

Rail Industry Safety Notice

31 March 2010

RISN No 1 / 2010

RISKS AT LEVEL CROSSINGS

Background

The Rail Safety Unit requests that rail transport operators in Tasmania read the attached safety alert issued by Public Transport Safety Victoria (PTSV).

Action

The Rail Safety Unit suggests that accredited rail organisations and rail infrastructure managers review this alert. The information and risks described should be assessed against individual operations to ensure that any similar risks are being managed.

Rail Safety Unit
Department of Infrastructure,
Energy and Resources

Safety Alert



NOTICE TO ACCREDITED RAIL OPERATORS

Subject

Risks at level crossings

Issue

PTSV has been notified that an incident occurred at Westmere at the Glenelg Highway level crossing on 4th February 2009.

At approximately 09:45 a member of public drove through the crossing with the bell and flashing lights operating normally and with a train approaching.

At the time of the incident contractor staff wearing high visibility vests were working on the opposite side of the level crossing and opposite side of the road from which the member of public approached. In accordance with the contractor's normal work practices, contractor staff had stopped work and were standing well clear of the crossing due to the approaching train. The level crossing equipment was not being affected in any way by the work in progress.

After traversing the crossing the member of public was stopped and interviewed by the road traffic manager on site at the time. The member of public was noted to say that he drove through the crossing in the belief that the crossing had been activated by men in orange jackets working adjacent to the crossing.

PTSV has been advised that similar incidents have occurred where site works on or adjacent to level crossings are in progress.

This incident highlights the importance of considering, when conducting risk assessments of site works, how works on or adjacent to level crossings may influence the perceptions and behaviours of motorists. This extends to site works being conducted adjacent to level crossings by organisations other than rail infrastructure managers (or their contractors), such as local councils.

In order to ensure compliance with relevant safety duties under the *Rail Safety Act 2006 (Vic)*, the following should be undertaken:

- Providers and managers of rail infrastructure should note this advice and take appropriate action.

For further information in Victoria, contact Andrew Doery, Engineer Mechanical Systems on (03) 9655 6132.

THIS ADVICE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Approved:

Date:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew Doery'.

CHRIS McKEOWN
General Manager, Safety Systems

29 March 2010