

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

23 May 2014

### **TasRail Community Update on Train Horn Noise**

TasRail continues to work towards a solution to community concerns regarding train horn noise that balances the need for safety and a zero harm approach for citizens and staff, with appropriately sounding the horn, especially during the early hours of the morning.

Members of the community predominantly along the Western Line between Devonport and Burnie have continued to contact TasRail this week to express their concerns about the loudness and duration of the new horns on the TR class locomotives.

TasRail CEO Damien White says that the organisation is working hard to gather the evidence it needs to provide a risk based case in order to properly consider any change to the current protocols governing the timing or volume of the horns.

“That it is a real problem for many residents that live adjacent to or nearby the rail corridor I have no doubt.

“I am aware of every complaint we have had, and my team are addressing it across a number of fronts. We are working with experts in noise and safety from the rail industry in Australia, getting advice from the EPA Tasmania, as well as making sure that our drivers are complying with the standards so we have a consistent use of the horn,” he said.

Some of the options being investigated are quiet zones, lower volumes and curfews, risk profiling of unprotected level crossings in the area, and the potential to close crossings completely (thereby negating the need to use the horn).

“There are a significant number of level crossings along the Western Line. TasRail has a responsibility to ensure that we can unequivocally prove that we have done everything possible to avoid an incident on our network.

“This is a difficult situation and I am asking the community to work with us – we understand this is causing distress and a safe solution will be found as soon as possible, but this will take a little time, and until then the scheduled services must run so we are able to continue to support the Tasmanian businesses that rely on us to get their products to market,” Mr White said.

TasRail is encouraging community members who are experiencing elevated horn noise that haven't contacted the organisation go to TasRail's website link <http://www.tasrail.com.au/train-whistle-contact> and provide the location along with the date, time and an overview of the incident to assist with mapping the issue.

ENDS

*For more information:*

*Polly McGee Executive Manager Corporate Relations  
Contact : 0488301143*



*11 Techno Park Drive  
P O Box 335  
Kings Meadows Tasmania 7249  
T 1300 TASRAIL  
F 03 6335 2636  
[www.tasrail.com.au](http://www.tasrail.com.au)*