



FACT
SHEET

TRESPASSING

December 2021

Did you know it can take a fully laden freight train more than two kilometres to come to a complete stop? Trains can't swerve like a car can. If a driver sees an obstacle on the line, all they can do is apply the emergency brake and brace for impact. Do you want to be that obstacle?

The only thing on the tracks should be trains.

WHAT IS TRESPASSING?

Trespassing involves unlawfully entering land which is privately or publicly owned by the rail operator. It is illegal to enter the railway corridor unless you are walking or driving across a level crossing. Many people falsely assume that "taking a shortcut" along or over tracks is harmless, but in Australia each year there are on average 166 collisions between trains and people or vehicles, including 35 collisions which result in a fatality. Survivors are left with life-changing injuries, not to mention the devastating impacts on the families, or the distressing trauma it has on lives of the train driver, scene attendants, witnesses and their families because of an avoidable incident.

Trespassing is extremely dangerous. Not only do you risk a criminal charge and fine, you're also risking your life.

WHAT ABOUT FENCING?

ARTC manages many thousands of kilometres of track, and it is simply not viable to fence the rail corridor across our entire network. Irrespective of an unfenced section of corridor, under no circumstances is unauthorised entry permitted onto railway land, which is anywhere 15 metres either side of the outermost parts of track, unless otherwise indicated.

Access roads adjacent to the rail track are for maintenance purposes and emergency services only, and are usually chained at the entry points. You should not enter those areas by foot or by vehicle.

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES IF CAUGHT TRESPASSING?

ARTC Security Patrols and ARTC trackside staff can instruct anyone on railway land without permission to leave immediately, or will contact police if we encounter any cases of illegal trespass. If you witness anyone illegally trespassing, this should be reported to police so call 000 straight away. Individuals caught trespassing can face significant consequences, including fines of up to \$5000.

Train Controller Report – Murray Bridge, SA NEAR HIT WITH PEDESTRIAN AT LEVEL CROSSING

“At 0257 hours a near miss occurred at Mannum Road level crossing in Murray Bridge, after a trespasser was spotted standing in the middle of the tracks with his hands on his head with a freight train approaching. The Driver vigorously sounded the warning device and applied emergency brakes, and the pedestrian removed himself from the track when train was only 25–50 metres away. Train came to a standstill 2 to 3 train lengths past the level crossing. The pedestrian was described as a young male with light brown hair, wearing a white jumper and denim pants. He ran towards a waiting motor vehicle, described as a blue Nissan Pulsar hatch. Murray Bridge Police advised.”

So please do the right thing.
Don't risk it. Cross at dedicated
pedestrian crossings. Stay track
safe. Stay out of the rail corridor.



This document contains important information about road projects in your area. If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call the project team on **1300 550 402**. The interpreter will then assist you with translation.

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