



ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST & HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA

ABN 19 755 744 868

ATHRA ALERT #38 – July 2008 **ARA National Level Crossing Survey**

The Australasian Railway Association (ARA) is undertaking a national survey of all types of Railway level crossings. The background to the importance of this survey is:

*“In 2002, for the *Seventh International Symposium on Railroad - Highway Grade Crossing Research and Safety*, a stocktake of Australian public level crossings was conducted. The figure of 9400 public level crossings has since been used to numerically illustrate the significance of the Australian level crossing issue. However, this total excludes pedestrian, private, sugar cane and maintenance level crossings. As a result, it can be argued this figure represents only a portion of the Australian level crossing issue.*

As Government funding and decisions are influenced by the current level crossing figure, the ARA believes updating this number to include all types of level crossings will enable us to argue for higher levels of funding and support to enhance level crossing safety in Australia.

Under direction from the ARA Executive Board, a national level crossing stocktake is being conducted to count all level crossings (public, private, pedestrian, sugar cane and maintenance) including the type of protection at these sites to produce a figure that accurately details not only the number of level crossings in Australia but also provides a breakdown of each jurisdiction and the forms of protection in place”.

The ARA has provided a self-totalling Excel spreadsheet that should be used to record your level crossing counts. To ensure consistency, a definitions page has also been provided. These documents have been distributed with this Alert and can also be downloaded from the ATHRA Alerts web page <http://www.athra.asn.au/alerts.htm>.

Key Messages:

If your rail organisation controls level crossings, the ARA ask you give this project urgent attention and are seeking **responses by close of business Friday 25 July 2008**.

If you have any queries, please contact the ARA Project Officers as follows:

Until 4 July and 28 July onwards:

Emma Pettiford: epettiford@ara.net.au; ph 02 6270 4512

Between 7 July & 25 July:

Rhianne Piamsa-Art: rpiamsaart@railcrc.net.au; ph 02 6270 4504.

Recommended Actions:

- Complete the survey form and return it directly to the ARA by **Friday 25 July 2008**.

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