With the imminent arrival of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway later this year, the Government has launched a new education campaign aimed at raising the awareness of community responsibilities in upholding the highest level of safety at railway crossings.

The completion of the railway will bring an additional 180 crossings to the Territory and the safety of road users will be of paramount importance.

The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Kon Vatskalis, unveiled the new rail safety campaign at the Alice Springs Show today.

"The railway will soon be apart of our lives, and we all need to get on board and know the safety issues surrounding trains," Mr Vatskalis said.

"Many in the community are not aware that where tracks are already laid the railway is considered ‘live’, with locomotives being used to continue construction.

"As with road safety, train safety involves a few simply but crucial messages we want all Territorians to remember.

"Primarily, railway tracks are for trains, not for motor vehicles or pedestrians. Importantly, trains can come and go at anytime, so we must always be on our guard."

Mr Vatskalis said his department has been actively involved in the introduction of a national approach to rail safety, particularly at level crossings.

A Rail Crossing Safety Committee has also been established and is composed of representatives from the rail and road industries and Government and Local Government agencies.

Mr Vatskalis said the rail safety campaign will travel the Territory with the annual show circuit, and be backed up by a series of television, radio and newspaper advertisements.