



## Rail Incident Factual Statement

### Level Crossing Collision at Warragoon, NSW

20 September 2005



OTSI File Reference: 04203

The Office of Transport Safety Investigation (OTSI) is an independent NSW agency whose purpose is to improve transport safety through the investigation of accidents and incidents in the rail, bus and ferry industries.

Established on 1 January 2004 by the *Transport Administration Act 1988*, the Office is responsible for determining the causes and contributing factors of accidents and to make recommendations for the implementation of remedial safety action to prevent recurrence.

OTSI investigations are conducted under powers conferred by the *Rail Safety Act 2002* and the *Passenger Transport Act 1990*. OTSI investigators normally seek to obtain information cooperatively when conducting an accident investigation. However, where it is necessary to do so, OTSI investigators may exercise statutory powers to interview persons, enter premises and examine and retain physical and documentary evidence. Where OTSI investigators exercise their powers of compulsion, information so obtained cannot be used against those persons providing information in criminal or civil proceedings.

OTSI investigation reports are submitted to the Minister for Transport for tabling in both Houses of Parliament. Following tabling, OTSI reports are published on its website [www.otsi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.otsi.nsw.gov.au)

Information about OTSI is available on its website or from its offices at

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The Office of Transport Safety Investigation also provides a Confidential Safety Information Reporting facility for rail, bus and ferry industry employees. The CSIRS reporting telephone number is 1800 180 828.

## **Overview**

At approximately 15.54hrs on 20 September 2005, a freight train, operated by Pacific National, collided with a semi-trailer at a level crossing on the Savernake to Mulwala Road at Warragoon, near the NSW/Victorian border. The train was travelling on the Oaklands to Benalla Branch line enroute to Tottenham at the time of the incident. The train, consisting of two locomotives and 40 bulk wagons, was loaded with canola, whilst the semi-trailer was conveying bulk grain.

Upon impact with the semi-trailer, two locomotives and four loaded wagons of the train derailed, coming to rest approximately 80m beyond the level crossing. The two locomotives and one wagon sustained major damage. Fortunately, the train crew received only minor injuries. The semi-trailer sustained extensive damage to the rig and the trailer was destroyed. The semi-trailer driver suffered back injuries and was taken to Wangaratta Hospital.

The contents of the semi-trailer spilled into a grassed area when the trailer split open upon impact. Approximately 80 metres of track was also destroyed and there was damage to the road surface and signage at the level crossing.

The Oaklands to Benalla line is a seasonal Branch line and there were no other train services affected by this incident. Local vehicular traffic between Savernake and Mulwala remains diverted via Rennie.



Photograph 1:  
Accident scene looking  
from on top of the lead  
locomotive



Photograph 2: Derailed locomotives

### **Status of the Investigation**

The Chief Investigator has directed Pacific National to investigate this accident in accordance with Section 66 of the *Rail Safety Act* and OTSI will review the subsequent investigation report.