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Security initiative to target bad behaviour on trains

CityRail customers will welcome a new security campaign to tackle crime and confront anti-social behaviour on the rail network, general manager of RailCorp's Security division, Paul Passmore, announced today.

CityRail this week launched the new security initiative to target bad behaviour on trains and stations and will enforce penalties for offences during the campaign.

Mr Passmore said CityRail transit officers will target bad behaviour to deter offenders from anti-social behaviour on trains and stations such as smoking, drinking, vandalism and offensive conduct.

"Some of the behaviours that customers have said concern them the most are graffiti and vandalism, smoking and drinking on trains and stations, as well as aggressive, rowdy or drunken behaviour that can be intimidating," Mr Passmore said.

Data from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research shows that offences against the person on rail have dropped by more than 32 per cent between 2002 and 2007. Robberies are down by more than 51 per cent.

Mr Passmore said these figures were encouraging, demonstrating that rail crime has substantially decreased in the five years since transit officers were introduced on the network.

"CityRail is launching this new campaign because customer safety and security still remains a top priority on the rail network. The new security initiatives will build on the demonstrably successful reduction in robberies and offences," he said.

"CityRail is serious about tackling crime and confronting any anti-social behaviour that could annoy or worry rail customers.

"The message is clear: anti-social behaviour on trains is unacceptable, offenders face fines and other penalties, and transit officers and other CityRail staff are ready to ensure customers' comfort and security."

CityRail's personal security campaign will involve \$400 on the spot fines and penalties for smoking or drinking on a train or station, committing graffiti or other acts of vandalism, or aggressive, anti-social behaviour.

The campaign will involve continued cooperation with NSW Police through initiatives such as the joint Police Rail Vandalism Task Force, the new Crime Stoppers rail ticket announced last week, and Operation Vision 4 to be announced later this month.

"Plain-clothed and uniformed CityRail transit officers will work closely with NSW Police to enforce penalties and to spread the message that anti-social behaviour is just not worth it," Mr Passmore said.