

Jenny Aitchison

Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport



Media Release

Making roads in Regional NSW 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, Lockhart Shire Council will receive more than \$52,000 to fund critical minor engineering works and essential safety upgrades at 16 level crossings.

Works will include:

- Improving the level crossing road approach at Neuhaus Lane, correcting the existing gravel pavement surface and applying bitumen
- Replacing parts of the pedestrian fence at Yerong Creek and installing concrete-embedded steel bollards along the road edge to provide protection for pedestrians
- Improving road approaches at 14 other level crossings and upgrading signage

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 Member for Wagga Wagga, Joe McGirr:

"I welcome the announcement that Lockhart Shire Council is receiving more than \$52,000 from this important safety program to improve 16 level crossings across the shire.

"As the local member, I know these grants will directly benefit the communities I represent - from families traveling through areas like Yerong Creek to freight operators and agricultural businesses moving goods along our regional transport corridors.

"These potentially lifesaving projects will address real safety concerns across the Wagga Wagga electorate, including improving road approaches at Neuhaus Lane, upgrading pedestrian safety at Yerong Creek, and replacing signage at 14 other crossings that our locals use every day. It's exactly the kind of practical infrastructure investment our regional communities need to keep people safe on our roads."