



# QR NATIONAL™

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **QR National improves track-side safety for train crew**

QR National is installing more than 80 kilometres of safe trackside walkway at 98 sites across the Central Queensland Coal Network to provide a safer working environment for train crews at designated crew change and stowage locations.

Following a successful trial in October 2011 at three sites on the Blackwater Rail System, which attracted positive feedback from QR National and Pacific National train crew, progressive installation will now begin across the entire network.

QR National General Manager Network Assets Scott Riedel said the design used innovative materials and was safe, cost-effective and simple to install.

“The new walkway is made of Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic Grating which is durable, weather resistant, safety yellow, UV protected, light weight, non-conductive and non-slip.

“It provides a safer, more stable surface for crews to move between trains and access wagons when manually applying handbrakes. The main aim of the design is to prevent injuries from slips, trips and falls.

“It also maintains a free draining track structure which is essential for the long-term track asset life performance, while minimising operational costs,” Mr Riedel said.

Each unit is 1.2 metres in width and 3.6 metres in length and is simply connected end to end to create the walkway. The top connector plates are designed to absorb UV daylight and glow in the dark to delineate the walkway during nightshifts.

“Our employees have welcomed news that 25 safety critical sites, equivalent to around 23 kilometres of trackside walkway, will be installed during this financial year.

“QR National will continue to monitor the success of the Crew Change and Stowage safe walkways, with the intention of rolling out the remaining 73 crew change and stowage sites over the next five years.

“We are also developing additional conceptual designs with the potential to deliver a robust, innovative, cost-effective and compatible culvert headwall extension, staircase and hand rail modular system network wide,” Mr Riedel said.

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*QR National is Australia's largest rail freight company with services operating across five states. In 2010/11, QR National transported more than 240 million tonnes of freight, including coal, iron ore, other minerals, agricultural products and general freight. It also operates and manages the 2,670 kilometre Central Queensland coal network that links mines to coal ports at Bowen, Mackay and Gladstone.*

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