

NEWS RELEASE

Close call for school bus and cane train

An Ingham school bus transporting students home last Thursday afternoon narrowly avoided a collision with a Wilmar Sugar cane train.

The cane train came within metres of hitting the rear of the bus, which was stopped on railway tracks along Blackrock Road while preparing to turn on to Tokalon Road.

Herbert Cane Supply Manager Jim Kirchner said the locomotive driver sounded the warning horn as the cane train approached the passive crossing but the bus did not move until the train was about 3m away.

“Fortunately, the bus moved off the tracks just before the cane train travelled through the crossing,” he said.

“It was a very close call.”

The inbound locomotive was hauling full cane bins to Victoria Mill.

The near hit was the second involving a school bus in recent weeks, with an incident recorded in the Burdekin last month.

Mr Kirchner said it was also the latest in a series of recent near hits at cane railway crossings across the Herbert region.

“People need to slow down and take the time to look to see if a cane train is approaching,” he said.

“They should approach all cane railway crossings with caution and always give way to oncoming cane trains.

“We’ve still got more than two months of crushing to go in the Herbert.

“We want a safe finish to the season and we need motorists’ co-operation to achieve that goal.”

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