



Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure

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Dear Registrar

COR 2012 004249: INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF PRATIK DUGAR

I refer to your letter dated 5 March 2014 to the former Department of Transport (now the Department of Transport Planning & Local Infrastructure) and Metro Trains Melbourne Pty Ltd (MTM), regarding the above matter. Specifically, I refer to the Coroner's recommendation in the published findings (a copy of which was provided with your letter) concerning the unfortunate death of Mr Dugar.

The findings contained the following recommendation:

"I accept and support the recommendation identified by Alan Scott, Investigator for Metro Trains Melbourne and recommend that consideration be given to making the pedestrian railway crossing at Flora Road, Clayton active through the provision of pedestrian gates and suitable tones".

I have consulted with my colleagues at Public Transport Victoria, Vic Track and MTM. This letter is the joint response of those entities to that recommendation.

The controls at the crossing have been acknowledged as being unable to prevent Mr Pratik's death, which was by self harm. Consideration of upgrading the controls will be related to the risk of accidental collision and not the risk of someone engaging in self harm.

The pedestrian crossing at Flora Rd Clayton is currently ranked in the top 50 pedestrian crossings in the state based on ALCAM rankings. The prioritisation process also incorporates incident data and operator feedback. PTV funds and VicTrack project manages an annual state-wide pedestrian level crossing upgrade program. These upgrades include the provision of pedestrian gates, emergency escape gate latches and audible tones.

Whilst this crossing is not on the 2013/14 or the approved 2014/15 pedestrian upgrade programs, it will remain under consideration for future programs and will be upgraded in priority order, subject to continued Government funding being available.

Yours Sincerely

Michael P. Averkiou
Senior Manager
Transport Insurance & Risk Management Services

cc. MTM, PTV, VICTRACK