

MEDIA RELEASE

01 May 2013

TRAIN DERAILMENT – SOUTH LINE

TasRail has confirmed a train derailed on the South line at approximately 3:25am this morning. No one was injured in the incident.

TasRail crews are currently working to clear the site and repair minor damage to the track. It is expected the South line will remain closed until later today.

The train was heading North to Burnie when six general freight wagons derailed near Colebrook. Early indications are that there is little or no damage to the freight consignment with all wagons remaining in an upright position.

TasRail CEO Damien White praised the driver for bringing the train to a controlled stop.

“I must commend our driver for his quick response. At the first sign of the issue he was able to bring the train to a controlled stop,” Mr White said.

Mr White said TasRail has consulted affected customers. Services across the rest of the network remain unaffected.

“We’re engaging with our customers to work on alternate solutions to ensure their freight requirements are met in the short term until normal freight operations resume,” Mr White said.

The derailment was immediately reported to the Rail Safety Regulator, and Australian Transport Safety Bureau and will be subject to a full internal investigation.

Mr White said while it is disappointing the derailment occurred, he reinforced that the number and severity of mainline derailments had significantly reduced under TasRail’s ownership.

This section of track is included in the current concrete sleeper capital works program and will be completed by September 2013. Concrete sleepers will provide a step change in improved track condition and a reduction in derailment risk.

ENDS

For more information or comment:

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About TasRail

TasRail is a State-owned Company, established on 1 December 2009 by an Act of the Tasmanian Parliament. The principal objectives of the business are set out in the Rail Company Act 2009 and require the Company to operate a rail business in Tasmania, effectively and efficiently and to operate its activities in accordance with sound commercial practice.

With a direct workforce of around 250 men and women, Tasmania's current freight task is approximately 2.5 million tonnes per year – generating annual revenue in the order of \$30 million. Since it was established, TasRail has spent \$97.7 million purchasing goods and services from more than 900 Tasmanian Companies.

TasRail conservatively estimates that the freight it transports by rail each year effectively removes the equivalent of 100,000 B-Double truck movements from the State's road network. Even after taking into account the total of TasRail's reported annual carbon emissions (fuel and energy), this equates to a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of some 45,800 tonnes.