

# Cane train collision causes injury

**Tom Williams, 7 August 2010, Mackay *Daily Mercury***

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BINS were piled high in a twisted metal mess after two trains collided in the middle of a quiet cane paddock about 25km south of Mackay yesterday.

Bins were crumpled, with some derailed, and others overturned.

A Mackay sugar worker received minor back injuries in the incident, which occurred about 8.30am about 700 metres south of the Chelona-Sandiford Road off the Bruce Highway.

A fully-loaded cane train collided with an empty train.

A representative from Mackay Sugar said an error had resulted in both the trains being on the same section of track.

“The points at the other (Sarina) end were in the incorrect position and caused the train to head in the wrong direction,” the spokesperson said.

“We don’t understand why until we investigate the incident further.”

A Queensland Ambulance spokesperson said a 65-year-old driver’s assistant was transported to Mackay Base Hospital with back injuries.

The man had minor injuries and was discharged from hospital before noon yesterday, a Queensland health spokesperson said.

“The front train was unattended as the driver was waiting for the other train to pass when the accident occurred,” the Mackay sugar spokesperson said.

A Queensland Police spokesperson said the moving train was carrying 80 fully-loaded cane bins when a fault or missed communication at the switching point directed the train on to the same track as the stationary one.

This caused the trains to collide.



Cane trains collide near Chelona, south of Mackay. Both trains were on the same section of track due to an error.

**Peter Holt**

Mackay Sugar said this was the first cane train incident to occur in the 2010 crushing season.

The driver’s assistant was expected to return to work today.