



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Rail level crossings to get safer

Six rail level crossings in the New England Electorate will be safer following the announcement yesterday that they will have boom gates, flashing lights and bells installed as part of the Federal Government's "Boom Gates for Rail Crossings Program".

Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor who lost his father in a rail crossing accident when he was eight welcomed Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese's announcement saying that the new safety measures will greatly reduce the risk of accidents at these rail crossings.

"Rail crossings are dangerous locations particularly in country areas where infrequent train movements lull people into false belief that trains aren't coming.

My father was killed at a rail crossing when I was only eight.

The addition of boom gates, flashing lights and bells to warn drivers and put a barrier between vehicles and an approaching train should reduce the risk of an accident at these locations.

I thank the Federal Government for their initiative to make these rail crossings safer," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that according to the Minister's announcement, the crossings to receive the upgrade were identified by the New South Wales Government using a model that takes into account factors such as road and rail traffic volumes, crash history, visibility for motorists and train drivers, the number of rail tracks at the crossing and other public risks.

The six crossings to be upgraded are

Gostwyck Road, Kelly's Plains; Railway Street, Nemingha; Kootingal Road, Kootingal; Gap Road, Gap; Magpie - Qurindi Road, Spring Ridge and Lowes Creek Road, Quipolly

Mr Windsor also recognised the efforts of the Member for Tamworth, Peter Draper who has made representations particularly on behalf of the Nemingha and Kootingal communities.

"Peter Draper has drawn the need for safer level crossings particularly in Nemingha and Kootingal to the attention of the NSW Government and I am sure that these representations have helped secure the upgrades to these crossings," Mr Windsor said.

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