



Greg Aplin MP
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MEDIA RELEASE

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HENTY MACHINERY FIELD DAYS LEVEL CROSSING WARNING

'Don't rush to the other side' of level crossings is what transport authorities are pleading as more than 60,000 people flock to the Henty Machinery Field Days (18-20 September).

Key points:

- From July 2001 to June 2018 there were 144 collisions between trains and road vehicles at NSW level crossings, resulting in 11 fatalities
- The recent trend is down but during the past 17 years there has been an average of eight crashes involving trains and road vehicles at level crossings.

The sobering statistics reinforce the impact of a large Transport for NSW level crossing warning display, where visitors to the Field Days can see first-hand the potentially deadly consequences of disobeying level crossing safety controls.

"This year, our warning includes a car involved in a crash with a train that happened in Henty in 2013. Miraculously the driver walked away from the accident but many aren't so lucky," Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said.

"We are fortunate the driver lived to tell the tale and as a lasting reminder donated the wrecked car to us so everyone could learn a lesson."

The exhibit also features a large screen displaying interviews, quizzes and footage of motorists doing the wrong thing at level crossings to remind everyone 'don't rush to the other side'.

Despite the obvious danger, too many motorists continue to take risks around level crossings.

"Please be careful around level crossings as just a single moment of distraction or recklessness can cost lives. We know driver inattention and poor decision-making are the main contributors to level crossing incidents," said Mr Aplin.

"In many cases where cars and trains have crashed, the motorist has ignored level crossing warnings because they incorrectly thought there was enough time to get through before the train arrived."

Now in its sixth year, the joint exhibition with NSW TrainLink and Australian Rail Track Corporation also features warning signs and lights found at level crossings so visitors can better identify the safety controls.

The penalty for disobeying level crossing controls is three demerit points and a \$448 fine.

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