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## Media Release

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### Bundaberg Sugar wins safety award

'Take a safer ride instead' is a message that's won Bundaberg Sugar an award for the Best Solution to a Specific Workplace Health and Safety Issue at the Australian Sugar Milling Council Safety Conference.

Australian Sugar Milling Council chief executive officer, Dominic Nolan said Bundaberg Sugar's 'Kids off Trains' (KOT) Community Safety Awareness Program was a very worthy winner and an excellent example of how the sugar industry values its critical role in regional communities.

"Kids Off Trains is an innovative initiative to engage school kids and the community more broadly on safety messages that could ultimately save lives. Bundaberg Sugar has been recognised as safety leaders for this proactive campaign," Mr Nolan said.

Bundaberg Sugar cane supply manager, Robert Powell said the 'Kids off Trains' (KOT) Community Safety Awareness Program has been a proactive initiative set up by Bundaberg Sugar for more than 17 years. This program forms part of the company's cane rail safety campaign and educates children on the dangers of playing on or near cane rail tracks and trains.

"Our locomotive drivers have on many occasions in the past sighted children on or near cane railways or cane bins. On some occasions these children have not only put themselves in danger but also our train crews by placing objects on rail lines or tampering with control devices," Mr Powell said.

In 2011 it was decided to refresh the KOT program and a DVD was produced by Bundaberg Sugar in conjunction with the Australian Sugar Cane Railway which operates restored steam and diesel cane trains around the Bundaberg Botanic Gardens. The key message is 'Take a safer ride instead' and gives children the option of riding a cane train in a safer environment.

"Our company representative, together with former Bundaberg Sugar cane train driver Ross Driver, who operates trains at the Botanic Gardens, visit local schools to speak to children about cane rail safety and the DVD is shown at that time. Thousands of Bundaberg and district students have heard this important safety message," Mr Powell said.

"Over the last few crushing seasons there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of reports received from our train crews with a zero result in 2015."

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Australian Sugar Cane Railway secretary Ross Driver said their organisation was pleased to partner with Bundaberg Sugar in delivering the cane rail safety message to children.

“In fact since the DVD has been shown in schools and together with the advertising Bundaberg Sugar organises in the school holidays during the crushing season, we have experienced an increase in passengers at the Botanic Gardens railway. This is very beneficial to our Society, especially since we were severely affected by the 2013 flood,” he said.

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**For further information and a photo opportunity please contact  
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*Bundaberg Sugar Cane Supply Manager Robert Powell (left) with  
Australian Sugar Cane Railway Secretary, Ross Driver*