



# Interim Factual Statement

## Grawlin Plains

**31 May 2005**

**Fatal Level Crossing Collision**



At approximately 3.05 p.m. on 31 May 2005, a single locomotive, operated by Australian Railway Group (ARG), collided with a Toyota Landcruiser and trailer on a level crossing at Grawlin Plains, approximately 10 kilometres south of Forbes, in the Central West Region of NSW. The driver of the Landcruiser, who was a local farmer, was fatally injured in the collision.

The locomotive, crewed by a driver and a driver's assistant, was en route from Junee to Parkes at the time of the incident. The driver's assistant was sitting in the locomotive on the side from which the vehicle approached the crossing. As the locomotive approached the level crossing, the driver's assistant sounded the locomotive's horn in accordance with Network Rules. When the driver's assistant observed the vehicle approaching the level crossing, he continued to sound the horn.

The driver of the locomotive was seated at the controls on the opposite side of the locomotive cabin and did not see the approaching vehicle. Because his assistant continued to sound the horn as the train approached the crossing, the driver applied the emergency brakes. He became aware of the collision by the sound of the impact. The locomotive remained on the track and came to a stand approximately 350 metres past the point of impact.

The Landcruiser was destroyed in the incident. The locomotive suffered minor impact damage to the front coupler region and various side-mounted components. The track infrastructure was not damaged.

Whilst there were no injuries to the crew of the locomotive, both members were treated for shock.

Emergency services were called to attend, arriving at the scene approximately 15 minutes after the incident occurred. OTSI investigators were also deployed to the scene from Sydney.



Photograph 1: Damaged Toyota Landcruiser

## Status of the Investigation

OTSI's investigation into the incident continues and is being assisted by ARG and the Australian Rail Track Corporation.

When completed, the investigation report will be tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Transport in accordance with Section 68 of the *Rail Safety Act 2002*.