

TRESSPASSING & VANDALISM

Train Controller Report –
BONVILLE, NSW

TRESPASSERS IN RAIL CORRIDOR

“At 1322 hours a member of the public advised that there are trespassers in rail corridor doing graffiti at Bonville. Trespasser’s car registration number recorded at 1324 hours, police emergency notified.”

WHAT IS TRESPASSING?

Trespassing involves unlawfully entering land which is privately or publically 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” over tracks is harmless, particularly when running to catch a train or to avoid walking a little further to cross at a designated crossing.

Trespassing is illegal. It can take some trains up to 2km to stop once the brakes are applied, which makes trespassing extremely dangerous. Not only do you risk a criminal charge and fine, you’re also risking your life.

In Australia each year there are on average 166 collisions between trains and either people or vehicles, including 35 collisions which result in a fatality. Not only does this have devastating impacts on the families of those fatally injured, the impact on train drivers is also highly distressing and can lead to a lifetime of psychological trauma.

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 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.”

WHAT ABOUT FENCING?

ARTC manages many thousands of kilometres of track, 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.

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.

ARTC Security Patrols and ARTC trackside staff can instruct anyone on railway land without permission to leave immediately, or to take any other necessary action.

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES IF CAUGHT TRESPASSING?

ARTC will contact police immediately if we encounter any cases of illegal trespass. If you witness anyone illegally trespassing, this should be reported to police, call 000 straight away. Individuals caught trespassing can face significant consequences, including fines of up to \$5000.

WHAT IS VANDALISM?

Vandalism is an act where an individual intentionally causes damage to property. This includes graffiti, the dumping of rubbish and waste, general litter, and damage to railway infrastructure, such as fences, bridges, signage and tracks. Interference with rail infrastructure is a breach under National Rail Safety Laws.

ARTC responds to acts of graffiti as funding and resourcing permits. The removal of graffiti that has the ability to impact the safe operation of the network is removed as a priority. Dumping of rubbish is investigated and can lead to prosecution by ARTC and the EPA.

Visit www.artc.com.au for more information.