

**Jenny Aitchison**

Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport



## Media Release

# Making roads across the Northern Tablelands safer with grants to local councils for level crossings

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The Minns Labor Government is delivering on its commitment to make NSW roads safer with the announcement that regional councils will receive \$1.17 million in grants to improve safety at level crossings in regional areas.

The funding, delivered through the *Level Crossing Improvement Program - Regional Council Minor Works*, will support 21 projects across regional NSW, benefiting 81 level crossings on council managed local and regional roads.

As part of the package, Armidale Regional Council and Uralla Shire Council will collectively receive more than \$211,000 to fund critical minor engineering works and essential safety upgrades at level crossings across the region.

Works in the Uralla Shire Council will include:

- Improving the level crossing road approach at Eastern Avenue and Eastern Avenue South, including resurfacing and line marking
- Improving the level crossing road approach at Wollun Road, Gostwyck Road and Thunderbolts Way, including resurfacing and line marking

Works in the Armidale Regional Council will include improving the level crossing road approach at Old Gostwyck Road and, subject to additional works, upgrading and widening the road.

This is a sub-program of the NSW Government's broader Level Crossing Improvement Program, through which the NSW Government invests \$7.3 million annually to upgrade public level crossings and increase awareness through safety education and enforcement campaigns.

Successful projects were determined through a merit-based application process considering key safety data including the Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model (ALCAM) rating and NSW safety incident data.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport, Jenny Aitchison:

"The Minns Government is getting on with building a better NSW and we are committed to working in partnership with councils who manage around 90 per cent of the state's road network.

"With more than 1,300 level crossings located on public roads across the state, collisions between trains and vehicles represent a major road and rail safety risk.

"Every life lost on our roads is one too many. These infrastructure improvements are another step towards our goal of zero road trauma by 2050.

"I am delighted that there has been such strong interest from councils in this practical initiative to make the community safer.

"It's also important to remember that while infrastructure improvements continue to reduce risk at level crossings; drivers, riders and pedestrians should always take care and obey the road rules each time they encounter a level crossing".

Quotes attributable to Northern Tablelands spokesperson, Hon Peter Primrose MLC:

"I welcome the announcement that Armidale Regional Council and Uralla Shire Council will receive more than \$211,000 from this important safety program to improve level crossings across the region.

"As the government representative for the region, I know these grants will directly benefit local communities and tourists visiting the region - from families traveling through Uralla and Armidale to freight operators and agricultural businesses moving goods along key routes like Thunderbolts Way and Gostwyck Road.

"These potentially lifesaving projects will address real safety concerns across the Northern Tablelands, including improving road approaches at Eastern Avenue, Wollun Road, and Old Gostwyck Road, with essential resurfacing and line marking work. It's exactly the kind of practical infrastructure investment our regional communities need to keep people safe on our roads."