

Slow down, look and listen for trains



There are more than 23,000 railway crossings in Australia, with a mix of 'active' and 'passive' crossings.

Active railway crossings have lights, bells or boomgates to alert you if a train is approaching. Passive railway crossings rely on Give Way or Stop signs for safety. 79 per cent of railway crossings in Australia are passive.

How many accidents are there each year?

There are almost 1,000 near misses a year at railway crossings. Despite a decrease in such incidents, on average 33 collisions and three fatalities still occur each year.

Most of these happen in regional communities, where people are using the crossings daily. These collisions impact lives, families, and the flow of essential supplies across Australia.

Why can't trains stop?

Trains are fast and take up to 2 kilometres to stop once the train driver has applied the emergency brakes.

Freight trains travel between 80 and 160 kilometres per hour, while passenger trains can travel up to 200 kilometres per hour.

A train driver may not be able to stop in time if you cross the railway crossing when they are approaching.

What can I do to be safe?

Be aware of 'passive' railway crossings that don't have boom gates, lights or bells. Complacency is one of the greatest risks in driving behaviour. Even if you drive the same route often, you need to make sure you arrive at your destination safely.

As you drive into regional and rural areas, you will encounter more passive railway crossings. To cross safely, you need to do three things.

Slow down because trains go fast and can appear suddenly.

Look both ways as far as you can, because trains are hard to see. Trees and sun glare can make it even trickier to see sometimes.

Listen because train drivers are instructed to use their horn when approaching passive railway crossings. Often, you'll hear a train before you see it.

Further information about how the Australian Government is making regional railway crossings safer can be found at [regionalrailsafety.gov.au](https://www.regionalrailsafety.gov.au)