What are level crossings?
Level crossings are an important part of rail networks. They are in place to allow vehicles and pedestrians to cross railway tracks safely.

Similar to road intersections, railway level crossings are points where roads and rail tracks intersect. They 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 with or without boom barriers for motorists, and automated gates for pedestrians. These devices are activated prior to and during the passage of a train through the 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 itself, or between a private property and a public road.

At level crossings pedestrians and motorists should always obey the traffic controls in place, and only proceed across the tracks when there are no trains approaching.

Safety at level crossings
There are more than 23,000 level crossings across Australia, and about 2,900 of these are on the ARTC network. Level crossing safety is very important to us, and as we progress Inland Rail, our aim is to maintain or improve safety at crossings along the corridor. To achieve this goal we will:

- Assess existing level crossings to ensure they comply with the relevant Australian and ARTC standards
- Work co-operatively with road authorities and landowners to ensure that local issues are considered.

A note about this factsheet
This factsheet describes ARTC’s work relating to existing level crossings along the Inland Rail route.

For information on new level crossings, please contact the Inland Rail team at inlandrailenquiries@artc.com.au or on 1800 732 761.

About Inland Rail
Inland Rail is a once-in-a-generation project connecting regional Australia to global markets, transforming the way we move freight around the country. It will complete the ‘spine’ of the national freight network between Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

This new 1,700km line is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia. The dedicated freight network will connect our farms, mines, cities and ports to global markets. It will support Australia’s four richest farming regions; provide supply chain benefits and substantial cost savings for producers.

The Australian Government, through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), is delivering the multi-billion dollar infrastructure in partnership with the private sector. The Government has committed a total of $9.3 billion to plan and deliver Inland Rail.
In addition to engineering solutions, ARTC will continue to support rail safety education programs as a member of the TrackSAFE Foundation. We also play an active role in nationwide rail safety initiatives such as Rail Safety Week.

**Safety treatments**

ARTC’s policy is to work with stakeholders to minimise the number of crossings on the Inland Rail route. We have a consistent process for selecting level crossing safety improvements. The chart below describes the process in a nutshell:

1. **Conduct site visits and assessments**
2. **Seek input from road authority or landowner**
3. **Design proposed solution**
4. **Seek feedback from road authority or landowner**
5. **Implement safety treatment**

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

In addition, for public crossings we work with local Councils to take into consideration future development plans and other important local factors. For private crossings we consult with landowners to consider specific requirements such as farm machinery or livestock movements.

Safety improvements may include:
- Upgrades of public crossings from passive or flashing lights to boom barriers
- Renewal of passive level crossing infrastructure such as signage
- Gates at private crossings
- Crossing closures
- Grade separation (e.g. road and rail bridges).

We aim to optimise safety at existing crossings while minimising disruption to the local community; this is why we will work closely with local Councils and relevant landowners as part of this process.

**Level crossing closures**

Any closure of public level crossings will be in accordance with State legislation to ensure that relevant issues have been considered and adequate consultation has been undertaken.

Private level crossings will not be closed unless there is an alternative means of legal access to the property and the landowner has agreed to the closure.

**Want to know more?**

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

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