

A composite image featuring a worker in an orange Aurizon safety hat and high-visibility vest in the foreground, and a long train of freight cars stretching into the distance under a clear sky. The train consists of numerous yellow and brown hopper cars, some of which are filled with a reddish-brown material, likely iron ore. The scene is set in an industrial rail yard with various structures and equipment visible in the background.

Train and Heavy Vehicle Interactions

Australia's largest rail freight company is always moving.

Trains on the Esperance - Kalgoorlie Route

- Contracted by MRL, Aurizon runs 20 iron ore trains per week between Esperance and Kalgoorlie.
- Iron Ore trains can be a length of 1.7km and a mass weight of 11,000 tonnes when loaded on their return trip.
- From Kalgoorlie, our iron ore trains transit two different MRL mine sites, Koolyanobbing and Mount Walton.



Trains on the Esperance - Kalgoorlie Route

- Between January and July, Aurizon also has a contract with CBH to haul grain from Grass Patch CBH siding to Esperance Port. This is an additional 6 trains per week transiting on the Esperance-Kalgoorlie line.

Trains on the Esperance - Kalgoorlie Route

- Other trains on the Esperance line are the fuel freighter and ARC track machinery that inspect the railway line for any damage and maintain the vegetation and signage along the rail corridor.
- Trains can travel up to 70 km/hr when empty and 50 km/hr when loaded, on the Esperance–Kalgoorlie line. A full loaded train can take up to two and a half kilometres to pull up and stop.



Train and Heavy Vehicle Incidents

- There was recently an incident between a truck and train in late September 2023 in which a truck failed to stop at the Fleming Grove road level crossing and wait for the train to transit through.
- One of the biggest fears for a train driver is the possibility of causing serious injury or death to a member of the community but did you know that locomotive cabs are not a safe place to be either?
- There was a similar incident two years ago in Kalgoorlie.
- Both train drivers from this incident did not return to train driving due to ongoing physical and psychological injuries.

Types of Level Crossings



- There is approximately 23,000 railway crossings throughout Australia of which 21% are Active level crossings and 79% are passive level crossings.
- An ACTIVE level crossing is protected by boom gates, flashing lights, and/or audible warnings. For example, the Pink Lake Road crossing is protected by all three warning signals. The level crossing on South Coast Highway is protected only by flashing lights.
- PASSIVE level crossings, found in most remote regional areas, are protected by Stop signs and require drivers to proactively check for trains. The image shown here is of the level crossing on Stearnes road. There would be hundreds of passive level crossings in this region, if you think about every side road and every farm road between Esperance and Norseman.

Types of Level Crossings

- Level crossings also have a warning sign approximately 250-500 metres prior to the level crossing. The distance and frequency of warning signs depends on the speed limit of the road and how densely populated the area is.
- South Coast Highway has a rail crossing warning sign 500 metres from the rail, followed by the larger rail crossing warning signs approximately 250 metres from the rail. These larger signs are linked into the main level crossing protective lights so that the warning signs are also illuminated with orange flashing lights when the crossing is activated.



Other Factors

- There are many factors that can affect the dealing with an emergency. Driving ability of both train drivers and heavy vehicle drivers and these factors can have a serious consequences
- Weather conditions
 - Rain and poor conditions
 - Heat
- Terrain
 - Hills
 - Corners
- Time of Day
 - Night time – dark
 - Sun rise/ sun set – sun in eyes



Other Factors Cntd...

- Fatigue
- Complacency
 - Travelled the same road plenty of times before and never saw a train there before
- Vegetation
 - Low coastal heath closer to Esperance in which the scrub can be quite thick
 - Larger trees further north
- Road Conditions
 - Gravel road vs sealed road
 - May affect vehicle stopping times
- Time pressures
 - Wanting to get home to family
 - Maximise load tonnages



Report hazardous railway level crossings

ARC Level Crossing
Faults
1800 150 107

The railway line between Esperance and Kalgoorlie is owned and managed by ARC Infrastructure. If you observe a hazard at a rail level crossing, such as damaged signage or overgrown vegetation, please report the hazard to ARC by calling 1800 150 107.



- Aurizon acknowledges that near-misses on railways have a traumatic and lasting impact on its train drivers. Please be vigilant around the rail corridor for your own safety and for the safety of our train drivers. Look, Listen, Stop, Survive. Don't put your life on the line.
- We are very nearly into harvest season as well as the Christmas tourist season.
- We live in a very remote party of the Country. It takes a long time for emergency services and additional help to arrive at an incident.
- Let's make sure everyone gets home safely to their loved ones.



Look. Listen.
Stop. Survive.

Don't put your
life on the line.