Railways exemption

List of rail agencies with written agreement

Railways exemption

The Railways exemption is listed in the following clauses of all local planning schemes. Before relying on the exemption, rail agencies must obtain written agreement from the Secretary to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

- Clause 52.16
- Clause 52.17
- Clause 42.01
- Clause 42.02
- Clause 42.03
- Clause 44.01
- Clause 44.02

As a condition of written agreement, rail agencies must comply with the *Procedure to rely on the railways exemption in planning schemes*.

As of 2 November 2026, the following rail agencies have been provided with written agreement from the Secretary to DEECA to rely on the Railways exemption.

Table 1: Rail agencies with written agreement

Rail agency	Date written agreement provided
Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC)	14 November 2018
Level Crossing Removal Authority	27 April 2018
Metro Trains Melbourne	27 November 2018
VicTrack	21 February 2020
V/Line Corporation	10 December 2018
Geelong Steam Preservation (Bellarine Railway)*	31 January 2020
Mornington Railway Preservation Society*	01 January 2024
Red Cliffs Historical Steam Railway*	21 October 2024

*Tourist railways have written agreement to rely on the maintenance component of the Railways procedure.

To request written agreement to rely on this exemption, email DEECA's Biodiversity Compensation and Offset Systems team at nativevegatation.support@deeca.vic.gov.au.

We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

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