

MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL RAIL SAFETY WEEK 2015 Monday August 10 – Sunday August 16

Get on board at **#NRSWTasRail**

National Rail Safety Week (NRSW) starts today. Each year in August, the rail industry combines with police and other government bodies to raise the profile of community rail safety by targeting specific areas of concern and raising awareness of the importance of staying safe around railway tracks and trains.

The theme for this year's NRSW is **'RAIL SAFETY – IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY'**.

Launching NRSW 2015 in Tasmania, TasRail CEO Damien White said this year's theme reflected the reality that every injury or death that occurs on the rail network could be prevented if people always obeyed railways signs and signals and did not trespass on the railway corridor.

Mr White is hopeful that NRSW will encourage Tasmanians to reflect on their own behaviour whenever they interact with the railway, and to think about the example they set for others, especially children.

"Many thousands of Tasmanians interact with the railway on a daily basis", Mr White said. "While the majority of people do so without incident, TasRail continues to report an unacceptably high number of incidents that have very real potential to cause serious harm or loss of life.

TasRail is encouraging the community to get involved in NRSW 2015 by thinking about what they will do to keep themselves, their family or other members of the public safe. For example, whenever they approach a railway level crossing, or observe an unsafe act such as railway trespass or vandalism.

"Social media is increasingly important way for TasRail to engage with the public, so this year for NRSW we've created **#NRSWTasRail** Mr White said. "We're asking Tasmanians to tweet a photo of themselves holding up a sign pledging their commitment to rail safety, or telling us what they will do to stay safe around trains and tracks".

TasRail will promote NRSW through a range of initiatives this week including promotional displays, billboard advertising and targeted campaigns to prevent railway trespass and vandalism.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of NRSW.

For further information about rail industry initiatives during NRSW go to www.tracksafefoundation.com.au/rail-safety-week

Ends

For more information:

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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 workforce of around 240 men and women, Tasmania's current freight task is approximately 2.6 million tonnes per year – generating annual revenue in the order of \$37 million.

Independent analysis by leading consultants Pitt & Sherry confirms that by moving freight on rail rather than road, an estimated \$159 million in social, economic and environmental savings will be generated for the benefit of the Tasmanian economy over the five years to 30 June 2019. In 2013-14, these savings were worth around \$26 million.