$2.6 Million for Alice Springs Rail Crossing Upgrades

Rail crossings in Alice Springs will receive $2.6 million in upgrades to increase safety for families on the road and rail network.

Transport Minister Delia Lawrie said the rail crossing upgrades will be part of Budget 08.

"We are investing $2.6 million to upgrade rail crossings in Alice Springs to deliver a safer rail and road network," she said.

"After conducting a review of all rail crossings in the Northern Territory, four in Alice Springs were identified as priorities for upgrades, even though they already meet Australian standards.

"The upgrades at each rail crossing will vary based on the recommendations of a recent study.

"The Northern Territory Government has worked closely with FreightLink, the Australasia Railway Corporation and the Australian Trucking Association to identify the upgrades.

"The study conducted last year looked at factors such as traffic volumes, heavy vehicle usage and sight lines to identify priority upgrades.

"Our crossings have been built to national standards, but we want to make them safer.

"The upgrades will be undertaken over two years with the completion of priority crossings targeted by the end of the 2009-2010 financial year.

"Community safety is a priority for the Henderson Government and our investment in upgrading rail crossing safety will deliver a safer road and rail network for all Territorians," said Ms Lawrie.

Crossings to be upgraded in Alice Springs include:

**Bradshaw Drive** – Installation of boom gates

**Ilparpa Road** – Upgrade to lights, bells and boom gates

**Larapinta Drive** – Install four boom gates

**Commonage Road** – Building slip lanes to improve intersection capacity and safety

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