



AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION LTD

Media Release

ARTC URGES PHOTOGRAPHERS & FILMMAKERS TO 'THINK SAFE' AFTER SEYMOUR, VIC TRESPASS INCIDENT

26 September 2014

Following an incident of two males trespassing in the rail corridor to capture footage of trains near Seymour, Victoria, yesterday, ARTC is urging photographers and filmmakers to stay safe and keep out of the rail corridor, an ARTC spokesperson said today.

"All too often we are seeing people push the boundaries trying to capture that 'perfect image', but if attitudes don't change soon we are going to see tragedy like that seen overseas in the past 12 months," the spokesperson said.

At 11.40am yesterday ARTC had to respond to two trespassers filming alongside their vehicle inside the rail corridor at Avenel, North of Seymour, and request them to leave.

"Whether you are a commercial photographer, hobbyist or a member of the media – the rules are the same – it is illegal to enter the rail corridor unless you are authorised to do so and it should be viewed as a 'high danger worksite'," the spokesperson said.

"The people that work in the rail corridor are trained, hold relevant certification and are authorised to be there. By entering without authorisation to capture imagery –it is not only illegal, you are putting your own safety at risk, as well as train drivers, crew and passengers."

"We understand that people want to take photos and film trains and the rail corridor because it is a great location for imagery, but there is a right and wrong way of doing things."

"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.

"The sad thing is, tragedy does, and has happened as a consequence of poor behaviour."

"At its worst, it can lead to 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

In August 2014 ARTC released a user-friendly guide and webpage called "Think about the track before you snap" to provide some tips and advice for filmmakers and photographers planning to take imagery near the rail corridor. It is available at: <http://www.artc.com.au/Article/Detail.aspx?p=6&np=4&id=434>

Date Issued: 26 September 2014

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