

NEWS RELEASE

Cane train forced to brake to avoid crash with vehicle

A locomotive driver was forced to stop to avoid hitting a utility on a cane railway bridge near Ayr at the weekend.

Burdekin Cane Supply Manager Steve Postma said the loco driver and his assistant were alerted to the potential danger by the driver of a second vehicle in the area.

The incident occurred at the Plantation Creek railway bridge between Airdmillan and McAllister roads early on Saturday.

“The utility was observed driving along the rail bridge approach, having travelled across the bridge,” Mr Postma said.

“The cane train was forced to stop and wait to allow the oncoming vehicle to clear the rail corridor.

“Had the other driver not been there to alert the loco crew of the impending danger, the incident had potential to be very serious.”

Mr Postma said the utility’s registration details were recorded and passed on to police.

He said the incident highlighted the importance of people and vehicles of all types staying off the cane railway corridor, particularly bridges.

“Cane railway tracks and rail bridges are designed exclusively for use by cane trains. Vehicles should stick to roads and road bridges,” he said.

“Vehicles are also legally required to give way to cane trains – not the other way around,” he said.

The Burdekin’s 2016 crushing season commenced only last week but has already seen a number of near hits recorded at cane railway crossings.

“Motorists should approach all cane railway crossings with caution, obey all signs and signals and always give way to oncoming cane trains,” Mr Postma said.

If motorists detect any faults at crossing lights, they are urged to call the 1800 number displayed on the light pole.

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14 June 2016