Level crossing removals are complex projects with many environmental, community and technical considerations to be understood and balanced as potential designs are considered.

In the early planning stages of our projects, all possible design options to remove a crossing are identified. Some of our key considerations in selecting a design option are:

**Safer communities**

The removal of level crossings should enhance the surrounding environment and improve safety. We seek to:

- Maximise visibility for pedestrians in the area
- Promote activity in public places
- Increase safe movement, connections and access
- Create visually pleasing community spaces.

**Construction considerations**

Existing ground conditions, environmental and local features are key considerations which inform design possibilities.

**Future proofing**

Future proofing means considering possible future developments around the area after our projects are completed, and allowing for any such works to integrate easily with our design. We ensure that we talk to local councils and other government agencies about their future plans.
Disruption during construction

Some solutions require unavoidable disruptions to the rail line, roads, walking and cycling paths and shops. We aim to minimise short term impacts to local communities and commuters during the construction period.

Improving traffic flows

We investigate what impact each design option may have on existing roads, walking and cycling paths. The selected design should improve traffic movement in the area. We liaise with VicRoads, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and local councils to ensure their feedback is also included.

Impact to retail and activity centres

We aim to integrate the removal of level crossings with the local area, creating safe and welcoming spaces for the community that will stimulate economic growth.

Better connectivity and liveable communities

Level crossing removal designs should integrate with the existing community and create attractive, safe and well maintained spaces for those who live and work nearby. We liaise with local councils and state agencies, such as the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Office of the Victorian Government Architect (OVGA), to ensure their feedback is also included.

Property acquisition

We always aim to confine our works to existing rail and road corridors, however, some options may require property acquisition. The good news is that property acquisition is not required to remove the Reservoir level crossing.

Community input and feedback

An important factor when removing a level crossing is understanding what is important to you. Throughout the project we ask our communities for input and feedback about designs so everyone has opportunities to be involved.

Design standard compliance

There are a number of principles and design requirements which our projects must adhere to. These include national and state level standards from VicRoads, Public Transport Victoria (PTV), Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) and local council.

Look and feel

The visual impact of a design is a key consideration when reviewing any option. Urban Design Principles developed in consultation with the Office of the Victorian Government Architect (OVGA) and landscaping treatments are used by the project to minimise the visual impact of any design option and integrate our work with the existing character of the area.

Project cost

We ensure that our projects are cost-effective and provide value for money, while still being beneficial and practical to the community.

Cultural heritage (Indigenous and European)

The impact of the design and construction on cultural heritage is an important consideration in our assessments. We conduct surveys to identify Indigenous and European heritage areas.

Cycling and walking

The removal of level crossings can provide the opportunity to create and extend walking and cycling paths for commuters, recreational cyclists and pedestrians. Our project teams explore opportunities for such paths and improved access across the rail corridor.

Flora and fauna

Some of our projects involve impacts to trees and vegetation. We recognise that it is important to the community that any design minimises impacts to the environmental character of the area.

For more information on our projects, please contact us on 1800 762 667 or email contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

CONTACT US

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Translation service – For languages other than English, please call 9280 0780.

Please contact us if you would like this information in an accessible format.