

In its report *Rise in trespass on railway property* the Sydney Morning Herald said 'Security breaches on railway land have more than trebled in the past four years, raising fears for the safety of passengers and the security of the rail network, documents reveal.'

According to RailCorp the increase in the number of trespass incidents recorded on our property over the past four years has been a direct result of improved reporting procedures introduced in 2006. The average monthly number of recorded trespass incidents has trended upwards from 94 in 2005/06 to 317 in 2008/09.

During this period, RailCorp staff have been made more aware of the need to report sightings of trespassers and it has been easier for them to do so. The general public has also been encouraged to report trespass incidents through the *Your Say Line* and the RailCorp Security Hotline. RailCorp also supports a number of rail safety initiatives to encourage public engagement in reporting trespass.

There has been an average number of four fatalities per year due to trespass over this period; and an average number of five non-fatalities per year (ie accidental injuries not including attempted self-harm). In total, since July 2005 there have been 16 fatalities and 20 non-fatal injuries due to persons trespassing on RailCorp property.

We believe that the total number of fatal and non-fatal injuries due to trespass in any given period bears a direct relationship to the real number of trespass incidents occurring in that period.

*Accordingly, if there had been an increase in the real number of trespass incidents, as distinct from the number of incidents recorded, one would expect a similar increase in the number of fatal and non-fatal injuries recorded as a result of trespass. The data clearly shows that this is not the case.*

RailCorp regards trespass very seriously. As well as the risk of personal trauma, injury or death, trespass incidents can also cause delays and disruptions to train services. RailCorp:

- Maintains focus on trespass through intelligence-based Transit Officer and NSW Police patrols, including joint operations, to detect and deter offences and to raise awareness of the risks associated with trespassing. (The need for sound intelligence to drive enforcement activities has been one of the drivers underpinning improved reporting);
- Actively targets trespassing by vandals through the ongoing enforcement activities of the Police Rail Vandalism Task Force and Plain Clothes Transit Officer Units. There has been a significant increase in the number of rail vandals proceeded against to Court since the inception of the Task Force.
- Conducts targeted enforcement operations at high-risk times;
- Seeks to improve physical security at high-risk areas along the rail corridor;
- Uses security technology, including fixed and deployable CCTV, wherever possible, to assist with enforcement activities.
- Supports trespass communication messages, including information about fines and the risks of trespass.
- Regularly visits schools and local communities to promote trespass awareness.

RailCorp would have welcomed the opportunity to make these and other comments to the *Sydney Morning Herald* had that publication contacted us in the preparation of its story. It didn't.