



Slow down. Look. Listen for trains.

How to drive safely around regional railway crossings

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 boom gates 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.

What are the risks at regional railway crossings?

In regional towns, railway lines usually cross the road directly, and aren't separated by a tunnel or bridge.

Most regional railway crossings also don't have boom gates, bells or lights. This means the only safety measure is a Stop or Give Way sign.

Many factors increase the risk of near misses and collisions at regional railway crossings. Safe driving behaviour is the best way to reduce that risk.

Trees, bushes and vegetation can make it hard to see an oncoming train. Add dust, sun glare, and the location of the crossing, and it's even trickier to see what's coming along the track.

Trains can travel up to 160 kilometres per hour, and they can take up to 2 kilometres to stop once the driver has applied the emergency brakes.

What can I do to be safe?

Even if you drive the same route often, you need to follow three steps to make sure you arrive at your destination safely.

1. **Slow down** to follow the Give Way or Stop sign and check your surroundings.
2. **Look** for oncoming trains. They're fast and can be hard to see. Trees, bushes and sun glare can make it even trickier.
3. **Listen** for trains. You can often hear a train before you see it. Train drivers will use their horn when approaching passive railway crossings.

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)



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