



Making Victorian Roads Safer with Innovation...

Motorists driving on the Princes Freeway near Laverton, Victoria, and exiting the highway at the High-Street off-ramp, are being greeted with a 60-metre length of the brightly coloured, newly installed safety roller barrier – the first of its kind to be installed in Australia as part of a trial installation between WA company KSI Global Australia Pty Ltd and VicRoads.

KSI Global Australia's Safety Roller Barrier (SRB) is an innovative crash tested product, which heralds the arrival of the latest design in safety crash barrier systems internationally.

KSI's SRB engineering feature is to convert the collision energy generated from a vehicle impacting the barrier to rotational energy - maintaining the vehicle within its trajectory post-impact and providing increased protection to drivers and passengers.

John Wheatland, Managing Director and Founder of KSI Global Australia, based in Geraldton, Western Australia, discovered the SRB from South Korean manufacturer, KSI Korea, and has spent the last 5 years researching, re-engineering and crash testing SRB under international standards. John, who also owns and manages Midwest Traffic Controllers Pty Ltd - a medium-sized well established traffic control company in the Mid-West of Western Australia - saw the SRB's potential to fill the safety gap not necessarily being fully met by existing barrier systems.

According to John (known as Weaties in the trade): "In collaboration with our Korean partner, KSI Korea, we have a world class safety roller barrier – the first in the world which has been tested to MASH TL 3 & TL 4 US accreditation. This is really important, because MASH accreditation is judged on

three critical criteria; Structural Adequacy, Occupant Risk and Vehicle Trajectory Post Impact."

KSI Global Australia has since achieved a portfolio of international accreditations, including: EN 1317 (EU), NHCRP 350 (EU), Austroads (Aust), Korean SB 4/5 and Federal Highways (USA) approvals – and above all MASH TL4 (USA).

The Victorian installation took place just prior to Christmas and John, his son Kyle, and Ricky (also experienced Traffic Controllers) oversaw the installation with VicRoads from start to finish. Despite some early challenges organizing the dig, they managed to complete the installation just prior to Christmas, which was their goal. Weaties attributes the success of the installation to the cooperation and teamwork between KSI's engineering team, VicRoads' Safe System Design team and VicRoads' Road Services team from Metropolitan North West.

Weaties adds: "Our SRB is a really versatile piece of road furniture which can be installed onto roadways, medians, verges, on-ramps and off-ramps, and in high risk locations. The distinctive striking yellow colour rollers serve as a visual warning to approaching drivers to be aware of impending road environments and therefore slowdown."

As Michael Carter, Director, International Engagement, KSI Global puts it: "We are a local company with a global vision and global product to help reduce road fatalities which, globally, are around 1.25 million annually."

"We have been proactively pursuing opportunities for our SRB in South Asia, SE Asia, North America and the Middle East. Our

international efforts have been supported by the assistance of the Australian Federal Government's trade and investment agency, Austrade," added Carter.

With KSI's first Australian installation in place in Laverton, Victoria, plans are afoot to install two further trials in Western Australia; two units in Perth's suburbs and one in City of Greater Geraldton, Weaties' home town.

As Weaties puts it: "Having our SRB on the ground back in Australia is a really significant milestone. Australia is globally recognised as an innovative and pioneering country in addressing road safety, with Victoria and VicRoads showing strong support for innovation to reduce road trauma."

"We'll continue to have the performance of the barrier monitored over the next 3 to 6 months, and we're confident that thanks to its MASH TL4 criteria rating, the SRB will prove its engineering pedigree as the most efficient crash barrier on the market," Weaties said.

KSI Global Australia is doing its part to bring innovation to crash barrier technology to help support the Government's efforts and strategies to reduce road trauma to zero.

At the time of writing, the SRB has been installed for 63 days and there have been no impacts at the trial barrier installation site. What's more, it's clearly evident that there have been no vehicles swerving dangerously close to, or hitting the visually distinctive yellow barrier.

"It's doing its job!" remarks Weaties.

For further information, please contact: John Wheatland (M: 0447 777 765) or Michael Carter (M: 0466 522 127) or visit: www.ksiglobal.com.au