

# Media Release

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## **Time to Start Thinking Smarter at Level Crossings**

The Road Safety Committee today tabled a report into safety at level crossings which found that it is time to look at new ways to improve safety at level crossings. More needs to be done to make crossings safer.

Mr John Eren, MLA, the Member for Lara and Chair of the Road Safety Committee said today 'Victoria has more public crossings than any other State or Territory in Australia. There are also many crossings over railway tracks into private land. The high cost of highly specified treatments at level crossings means that it is unlikely the State will ever be able to afford the cost of upgrading every level crossing to these standards.

'This strongly points to the need for leadership in a new direction.

'A new direction that includes using lower cost warning systems and Intelligent Transport Systems, and a strategy that brings all the measures together is required.

Mr Eren said 'While the report recommends trialling of new technologies, there are simple measures that could be implemented immediately that the Committee believe will improve safety.

'Decreasing speed limits to 80 km/h on all open roads, increasing enforcement by placing cameras at some of the worst sites, ensuring that the trains are kept in pristine condition so that road users can see the reflectors, the colours and markings on the trains are bright and highly visible, that extra lighting be considered, will all go a long way to improving safety.

Mr Eren said 'This Inquiry was undertaken while the community was still trying to come to terms with and comprehend the level crossing tragedy that occurred near Kerang, in June 2007.

'This report's sole objective is to present recommendations that, if implemented will reduce fatalities and injuries at level crossings.

We hope that the Victorian Government adopts the recommendations in this report in an effort to continue to strive for greater road safety.

**John Eren, MLA**  
**Chair**

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