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MEDIA RELEASE

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TasRail Vehicle Shot at in Potentially Deadly Attack

A RECENT spate of dangerous behaviour reported by TasRail this week has escalated dangerously after one of the railway's recently-purchased specialist vehicles was shot at yesterday afternoon.

The multi-million dollar tamper and ballast regulator arrived in the state earlier this year from the US and are essential track maintenance vehicles for TasRail's network, ensuring the track is safe for their freight services to run on time.

Tamper supervisor Steve Scolyer was in the cab of the regulator attached to the tamper passing over Stitt River Bridge outside Rosebery shortly after 5pm yesterday when the drivers noticed four youths by the river some distance away.

The tamper/ballast regulator was travelling at about 15kmh at the time.

"We saw the youths looking up at the regulator and the next thing we heard was the explosive sound of something striking the right hand side window," he said.

Fearing further attack, the drivers continued for a short distance out of the danger zone and inspected the regulator. The new regulator had luckily been fitted with heavy duty high impact glass that is of almost bullet-proof standard.

Despite this the projectile had gone 5mm into the 15mm-thick glass.

The drivers were unsure whether the youths had used a powerful slingshot or an air rifle.

The incident is of the utmost seriousness due to the fact that if the old regulator had been in use, the projectile would have gone through the much thinner glass and potentially killed one of two men inside the cabin.

"The incident could have proved fatal yesterday if the regulator door was open at the time," Mr Scolyer said.

"It's frightening and extremely disappointing to have something like this happen."

TasRail chief executive Damien White said he was disgusted by the news.

"The right for all of our staff to be safe at work is paramount and I utterly condemn this behaviour," he said.



"It is abhorrent to think that these acts are being committed by members of our community against the very assets the Tasmanian taxpayer has funded."

Tasmania Police are treating the incident as serious and drivers are currently being interviewed by Queenstown investigators.

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Any information should be provided to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

ENDS

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