossing collisions when a heavy vehicle is involved, the impact of sighting distance and the effects of track angle on the road driver's awareness of an oncoming train and testing of heavy vehicle drivers with advanced warning systems to measure vehicle performance at crossings with limited sighting distances.

"The CRC for Rail Innovation is now working with our participants and key level crossing experts to identify and prioritise ideas for future research. The CRC for Rail Innovation understands the significance and urgency of level crossing safety to the Australasian rail industry. Hence, its research will be targeted to effectively address these problems and will seek to provide innovative outcomes", concluded Mr George.

The report is available on the CRC for Rail Innovation's website
www.railcrc.net.au

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