

MEDIA RELEASE

21 December 2018

At the top of TasRail's 2018 Christmas Wish List is a request for the public to observe its rail safety message.

TasRail's freight trains continue to operate throughout the Christmas and New Year period and CEO Steven Dietrich is urging the community to stay safe by being alert for trains, always obeying level crossing signs and signals and by staying off railway tracks and rail bridges.

"The Christmas and New Year holiday period is typically a time when many people find themselves on the road travelling to visit family and friends or to take a holiday, so its highly likely that during the course of their travels, Tasmanians will interact with the railway," Mr Dietrich said.

"We don't want to see anyone's festive season ruined by one poor decision."

For the 2017/18 financial year TasRail reported 72 failures to stop or give way at level crossings around the State.

"We work closely with Tasmania Police throughout the year to highlight the dangers of disregarding the road rules around level crossings, and have fixed cameras on site at a number of locations throughout the State," Mr Dietrich said.

"It only takes a minute or two for a train to pass through a crossing, but a split-second decision by a distracted or impatient motorist not to wait for the train could be tragic. The outcome will also have a shattering impact on the lives of others, including innocent bystanders, the train driver and other rail staff as well as the first responders from police and emergency services."

TasRail is also concerned that too many people – young and old –continue to trespass inside the rail corridor by walking on the tracks or using a rail bridge as a recreational area, with 69 incidences of trespass reported in 2017/18.

"Railway tracks and bridges are incredibly dangerous places to be without the appropriate protections in place," Mr Dietrich said.

"People think they will hear the train approaching and have time to move away, but it's not always the case. If you happen to be on a rail bridge when the train approaches, there is no emergency exit and the consequences are likely to be fatal.

"The best way to stay safe and enjoy the holiday season is to make sure you always respect rail signage by stopping for trains and staying well away from railway tracks, rail terminals and rail bridges."

Continued over

TasRail's Christmas Train:

TasRail's Christmas Train will continue to run until New Year. Please remember to view the train away from the rail corridor and well clear of the tracks and danger zone.

Where to see the Christmas Train (note times are subject to change):

Sunday, Tuesday, Thursdays:

- Brighton rail terminal from 7pm
- Tee Tree ~7:15pm
- Colebrook ~8.30pm
- Parattah or Oatlands ~9.30pm – 10:00pm
- Tunbridge through to Campbell Town ~10.20pm – 11.30pm

Monday, Wednesday, Fridays

- Burnie rail terminal from 8pm
- Penguin ~ 8.20pm
- Ulverstone ~9pm
- Devonport ~9.50pm
- Railton ~10.25pm
- Deloraine ~11.50pm
- Westbury ~12.20am

ENDS

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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 230 men and women, TasRail's rail freight task in 2017/18 was approximately 2.9 million tonnes. TasRail conservatively estimates that the freight it transports by rail each year effectively removes the equivalent of 140,000 B-Double truck movements from the State's road network.