



Level crossings

Need to know



Level crossings are an important part of Inland Rail because they enable vehicles and pedestrians to cross railway tracks safely.



The construction and operation of Inland Rail requires upgrades to some public and private level crossings and construction of new crossings.



Inland Rail is being built now to create a new freight future for Australia.



It is a fast freight backbone spanning more than 1,700km between Melbourne and Brisbane and is transforming the way goods are moved around a country as big as ours.



As the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia, it's progressively unlocking opportunities for our industries and regions.

Level crossing types

Level crossings have different ways of controlling traffic for the safe interaction of road and rail users.

Passive crossings use stop or give way signs for motorists, and 'look for trains' signs for pedestrians.

Active crossings have flashing lights and boom barriers for motorists and additional automated gates, if required, for pedestrians. These devices are activated prior to and during the passage of a train through a level crossing.

Level crossings can be public or private.

Public crossings are located on state-managed or local council roads.

Private crossings are created for a specific and often limited use, generally to provide access within a private property, or between a private property and a public road.

Assessing existing and proposed crossings

New lines built as part of Inland Rail will require the construction of level crossings to provide safe access to communities and landowners across the line. We will also assess existing crossings.

We are committed to working with local landowners, councils and road authorities to minimise (as far as reasonable and practicable) the number of crossings on the Inland Rail route.

Our process for determining level crossing treatments is outlined below.

IDENTIFY all road rail interfaces within the project area

CONDUCT site visits and assessments

SEEK input from road authority or landowner

DESIGN proposed solution

SEEK feedback from road authority or landowner

IMPLEMENT safety treatment



Level crossing between Parkes and Narromine, New South Wales

To assess public level crossings, we use a national system called the Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model (ALCAM) which considers factors including road traffic numbers, vehicle types, train numbers, speeds and sighting distances.

Any proposed changes to public roads will consider a number of factors such as:

- safety
- sight distances at level crossings
- traffic numbers
- stacking distances
- whether alternative access is available and the distances involved.

All proposed changes are subject to consultation and review by the relevant road authorities, including the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR).

For private crossings, we consult with landowners to consider specific requirements such as farm operations and the movement of farm machinery or livestock. All crossings are designed to comply with the relevant standards.

Safety treatments may include:

- installation of/upgrade to boom barriers and flashing lights
- installation/upgrade of stop sign crossings to meet current standards
- crossing closures, road diversions or realignments
- grade separation (for example road and rail bridges).

We aim to optimise safety at all level crossings while minimising traffic disruption to local communities.

Existing level crossing closures

Any closure of existing public level crossings will adhere to state legislation to ensure relevant issues have been considered along with adequate consultation.

Existing private level crossings will not be closed unless there is alternative legal property access available and the landowner has agreed to the closure.

Wait times at level crossings

We appreciate local community concerns about the potential for traffic delays at level crossings. When freight trains are travelling at the optimal speed of 115km/hr, we estimate the wait time at level crossings is less than two minutes.

However, wait times for trains travelling through towns at lower speeds will be longer and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused.



Level crossing at the intersection of Morris Road and Paulsens Road, Gowrie

Want to know more?

ARTC is committed to working with property owners, communities, state and local governments as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

✉ **ARTC Inland Rail, GPO Box 2462, Brisbane QLD 4001**

📞 **1800 732 761** ✉ **inlandrailenquiries@artc.com.au** 🌐 **inlandrail.com.au**

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