

How pedestrian railway crossings work

Pedestrian railway crossings are an extension of a footpath and are usually next to a road. Warning signs and safety devices vary. There can either be:

- **sensor activated devices:** trains set off a sensor on the track that activates a combination of lights, bells, short boom gates or swing gates

or

- **non-sensor devices:** warning signs and/or a pedestrian maze to alert you to the pedestrian railway crossing.



Safety for users of motorised scooters, wheelchairs, prams and bicycles

At railway crossings there is a gap (up to 7.5cm) for train wheels.

To ensure that your wheels do not get trapped in the gap please:

- cross the tracks in a straight line;
- keep your wheels at right angles to the track; and
- cyclists, dismount and walk across the tracks.

Children crossing railway lines

It is important children are taught that trains cannot stop quickly or swerve like cars to avoid hitting something. That's why it's so important children *always* cross at pedestrian railway crossings and obey warning signals. But children can be forgetful, so it's up to you to continue to remind them to follow the rules.

Always hold the hands of children under 10 years old when using pedestrian level crossings.

**Always use the pedestrian railway crossing to cross the tracks.
Stay on the path. Stay alert. Stay safe.**



Safety at pedestrian railway crossings

Unlike cars, trains can't swerve out of the way or stop quickly. A train travelling at 100 km/h will take at least 1km to stop. That's ten footballs fields long.

Trains can travel at any time day or night, and in both directions along the track. For instance, you're not safe even if you see a train stopped at a station because another train can be coming along from either direction. And you may not hear this second train because of level crossing bells.

A pedestrian railway crossing is the only place to cross railway tracks.

You must obey the safety signs, stay behind the swing gate or boom barrier, wait until it fully opens and the red lights stop before crossing.

If you do this you will be safe while crossing and the consequence may be more than a \$400 fine if you don't.

Avoid a \$400 fine!

Always use the pedestrian railway crossing to cross the tracks.

Stay on the path. Stay alert. Stay safe.

For more information visit:
www.levelcrossings.nsw.gov.au



Jonathan – hit by a train

Pedestrian railway crossings

How to use your local pedestrian railway crossing safely

I found out the hard way...



I found out the hard way what a train can do.

I made a mistake when I was 19 that resulted in the amputation of my right arm, right leg and two fingers on my left hand. I crossed the tracks illegally and I was run over by a train.

There are near misses at railway crossings every year. People are risking their lives to save time. People are not using the pedestrian railway crossings correctly.

A train travelling at 100km/h will take 1km or the length of 10 football fields to stop. A train driver cannot stop the train quickly, nor can they swerve to avoid hitting you.

So please don't push your luck. Always use the pedestrian railway crossing to cross the tracks.

Stay on the path.

Stay alert.

Stay safe.



How to use a pedestrian railway crossing safely

1 STOP

Cross the railway tracks at marked crossings only. Stay on the path and stay safe by looking in both directions for approaching trains, obeying warning signs and safety devices.

- **If there is a pedestrian maze:** always approach with caution. If a train is coming, wait for it to pass and then stop, look and listen again as another train may be approaching from either direction.
- **If the red lights are active:** do not enter the crossing. Wait for the lights to stop before crossing.
- **If the swing gate or boom barrier is closing:** with the normal path blocked, there is a safe space to the side of the swing gate for you to stand. There is an emergency exit from the safe place back onto the normal path (away from the tracks).
- **If the swing gate or boom barrier is closed:** never jump fences, gates or barriers. Stay behind the swing gate or boom barrier and wait until it is fully open before crossing.

2 LOOK

If a train is coming, wait for it to pass and then stop, look and listen again before crossing. Another train may be approaching.

3 LISTEN

When using your earphones or phone you might not hear a train. Sound can be deceptive, especially at night. Never assume a train is a long way off.

4 THINK

Always obey all warning signs. Walk straight across, don't run. Remember a train will take 1km to stop. Never try to beat a train at a crossing.