



AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION LTD

Media Release

THINK ABOUT THE TRACK BEFORE YOU 'SNAP'

ARTC Releases Guide for Photographers & Filmmakers

11 August 2014

You wouldn't stand in the middle of the road to take a photo of a truck, so why risk your life and do the same with trains?

That's the question the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is asking this Rail Safety Week (11-17 August), releasing a user-friendly guide to help photographers and filmmakers stay safe when capturing images close to the rail corridor.

With a simple, 12-step checklist and other tips and information, ARTC CEO John Fullerton said the guide is about encouraging safe behaviour around the rail corridor in the hope to reduce incidents and help prevent near hits, or worse.

"We still see too many people enter the rail corridor or exhibit risky behaviour in either their actions or imagery," Mr Fullerton said.

"Every year across Australia we see more than 5,000 incidents of trespass on the rail network, that's over 13 trespasses each day, or one every two hours.

"Unfortunately, some of these incidents involve photographers and filmmakers, of all persuasions, trying to take that 'perfect shot'.

"This puts their own safety at risk as well as those of others, and they often have a direct impact on the reliability of rail operations."

Tragedy does, and has happened, Mr Fullerton said.

"Many people remain unaware that entering into the rail corridor is an illegal activity that constitutes trespass. Worse still, it can result in serious injury or death if that person is struck by a train.

"By promoting safe behaviours around the rail corridor through our actions, in our imagery and in our stories, we can hopefully start reducing these kinds of avoidable incidents."

ENDS

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Note to Editors and Chiefs of Staff –:

- Links to vision of photographers and filmmakers involved in near hits below (YouTube vision)
- Actual ARTC train control reports describing real-life, near-hit incidents with photographers and filmmakers in Australia (SA, VIC and NSW)
- Links to examples of recent tragedies overseas involving photographers and filmmakers capturing imagery too close to the track available (US and NZ examples)

Key Facts:

- There is **44,200km** of railway track in Australia. ARTC's network is over **8,500km**.
- If you get hit by a train, you have a **40 per cent** chance of surviving, with severe injuries to serve as a constant reminder.
- There are more than **5,000 incidents** of trespass on the rail network every year in Australia, that's over **13 trespasses a day** or one every two hours.
- Around **30 people** on average die in the rail corridor due to misadventure, every year.
- In addition there are around **1,000 near hits** at level crossings in Australia every year

Vision:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pd6maEpbzDg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16kCRTFJr04>

Network Controller Report examples (note all from 2013-2014):

Network Controller Report - MOUNT LOFTY

Trespassers on track

Report from Manager of Mt. Lofty Guesthouse of a wedding party standing on the track at Mt. Lofty having their photos taken. This has occurred before. Manager has photos of offender's cars and will pass them to Security

Network Controller Report – MAITLAND

Trespasser in rail corridor at East Maitland footbridge.

"Trespasser in rail corridor at East Maitland footbridge. Driver of train MT922 advises control that there is a 60 year old male trespasser sitting at the base of the East Maitland foot bridge in the rail corridor with light blonde hair and a blue shirt filming the passing trains. Newcastle Police advised."

Network Controller Report– COOTAMUNDRA

Cootamundra: Trespasser.

"At 1355 hrs advised that there is a member of the public over the safety rail on the Olympic highway bridge at Cootamundra. TTM Advised. Police Advised and will attend. Blocks applied. At 1410hrs police advised that person has been removed and was a Rail Enthusiast trying to take photos of trains."

Network Controller Report – WODONGA – WANGARATTA

Wodonga-Wangaratta: ST23 near miss.

"At 1542hrs the driver on ST23 reported a near miss at Beechworth Road Level Crossing just north of Chiltern whilst travelling in an up direction. TTM advised. Driver advised Control that he applied the emergency brake and that the on board PSS firmly advised the people to clear. The PSS on board informed the driver they were clearing the area. The members of the public were taking photos way too close to track. The driver was OK to proceed. CountryLink Advised"