

LOCOMOTIVES AND RAIL CROSSINGS

Petition

Mr R.N. Sweetman presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 2 385 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned residents of Western Australia are concerned that the lack of adequate safety mechanisms on locomotives, freight wagons and at rail crossings is resulting in road accidents and fatalities, particularly in rural areas.

Currently freight trains are only illuminated with a single headlight aimed at the track to assist in the operating of the train by the driver rather than alerting motorists to locomotive's presence. Inappropriate speed signs and placement of other warning signage precede many rural rail crossings. Also, the approaches to crossings are in the main, not equipped with rumble strips to warn motorists of an upcoming rail crossing.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request that:

- as a matter of urgency, the Legislative Assembly introduce and pass legislation which will require all locomotives operating in Western Australia to be fitted with rooftop strobe lights to be used in the vicinity of all rail crossings in this State; and
- that the Legislative Assembly introduce and pass legislation which would require all freight wagons operating in Western Australia to be fitted with strobe lights to be used in the vicinity of all rail crossings in this State; and
- that the Legislative Assembly give urgent consideration to the adequacy of legislation, and as need be, introduce and pass legislation which would require appropriate speed signs, appropriate placement of warning signage and rumble strips at country railway crossings.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 141.]