

Modern Cane Railways of Queensland

Carl Millington's presentation at the Modelling the Railways of Queensland Convention, 2004

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Part 5: Level Crossings

Sugar mills use Queensland Rail and Department of Transport standards and regulations for their level crossings layouts and designs.

Level crossings are divided into two types. Passive and Active.

Passive level crossings are road/rail crossings that are only protected by a 'Railway or Tramway crossing' sign, and are normally found on second class roads, or roads that have little traffic. Passive level crossings are made up of a simple steel or white timber post (standard) with two white crossed signs with the black words "RAILWAY or TRAMWAY CROSSING" on them. A Give Way or Stop sign is located below the railway crossing signs. The use of 'TRAMWAY CROSSING' is being phased out, so 'foreign' visitors don't get confused with the meanings.

Active crossings are crossings that feature flashing lights and are found on first class roads or roads that are deemed to require high protection.

An Active level crossing consists of a pole (standard) painted with red and white stripes, white crossed signs with the black words 'RAILWAY' or 'TRAMWAY' 'CROSSING either by themselves or printed onto a sign with red background.

Below the crossing signs is a set of red flashing lights set into a black frame. These flashing lights are either bulbs or rotating beacons, operated by electrical or electronic track circuits or by the crews 'keying' the lights.

Below the lights is a white or black sign with black or white lettering, depending on what

type of background was used, saying, 'STOP ON RED SIGNAL'.

A box containing the control equipment for the lights is found nearby. A street light is normally found over active crossings.

At some active crossings, especially where several roads intersect each other, there may be two or more light sets to a pole. An example of this was Moreton Mill's Howard and Currie street intersection.



Typical passive crossing 'standard'



Passive crossing



Active crossing



Two types of crossing standards. The one on the left appears to have a flashing yellow light on top to let the train crew know the signals are operating. The orange box beyond the right standard likely contains the controls.



Active crossing control box near Proserpine; track sensors were also located some distance away on either side of the crossing. Signal lamps are often covered on less used lines during the off season. Lynn Zelmer, photographer