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Rene Hidding, Minister for Infrastructure

Train drivers bear brunt of dangerous risk-taking

Tasmanians are urged to spare a thought for train drivers as TasRail ramps up its rail safety campaign for National Rail Safety Week, which begins today.

Over the last two financial years, TasRail recorded more than 200 near misses at level crossings, a breathtaking figure by any standards.

All too often train drivers witness dangerous or risky behaviour that puts the lives of many Tasmanians at risk.

Every time a motorist or pedestrian decides to risk crossing the tracks in front of an oncoming train, there is a train driver fearing the worst.

And when this unnecessary and illegal risk-taking results in inevitable serious injury or even death, train drivers are understandably left scarred by the experience.

The Liberal Government supports National Rail Safety Week, and we particularly support the actions of TasRail, working in partnership with Tasmania Police and other stakeholders, to improve rail safety.

The message to all road users is clear: when you approach a level crossing and a train is anywhere in the area, stop immediately.

You might lose a minute but you will save your life, and you will certainly save a train driver a great deal of worry.

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