



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

NATIONAL RAIL SAFETY WEEK - DON'T PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE

The NSW Government has invested \$3.6 billion in 626 new rail carriages for commuters.

Thursday 30 July 2009

Transport Minister David Campbell today visited Bulli High School to remind students in the Illawarra to stay safe around railway lines to mark National Rail Safety Awareness Week.

Mr Campbell was joined by rail safety campaigner Jonathan Beninca and said the national campaign aimed to keep people safe around railways, especially railway level crossings and rail corridors.

"Most accidents on platforms are easy to avoid if you take some time to stay safe around the railways," Mr Campbell said.

"Basic safety practices like standing behind the yellow line, minding the gap when boarding, taking care entering or exiting trains and arriving with plenty of time, are important for all passengers to remember."

When he was 19, Mr Beninca suffered serious injuries after being hit by a train when he took a short cut across the railway tracks. His decision to trespass and vandalise a train cost him his entire right arm, his right leg below the knee and two fingers on his left hand.

"My aim with students at Bulli and at other schools is to get them to think about the consequences of high-risk behaviour," Mr Beninca said.

"Trespassing and trackside safety can be a matter of life or death and the consequences of accidents caused by people who take risks or refuse to follow the rules can be devastating.

"Never underestimate the importance of safe behaviour at stations and railway level crossings and aboard trains or near the rail corridor.

"Trains cannot swerve to miss trespassers so the message is clear – don't do it."

Mr Campbell said the focus of National Rail Safety Awareness Week this year is taking care at level crossings.

With more than 3000 railway crossings in NSW all pedestrians and road-users at level crossings need to follow the rules and pay extra attention.

"Motorists need to obey level crossing signs and warnings and not try to beat the train or closing barriers," Mr Campbell said.

For more information about National Rail Safety Week visit CityRail's train safety website www.trainsmart.com.au

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