

Our ref: MC40814

Queensland **Transport**

- 5 MAR 2009

Mr Michael Taylor
Secretary
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Taylor

Re: Funding for the Boom Gates for Rail Crossing Program

I refer to the letter dated 9 February 2009 from the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, to the Minister for Transport, Trade, Employment and Industrial Relations concerning Queensland's allocation of \$42.74 million from the Boom Gates for Rail Crossings program, part of the Nation Building and Jobs Package. As the Government has assumed a caretaker role during the general election period, by convention my Minister has asked that I respond through you to the Minister's correspondence.

I confirm that Queensland Transport in association with QR Limited has developed a list of projects which aims to meet the scope requirements of this program. Program delivery is stipulated for the proposed projects over the applicable financial years, with 2008-09 predominantly dedicated to planning/design and other preliminary works required, and 2009-10 dedicated to the implementation and installation of equipment. Required project proposal reports were submitted to your Department on 27 February 2009.

All public level crossings on the Queensland rail network were considered for this program. The majority of open level crossings on the rail list of proposed projects however, are located on the non commercial or government supported network within Queensland.

Program benefits will be spread geographically as the recommended upgrades are located across regions, including North, Central and South West and South East Queensland with an equitable distribution of funds among crossings on national, state and local road networks.

Office of the Director-General
85 George Street Brisbane
GPO Box 1549 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3306 7316
Facsimile +61 7 3306 7122

Assessments of identified open level crossings have been made under the Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model along with the addition of information provided by key stakeholders, crash and near-miss data, train driver observations and representations from the public.

Several of the sites already identified in the proposed project proposal list, are currently scheduled for works under the Open Level Crossing Protection Strategy funded by the Queensland Government via the Transport Service Contract (Rail Infrastructure). Queensland Transport will ensure that additional open level crossing safety works are added to the current Open Level Crossing Protection Strategy schedule of works to replace the projects being funded under the Commonwealth funded program and that the current Queensland funding effort is maintained.

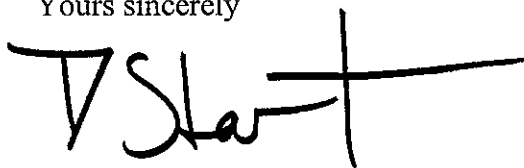
Implementation of the program will be managed by QR Limited, with high level governance and funding administration responsibilities resting with Queensland Transport. Payments to QR Limited will operate through the established Transport Service Contract (Rail Infrastructure) between Queensland Transport and QR Network Pty Limited (Railway Manager). Works are to be undertaken by QR Limited supported by its various private sector alliance partners where necessary, with road related measures undertaken by the Department of Main Roads (Roadtek), with the supporting contractors and local governments where feasible.

The existing Queensland Government body driving delivery of this initiative is the Queensland Open Level Crossing Safety Committee. This committee is chaired by Queensland Transport and its members include QR Limited, the Department of Main Roads, and the Queensland Local Government Association.

Overarching co-ordination will be provided through the co-ordinator general arrangements put in place by Queensland for implementation of the Nation Building and Jobs Package. Officer level contact arrangements are already in place between our respective departmental officers to facilitate day-to-day communications regarding the program.

I look forward to working with you on this important safety initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Stewart', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Stewart
Director-General