

MEDIA RELEASE

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TASRAIL PLEA OVER DEADLY BEHAVIOUR

TASRAIL drivers are being forced to deal with increasingly stupid acts carried out by people putting lives at risk.

One of the worst examples in recent weeks occurred yesterday in Burnie.

The driver has reported a man and three young children all under the age of 10 running across the pedestrian crossing near the Burnie wharf along the foreshore as the train was just two engine lengths from the crossing.

The driver sounded his warning whistle and flashed his lights repeatedly.

The response from the adult male was “the finger” while the children looked on.

“This type of behaviour is clearly unacceptable as not only is it incredibly dangerous but it puts immense stress on our drivers who are everyday Tasmanians coming in to do their jobs safely,” TasRail chief executive Damien White said.

“A near miss, particularly involving children, can traumatise a driver and have a devastating effect on them and their families if they are unable to work due to stress.”

The warm weather in recent weeks also appears to have encouraged a spate of potentially deadly bridge-jumping incidents, again reported by affected and highly concerned TasRail drivers.

Children and teenagers have been jumping off bridges at Heybridge, Deloraine and Longford. One incident saw children and teens jumping off the Longford rail bridge into the water on the weekend, causing the vigilant driver to stop the train and block the main road crossing until he could be certain they were gone.

This put children, the driver and vehicles at risk. Members of the public phoned TasRail to complain the road was blocked.

“If this high-risk behaviour continues it’s only a matter of time before tragedy strikes,” Mr White said.

TasRail is calling on Tasmanians to heed the rail safety message and consider past tragedies and their wide-ranging impact.

Tune in to rail safety at <https://www.facebook.com/Follow.TasRail>.



ENDS

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