

School Bus Services Safety Bulletin (01/2011)

ENTERING AND EXITING RAILWAY CROSSINGS

The focus of this **SAFETY BULLETIN** is to bring your attention to the hazards associated with controlled **RAILWAY CROSSINGS** particularly in view of the required reaction and stopping distance of a bus.



The Public Transport Authority (PTA) is committed to looking after and investing in the safety and health of our people, contractors, drivers, those who travel on our school bus services and other road users, whilst delivering an essential service to the community of Western Australia.

Safe driving behaviours underpin our endeavours to deliver a high level of safe, reliable and comfortable customer service.

One of the key areas of known safety risks for driving is the failure to manage the approach to and exit from roadway hazards.

Roadway hazards include, but are not limited to:

- Changes in road surface and conditions
- Intersections, vehicle convergence points and railway crossings
- Road works, flood ways, bridges
- Weather, visibility and environment
- Other road users and vehicles

To provide guidance to assist you to manage railway crossing hazards, bus drivers must consider the following points when approaching a railway crossing:

- Approach the crossing at a speed that will allow the bus to be brought to a stop without heavy braking or cause passenger alarm or discomfort;
- Do not rely on the crossing warning systems alone. A quick look observation, in both directions, during the approach is required;
- Ensure that when travelling in a traffic queue, that;
 - 1) there is a sufficient separation distance to allow an unimpeded view of the approach to the railway crossing; and
 - 2) do not enter a level crossing until there is sufficient distance to traverse your whole bus over the crossing and fully exit on the other side.
- When approaching a railway crossing signal that is activated, all drivers are required to stop their vehicles prior to entering the crosshatched area marked on the road.
- before crossing, drivers must stop the school bus at railway crossings that do not have flashing lights and at intersections of main roads;

For your information, the WA Road Traffic Code 2000, states:

- Rule 102, (1) - A driver shall not enter a level crossing if an approaching train is visible or emits an audible signal and there is danger of collision between the driver's vehicle and the train, and the driver shall not proceed until he or she has ascertained that in the circumstances it is safe to do so. Penalty – 4 points.
- Rule 102, (2) - A driver shall not enter a level crossing where twin alternating red lights are flashing or a warning bell is ringing at or near the level crossing, and the driver shall not proceed until the lights or bell have ceased to flash or ring unless otherwise directed or instructed by a railway employee. Penalty – 4 points.