BYERS, James 17 August 1910

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Guard	Moora MRWA	Shunting operations

James Byers was 23 years of age at the time he was fatally injured while shunting in Moora. James told a witness that he was moving from one side of the wagons to the other and had slipped of the brake lever, with the result that his legs were severely crushed and had to be amputated. James died two days later in hospital at Midland Junction. A coroner's inquest determined that James' death was an accident. James was single and lived in Midland with his mother and is interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (Anglican/CA/0093).

THE MOORA FATAL ACCIDENT.
An inquest concerning the death of the late James Byers, of Moora, who died at Nurse Stewart's private hospital on the19th inst. as a result of injuries sustained when following his occupation as a shunter, was held at Midland Junction on Wednesday before Mr P. F. Robinson, acting coroner, and Messrs P. Langan, W. J. Browne and A, P. Reynolds, jurymen. Mr Brown appeared to watch the interests of the Midland Railway Co.

The evidence of the engine driver (Geo. Roberts) and fireman (A. Foster) was to the effect that they were "picking up" a truck in the Moora railway yard when Byers gave the signal to go ahead. They sent the engine ahead very slowly for about 25 yards, and then stopped immediately in response to a cry from Byers. The driver ran back and found Byers lying on the side of the line opposite to that on which he had been standing, with his legs badly crushed.

Dr. Myles, of Moora, deposed to having rendered temporary relief to the deceased, whom he then brought by special train to Midland. There Dr. Fergusson-Stewart, assisted by witness, amputated both deceased's legs. In reply to questions Dr. Myles stated that the company offered him every assistance, both by having a special train provided and all necessary nourishment and hot water along the line. The deceased had told him that he was crossing from one side of the line to the other, when he slipped off the brake. Dr. Fergusson-Stewart detailed the nature of the injuries and the necessity for amputation, and added that while deceased was under the anaesthetic a saline solution was injected in considerable quantities to replace blood lost at the time of the accident and during the operation. He rallied well, and witness called to see him several times on the following day (Thursday). Early Friday morning his condition became critical, and he remained with the patient from 2 to 4 a.m., and then drove to Mr Geo. Smith's house and got Byers' mother and Mrs Smith. The patient’s condition was then hopeless, and he died at 11a.m.

Geo. Roberts (re-called) stated "that the action of Byers in passing from one side of the line to the other between the moving trucks was a common practice. Shunters take these risks." he added.

The jury returned a verdict, in accordance with the medical evidence, that death was due to shock and loss of blood, and that no blame was attachable to anyone. They added a rider expressing appreciation of the action of the Midland Railway Co. in doing everything that was possible in the interests of the injured man.

The funeral of the late Mr Byers took place on Sunday afternoon. The cortege left the residence of Mr Geo. Smith, General Manager of the Midland Railway Co., and proceeded to the Midland railway station, and thence by train to Karrakatta, where the remains were interred in the Presbyterian portion of the cemetery, the Rev. J. Haynes conducting the ceremony at the graveside The chief mourners were Mrs Byers (mother), Mr and Mrs Geo. Smith (cousins), Mrs D. Smith (aunt), Master

C. Smith, Messrs E. B. Stewart and W. Brown, and Miss Bailey. The pall bearers (all employees of the company) were Messrs W. Brown, S. Haselmore, T. Mirsen, R. Price, Taplin, and Burns. The funeral was largely attended, many coming from Moora, where deceased had made himself very popular during the 18 months since his arrival from Scotland. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs Farrall Bros., of Midland Junction. *James Byers was 23 years of age at the time of the accident.*

Source: *Trove/The Swan Express (Midland Junction) Friday 26 August 1910 Page 4.*