

NEWS RELEASE

Two injured in cane train safety incident

A motorist and locomotive driver's assistant were injured when a vehicle collided with a Wilmar Sugar locomotive on the Bruce Highway outside Ingham on Monday.

Both men were taken to Ingham Hospital for treatment and later transported to Townsville Hospital. The locomotive driver escaped without injuries.

Herbert Cane Supply Manager Jim Kirchner said the incident happened about 6pm at the cane railway crossing near the John Row Bridge, about 2km north of Ingham.

"The crossing has flashing warning lights and also pre-warning lights, which were all activated at the time," Mr Kirchner said.

"It appears the motorist – the vehicle's sole occupant - has failed to see the locomotive and hit it at full speed."

Emergency services and Wilmar Sugar's emergency response team attended the scene. The incident is being investigated.

Mr Kirchner said the locomotive was not hauling any cane bins at the time.

"It was travelling west from Macknade Mill to collect cane bins," he said.

"The locomotive didn't derail but sustained damage and will be out of service while repairs are undertaken."

Mr Kirchner said it was a disappointing way to start the season.

“Given the high-speed impact of the crash, we were fortunate no one was more seriously injured,” he said.

“The incident highlights the fact cane trains are on the move again and people need to approach all cane railway crossings with caution.”

Motorists should obey all signs and signals at cane railway crossings and always give way to oncoming cane trains.

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