

NEWS RELEASE

Spate of cane train collisions continues

Wilmar Sugar urges motorists to take more care at cane railway crossings after the third cane train collision in the Burdekin within a fortnight.

An elderly motorist was seriously injured on Saturday morning after colliding with a cane train at a cane railway crossing at Sayers Road, outside Ayr.

Burdekin Cane Supply Manager Steve Postma said the crossing's flashing warning lights were activated at the time.

"The vehicle struck the train at the back of the locomotive and front of the first full cane bin," he said.

"The loco crew was uninjured but shaken.

"Our crews shouldn't have to be subjected to these kinds of traumas while they do their job."

The locomotive was hauling full cane bins to Pioneer Mill when the incident happened just before 10.30am.

Mr Postma said it was frustrating that motorists continued to disregard signs and signals at cane railway crossings.

"We said last week we were very lucky no one was badly injured in the previous two crashes and now we've had a much more serious outcome," he said.

Two of the three recent crashes happened at cane railway crossings with activated flashing lights and good visibility.

“Every season we repeatedly urge people to stay safe at cane railway crossings and to always give way to cane trains.

“We will continue to put out that safety message and hopefully those motorists who take risks will start to pay attention.”

The Burdekin’s crushing season passed the halfway mark last week and is on track to be finalised in early November.

Cane trains will continue to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week until the season ends.

ISSUED BY : Wilmar Sugar Australia Limited
CONTACT : Kylie Newman (Community Relations Manager)
DURING OFFICE HOURS : (07) 4722 1958 or 0409 272 794
EMAIL : kylie.newman@wilmar.com.au

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