



It's now out with Bemax, Pacific National and NR Class locomotives, and in with Cristal Mining, Bowmans Rail and CM Class units. After an extended crew change and a run through by 6MP1 at Two Wells, CM 3308 and CM 3309 resume their run to Broken Hill with the empty Cristal Mining sands train on Saturday 16 July. Bowman's Rail, formerly Bowman's Intermodal and based at Bowmans, 100 kilometres north of Adelaide, changed its name to Bowmans Rail this year to reflect the future direction of the business. Transport company Toll and AMG (now AGT Foods, based in Canada and a major player in pulses and food ingredients) have been shareholders since 2013. Saudi Arabian-based Cristal Mining acquired all the shares in Bemax Resources in 2008 and in 2012 Bemax changed its name to Cristal Mining. The company is a significant mineral sands miner with its Ginkgo and Snapper mines in western NSW supplying the company's mineral separation plant near Broken Hill from where output is railed to Port Adelaide. Malcolm Holdsworth

New strategy to improve the safety of SA rail crossings

The South Australian Government is reviewing all level and pedestrian crossings in South Australia to improve safety on the rail network.

The Government will invest \$12 million over the next four years for a program of upgrades at railway crossings while also considering reducing the number of railway crossings. The funding is in addition to significant investment being spent on major upgrades, including the \$238 million Torrens Junction rail underpass at Park Terrace, and the Outer Harbor rail overpass included in the \$896 million Torrens to Torrens project.

The release of the level crossing strategy coincided with a Friday 29 July announcement by the SA Government of a proposal to upgrade Oaklands Crossing.

Oaklands Crossing is located at the intersection of Diagonal and Morphett Roads in Oaklands Park. The crossing is immediately south-east of Oaklands railway station – 12.9 kilometres from Adelaide on the Seaford Line. On average more than 41,000 vehicles use the crossing daily with boom gate operations effectively closing a main north-south road for up to two hours each day. City of Marion Council estimates that road commuters can be held at the intersection for up to 20 minutes at peak times.

On Monday 27 June, just prior to the Federal election, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull promised \$40 million to assist funding a grade separation of road and rail at the Oaklands Crossing. At the time Mr Turnbull called on the state government to commit funds to complete the project. In 2012, the South Australian Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) released a planning study which recommended the construction of an overpass to take trains over Morphett Road. At the time, the project was costed at between \$100-\$110 million.

There are 710 railway crossings on public roads in metropolitan and rural South Australia and more than 360 pedestrian crossings on Adelaide's passenger rail network.

Between 2011 and 2015, four people were killed and six people were seriously injured at SA railway crossings and 660 near-misses were reported by rail operators.

The new strategy details a number of ways to manage the safety risks at metropolitan and rural level and pedestrian rail crossings.

They include:

- Grade separate railway crossings
- Identify crossings for infrastructure and safety improvements
- Identify crossings for possible closure where safer alternatives exist
- Increase utilisation of CCTV and safety cameras to manage the risk of queuing
- Trial vehicle-activated signs on passive rural crossings
- Raise awareness and educate people about the dangers of railway crossings

At the Strategy launch SA Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan said,

"The strategy proposes a number of initiatives that will improve and address safety concerns at level and pedestrian crossings across the State. To achieve our objective of zero harm, the fewer opportunities for people and vehicles to meet at an intersecting train or tram track, the safer our rail network will be."

Both the draft South Australian Railway Crossing Safety Strategy and a public survey are available on-line at:

<http://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/yoursay-engagements-railway-level-crossing-safety-strategy/about>

The survey is open until 5pm on Friday 9 September.

Local council seeks interest in Mitcham Station lease

The City of Mitcham Council has invited commercial, not for profit and incorporated entities to enter into a commercial arrangement with Council, or alternatively work with Council to lease premises at the historic Mitcham railway station. (Mitcham station is located on the Belair line 8.5 kilometres from Adelaide station.)

The historic railway station is located on Belair Road near the Mitcham Square shopping complex. Council describes it as having ample car parking around the site.

Expression of Interest for a five-year lease with a five-year right of renewal closed on Friday 19 August.