

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

5 April 2013

### **CAR COLLIDES WITH TRAIN**

A motorist had a lucky escape when the car he was driving collided with a train at the Hopkins Street, Moonah level crossing just before 5:00 this morning.

It is understood the motorist walked away from the collision with only minor injuries. However, the train driver was understandably shaken by the incident and will be given counselling and other support as appropriate.

The level crossing is protected by warning bells and flashing lights, and TasRail confirms that they were operating at the time of the collision. Tasmania Police attended the scene.

TasRail CEO Damien White said he was thankful that today's collision had not resulted in a loss of life, but urged road users to be more respectful of level crossing signals and signs.

Today's collision is the first recorded for the 2012/13 reporting period, but follows a number of recent reports of reckless behaviour at level crossings.

"In recent weeks our train drivers have reported a number of serious near miss incidents, including two separate reports of motorists becoming impatient waiting for trains and taking a deliberate decision to pull out of a queue, to overtake waiting vehicles and to drive through a level crossing in front of an approaching train", Mr White said. "This type of senseless behaviour jeopardises lives and has a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of TasRail's train drivers and other staff".

The message is clear – Lose a minute, not your Life.

Mr White confirmed that the locomotive hit by the vehicle this morning was damaged and TasRail is considering pursuing a claim against the motorist.

In 2011/12 TasRail reported a 41 per cent reduction in the number of reported near miss incidents at Level Crossings, recording 69 for the period compared to 118 in 2010/11.

In 2011/12 there were 2 level crossing collisions, compared to 7 in 2010/11 representing a 71 per cent reduction.

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.*