

Monday, 4 June 2018

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **More warning lights for Burdekin crossings**

Wilmar Sugar has installed more warning lights at busy cane rail crossings in the Burdekin ahead of this year's crush.

Crushing starts at Wilmar's four Burdekin mills next Tuesday (12 June) and cane trains will soon be on the move, hauling empty bins to sidings.

General Manager Cane Supply and Grower Relations Paul Giordani said Wilmar had upgraded safety features at two key cane train crossings this maintenance season to further reduce the risk of collisions or near-hits with cane trains.

"We have an extensive public awareness campaign around cane train safety and the need for people to always approach crossings with caution," Mr Giordani said.

"We're also continually working to improve the visibility of our crossings, particularly those that intersect busy roads or highways."

Mr Giordani said pre-warning lights had been installed at two active crossings in the Burdekin ahead of this year's crush: One at McDesme on the Bruce Highway between Ayr and Home Hill, and the other on the Ayr-Dalbeg Road at Airville.

"Because the McDesme crossing on the Bruce Highway gets so much traffic, we've also installed overhead flashing lights there to serve as an additional warning system."

Mr Giordani said there were six collisions and nine near-hits involving Burdekin cane trains last year – most of which involved local residents.

"A number of the collisions were due to tractors, trucks or cars failing to give way to locos at crossings without flashing lights. We also had an incident where a cane transporter was parked too close to the rail corridor and was clipped by a loco."

**CONTACT:** Leanne Oliveri 0447 791 226