

**FINDINGS &
RECOMMENDATIONS
Of 26 CORONIAL
INVESTIGATIONS
From 13 RLX CRASHES
2002–2009
IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

***Terry Spicer
RLX Safety
GLXS – 2014
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Cluster of 26 RLX Coronial Investigations

Background

GLXS 2012 - London

RLX Safety Web Site

<http://www.rlxafety.com/publications.html>

KERANG - 5 JUNE 2007



KERANG - 5 JUNE 2007



The VicPol Kerang Reconstruction

5 June 2007



KERANG - 5 JUNE 2007



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“fail to become aware of an approaching train, despite a plethora of level crossing warnings, and who become involved in a fatal level crossing collision”.

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The Inquests focussed on 3 areas;

- 1. The driver and the road vehicle**
- 2. The infrastructure**
- 3. The emergency response**

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Coroner Hendtlass found;

“there is a group of road vehicle drivers who cannot be reached by the current active or passive level crossing warnings at the time they are approaching a level crossing.”

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She added;

“There is no evidence before me to suggest that these drivers are otherwise inattentive or pre-disposed to failing to respond to stimuli.”

WHAT THE THE KERANG INVESTIGATIONS MISSED

The Investigations;

- 1. 2009 - OCI Report No 2007/09
(Assisted by ATSB Human Factors)**
- 2. 2009 - The Kerang Criminal
Trial**
- 3. 2011 -2013 Coronial Inquests**

**WHAT THE THE KERANG
INVESTIGATIONS MISSED**

**INDIVIDUAL
RAIL MANAGER'S
ACCOUNTABILITY**

WHAT THE THE KERANG INVESTIGATIONS MISSED

**“preventative
action” in August –
October 2006”**

**WHAT THE THE KERANG
INVESTIGATIONS MISSED**

**A
COMPREHENSIVE
RISK
ASSESSMENT???**

WHAT THE THE KERANG INVESTIGATIONS MISSED

**The paper contains
8 listed**

**“Additional Risk
Mitigation Options”**

**WHAT THE THE KERANG
INVESTIGATIONS MISSED**

WHY?

WHAT THE THE KERANG INVESTIGATIONS MISSED

- **The OCI Report ...**
- **The Criminal Trial and The Coronial Inquest Investigators - Did not Employ Anyone With Rail Industry Expertise to;**

**“ASK THE RIGHT
QUESTIONS”**

The Coronial Inquest Findings & The 25 Recommendations

Covers Three Categories.

1. The driver and the road vehicle. (7 Recommendations)

**2. The infrastructure.
(10 Recommendations)**

**3. The emergency response.
(8 Recommendations)**

The Coronial Inquest Findings & Recommendations

Recommendation No 3;

“That Transport Safety Victoria and VicRoads commit themselves to joint sophisticated human factors research and innovative technology to determine how best to alert drivers who will otherwise not notice an approaching train in the context of current level crossing warnings.”

The Coronial Inquest Findings & Recommendations

**INATTENTIONAL
BLINDNESS,
CHANGE BLINDNESS,
AND
TRAIN CONSPICUITY
RESEARCH**

INATTENTIONAL/CHANGE BLINDNESS

WIKIPEDIA

**Christopher Simons (*et al.*):
University of Illinois – Urbana,
Champaign – 2010**

“Monkey Business Illusion”

**[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invisible
_gorilla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invisible_gorilla)**

Monkey Business Illusion



The Coronial Inquest Findings & Recommendations

**Might Well Explain The 10% or
So of our RLX Fatalities,
Which We Have Always
Concluded Are;
“INEXPLICABLE ?”**

Cluster of 26 RLX Coronal Investigations

**Thank You & The Very Best For The
Future Success Towards
“ZERO – RLX ACCIDENTS”**

TERRY SPICER



A MEMBER OF THE DAWN ALLIANCE

www.terry.spicer@rlxsafety.com

www.rlxsafety.com

My Wife Nicole & I are Now Going to Explore Some of Your Beautiful Country

