

SAFETY ALERT

RIM Interfacing Level Crossings

In early January 2019 and December 2020, ARTC reported three serious wrong side level crossing failures on its network.

- Passenger train travelled through the Thompsons Road level crossing, Geelong, Victoria.
- Freight train travelled through the Cherry Street Level Crossing, Werribee, Victoria.
- Freight train travelled through the Torrens Road, Belford Street and Pym Street Level Crossing, Adelaide, South Australia.

In each event, the active warning devices (booms, lights and bells) failed to operate.

All incident locations are where multiple adjacent lines exist owned by more than one Rail Infrastructure Manager (RIM).

Whilst the investigation into the latest events in 2020 is still ongoing, initial investigations by ARTC have identified critical errors in the partial isolation of level crossings. These errors resulted in the level crossings failing to activate on ARTC lines.

The events are a direct result from adjacent works by interfacing RIMs that affect the operational safety and reliability of ARTC line level crossings and pose a significant and unacceptable risk to the ARTC network.

In response, ARTC is seeking agreement from adjoining RIMs on its network to implement the following interim control measures:

- Where track circuits on level crossings are partially isolated by an adjoining RIM, notification of the works must be made to the other RIM potentially affected by the work.
- This must occur early in the planning stages of the works.
- In addition, all tracks at the level crossing are to be treated as potentially faulty and the adjacent RIM will apply additional safe working control measures to protect the ARTC track.

ARTC recognises that these events are a shared risk between interfacing RIMs, therefore the notification and interim safe working controls must be applied by the RIM with effective management and control of the level crossing infrastructure.

If there are any further questions or enquiries, please contact Mark Blackmore, General Manager Safety & Environment on 0427 227 816 or mblackmore@artc.com.au .

I look forward to discussing and working with you on these important steps to ensure these works are conducted safely in the future.

Yours sincerely
Mark Campbell
CEO and Managing Director - ARTC