



**MEDIA RELEASE
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Rail industry urges Australians to stay rail safe every day Rail Safety Week - 9-15 August 2021

Rail Safety Week aims to educate Australians to ‘Stay Rail Safe’ every day, as it continues to encourage commuters as well as pedestrians to be more aware and alert around rail tracks at all times.

Chair of both the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) and the TrackSAFE Foundation, Mr Danny Broad says there remains a strong need for the rail industry to connect and continue to remind pedestrians and commuters to be safe and aware of the rail environment.

“This year will see more than 90 organisations unite to promote Rail Safety reminding the community to act responsibly when near, or on, the rail network. Support from the industry has been overwhelming and indicates the collaborative approach to raising awareness of being safe around rail,” says Danny Broad.

“Rail Safety Week provides a focus for us as a sector to remind everyone to pay attention to the rail environment in order to stay safe. Working together on rail safety is critical.”

Each year there are on average 109 fatalities on the Australian rail network, with 76 of these people taking their own life. As well, there are almost as many attempted suicides as suicides annually, around 30 injuries at level crossings or because of trespass and around 2,000 level crossing and trespass near hits.

Rail Safety Ambassador and Paralympian Vanessa Low joins TrackSAFE’s new campaign this Rail Safety Week sharing her lived experience as a rail accident survivor. When Vanessa was 15 years of age she lost both of her legs when she fell from an overcrowded platform and into the path of an oncoming train.

Ms Caroline Wilkie, CEO, Australasian Railway Association says that ongoing commuter safety relies on those interacting with the rail environment, both pedestrians and commuters to play an active role in rail safety, in particular to be aware of their surroundings.



“A person is killed or injured on the Australian rail network every 2.5 days and it is essential the industry and community works together to address this critical issue,” said Caroline Wilkie.

“Whether you are working on the rail network or use rail in your daily life, a moment of distraction can change your life forever. The rail industry will be out in force this week to share this vital safety message and encourage all rail users to stand back, look up and stay rail safe.”

The rail industry is encouraged to join TrackSAFE’s Rail Safety Week webinar:

TrackSAFE Wellbeing Webinar

Wellbeing as part of a safe working culture.

Date and time: Wednesday 11 August 2021, 12:00-13:00 (EST)

Location: Online using Webex. Access the webinar by registering via the ARA website [here](#)

Rail Safety Week runs from Monday 9 August 2021 until Friday 15 August 2021.

For more information and to access Rail Safety Week resources available for the industry to access and promote visit <https://tracksafefoundation.com.au/rail-safety-week/>

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NOTES TO MEDIA

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Available for interview:

- Danny Broad, Chair, Australasian Railway Association and the TrackSAFE Foundation
- Caroline Wilkie, CEO The Australasian Railway Association



About Rail Safety Week

Rail Safety Week is an annual community awareness week held in Australia and New Zealand, designed to engage the community in safe rail practices. Ongoing commuter safety relies on those interacting with the rail environment, to play an active role in rail safety, in particular to be aware of their surroundings. This year, Rail Safety Week reinforces to the community specific actions required to stay safe around rail.

<https://tracksafefoundation.com.au/rail-safety-week/>

About the TrackSAFE Foundation

The TrackSAFE Foundation is a charity established in 2012 by the Australasian Railway Association and UGL in order to prevent suicides and reduce accidents and injuries on the rail network, as well as improve the wellbeing of rail employees.

<https://tracksafefoundation.com.au/>

About the Australasian Railway Association

The Australasian Railway Association is the peak body for the rail sector in Australia and New Zealand. Representing more than 150 member organisations including passenger and freight operators, track owners and managers, suppliers, manufacturers, contractors and consultants. Members in both listed and private rail related companies' government agencies and franchises. <https://ara.net.au/>