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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **CRIPPS RAISES LEVEL CROSSING ACCIDENT REPORT ISSUES**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has taken the opportunity during a debate on rail safety in the Queensland Parliament to follow through on a number of issues that emerged out of the investigations into two fatal level crossing accidents in his electorate.

Speaking in the Queensland Parliament during debate on the *Transport (Rail Safety) Bill*, Mr Cripps spoke at length about the findings and recommendations of two reports into the tragic accidents at rail level crossings at Rungoo between Ingham and Cardwell on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and at Mundoo, near Innisfail, on New Years Day 2009.

“The Transport Minister has stated that level crossing accidents pose the biggest risk to safe rail operations and that this bill proposes to address safety issues at level crossings by requiring state and local governments and private road owners to enter into agreements with rail operators as to how they will jointly manage level crossing safety” said Mr Cripps.

Mr Cripps discussed how the investigations into the rail level crossing accidents at Mundoo and Rungoo resulted in a number of findings and recommendations to Queensland Rail about how to improve rail safety at level crossings and invited the Transport Minister, Rachel Nolan, to update the parliament about the implementation of those recommendations.

“These two accidents were a shock for all North Queenslanders and prompted a number of rail level crossing upgrades across the region. One finding common to both investigations completed following the accidents at Rungoo and Mundoo was that the passenger manifests did not contain the full contact details of all passengers on board” said Mr Cripps.

“What this basically means is that QR didn’t really know exactly who was on the Tilt Train at Rungoo, or exactly who was on the Sunlander at Mundoo, at the time of these accidents. In fact, one report found the manifest could identify only 54 per cent of the passengers on the train. This is a real concern and something that Queensland Rail must address” he said.

“I can understand it would be difficult for City Train services in south east Queensland. The number of passengers involved would make it almost impossible. However, on long distance passenger services to northern, central and western Queensland, we should expect QR to know the identity of passengers on board at any given time” said Mr Cripps.

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