

Report Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2004

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## Train Derailment, Bundaberg, Queensland

Type of Event:	Train Derailment
Date of Event:	16/11/2004
Location:	Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia
Number Killed:	0 (150 injured, 2 seriously)
Damage Estimate:	-
Insured Loss Estimate:	-
Insured:	Queensland Rail
Carriers:	-



### Summary

A high-speed Tilt Train derailed in north-east Australia in the early hours of Tuesday, injuring more than 150 passengers. The train had 156 passengers and seven crew on board when it came off the tracks at 0015 local time (1315 UCT Monday). Seven of the nine carriages derailed, according to police officials. Thirty-five people are being treated for major injuries, including broken bones, abrasions and abdominal injuries. Officials said two people are in a serious condition.

The train was travelling from Brisbane to the northern town of Cairns. The crash occurred near Bundaberg in Queensland. Witnesses described the train as “a twisted wreck” with debris scattered over a vast area. Reports said some carriages were close to sliding onto the adjacent Bruce Highway, a major east coast road. Officials said it could be three days before the tracks are cleared.

Australia’s Tilt Train can travel at speeds of up to 100 miles per hour. Queensland Rail, the company that operates the train, said it did not know what speed the train was doing at the time of the crash. The cause of the accident has not yet been established and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) has launched an investigation. However, an ATSB official said foul play had been almost ruled out as a possible cause. Queensland Rail said the track where the accident occurred had been inspected just hours before the crash, adding it was a well maintained portion of track. Bob Scheuber, Queensland Rail’s chief executive officer, said it is the first major accident involving a Tilt Train.

*Source: Associated Newspapers, BBC News, CNN News, Agence France Presse, BBC Monitoring Service*

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