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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Cane train alert

Bundaberg Sugar is alerting motorists that cane trains have commenced moving around the Bundaberg region.

Bundaberg Sugar cane logistics superintendent, Robert Powell said the company has an extensive cane rail network and this week cane trains are moving around the Bundaberg district preparing bins for the start of the crushing season.

Mr Powell said because the trains only ran for half the year people tend to become complacent around level crossings.

“During the crushing season which usually runs from June to November, our cane trains operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are reminding motorists to be aware at rail crossings and not to race cane trains. People think they can save some time but it’s not worth the risk.

“Cane trains haul large loads and with a weight in excess of 500 tonnes, they cannot brake quickly and can continue for around a kilometre before coming to a stop.

“We also ask parents to warn their children about the dangers of playing around the railway tracks. This usually increases during the school holidays and parents need to be aware of where their children are playing,” he said.

Mr Powell said people also need to remember not to park too close to railway lines and allow a distance of at least 3 metres.

“There have been instances where trains have impacted vehicles that are parked too close to the tracks,” he said.

(ends)

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