



Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Bridge and Davidson Streets, Oakey, Rail Crossing

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.30 pm): I rise to speak of a dangerous intersection that is causing a great deal of concern in the town of Oakey. I speak of the Bridge and Davidson streets and railway intersection. This is a road traffic T-intersection that also has a train crossing. This is an intersection that the local residents have been calling to be upgraded for a number of years. This intersection is particularly dangerous because the rail crossing runs parallel to the road and any semitrailer that is stopped at the stop sign to turn into Bridge Street has their back trailer wheels parked on the rail track. On a visit to the intersection with me, the shadow minister for transport, Steve Minnikin, saw this happening.

The local newspaper the *Oakey Champion* has run an article giving the residents a chance to voice their concerns and call for the intersection to be moved further to the west. Aurizon has been approached for comment and responded with a statement which, in part, states, 'Aurizon train drivers continue to experience one of the highest rates of serious near misses at the Davidson Street level crossing in Oakey.' Motorists are putting their lives and the lives of others at risk by blatantly ignoring the signs and flashing lights at the level crossing, dangerously crossing the path of oncoming trains. In two recent incidents a semitrailer and a vehicle with a trailer were stopped on the crossing while the lights were flashing. In a third incident, two vehicles narrowly escaped a collision with an oncoming train. This demonstrates two things: one is the large number of near misses and the second is a lack of understanding of the actual situation.

The reason that trucks get stuck on the line is there is not enough room when there is heavy traffic on Bridge Street. They are either stuck on the line or they pull out into the traffic and hope for the best. There is a lot of heavy transport that has no option but to navigate this intersection to access the Oakey Abattoir, Riverina Stock Feeds and the Warrego Highway amongst a few other destinations. This intersection also carries virtually all the traffic to the Oakey aviation base. This intersection is the only access for heavy vehicles to the feedlots that lie to the north. As anyone who has carted livestock knows, the driver needs to have a very gentle and slow stop and start to keep all livestock on their feet.

This is also a busy rail line with a large number of coal and grain wagons. It is only a matter of time before we see a large accident at this intersection. Oakey was recently hit with a very sad incident when a mother and a daughter were lost in an accident on Brimblecombe Road. We are still waiting for that upgrade, and we do not want to see such an incident repeated at this intersection. I call on the minister to prioritise.