



Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure

Reference 2AE/75
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Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street,
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Registrar

COR 2012 003858: INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF ANDREW NGO

I refer to your letter dated 16 September 2014 to the Department of Transport Planning & Local Infrastructure. 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 NGO.

The findings contained the following recommendations:

- 1) "I recommend that consideration be given to making the Willis Street, St Albans pedestrian crossing active through the provision of pedestrian gates and audible tones that operate to warn pedestrians of the passage of trains";
- 2) "I commend rail authorities for their current education programs, and recommend they continue to remind pedestrians of the dangers of the rail track environment and in particular the danger to pedestrians of distraction from electronic devices which may impede the ability to perceive or identify that a train is approaching".

I have consulted with my colleagues at Public Transport Victoria (PTV), Vic Track and Metro Trains Melbourne Pty.Ltd (MTM). This letter is the joint response of those entities to these recommendations.

Recommendation '1': The pedestrian crossing at Willis Street St Albans is currently ranked number 19 in the list of pedestrian crossings in the State, based on ALCAM risk rankings. The prioritisation process also incorporates incident data and operator feedback. PTV arranges funding for 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. There is presently a bid for funding being prepared which will include a component of funding covering between 40 and 59 pedestrian crossing upgrades over four years (2015-2019)(Bid). Subject to approval of the Bid, it is estimated that the pedestrian crossing located at Willis Street would be upgraded between 2017-2019.

Recommendation '2': The department together with our stakeholders, extend our appreciation to the Coroner for the commendation and confirm that we are jointly committed to continue to implement and develop education programs which contribute to strategies to provide a safer Public Transport System.

Yours Sincerely

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

cc. MTM, PTV, VicTrack