

Media statement

12 August 2019

Railing against impatience

Every near-miss at a railway crossing is a potential fatality, Road Safety Advisory Council Chair Garry Bailey said today.

“This week (Monday 12 August 12 to Sunday 18 August) is Rail Safety Week 2019 and it’s a reminder rail safety is everyone’s responsibility.

“We’re all busy and sometimes our impatience can get better of us. Impatience at a railway crossing can be fatal. And it isn’t just the driver who is affected; the families and friends of the passengers, the train driver and other rail staff.

“TasRail says that in the 2018-2019 financial year there was an 18 per cent increase in level crossing incidents in which drivers didn’t stop or give way. Most incidents were on the north-west coast.

“Rail crossings should be approached cautiously, listen for trains and look each way before crossing. Never try and beat a train which has no chance of stopping before hitting you.”

National Rail Safety Week is held each August when the rail industry joins police and other stakeholders to raise the profile of community rail safety by targeting specific areas of concern and raising the importance of staying safe around railway tracks and trains. This year’s theme is ‘Rail Safety – It’s everyone’s responsibility’.

More information is at www.tracksafefoundation.com.au/rail-safety-week