

NEWS RELEASE

Lucky escape for loco crew

A locomotive crew was lucky to escape without injury after a gas cylinder hit their locomotive in the Herbert region on Saturday night.

Fortunately, the cylinder did not explode when it hit the locomotive, although the crew could see and smell gas escaping from the bottle.

Herbert Cane Supply Manager Jim Kirchner said it appeared the collision was the result of a deliberate act.

He said police were notified and the incident was under investigation.

The incident happened as the outbound cane train passed a residence in the Abergowrie area about 9.30pm.

“A group of people were gathered out the front of the residence,” he said.

“As the loco crew drove past they saw a gas cylinder rolling towards them.

“It was extremely lucky that the cylinder did not explode when it collided with the loco.”

Mr Kirchner said loco crews should be able to perform their duties without fearing for their safety.

“People need to have more respect for cane trains and the people who operate them,” he said.

“They should always give way to oncoming cane trains at cane railway crossings and never doing anything which could put loco crews in danger.”

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