



SECTION CARS
AUSTRALIA
CO-OPERATIVE LTD

ABN 43 235 934 750

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

sectioncars.com.au

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ABN 43 235 934 750 - sectioncars.com.au - secretary@sectioncars.com.au

Section Cars Australia Co-operative Ltd is a rail operator based in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. We are a not-for-profit heritage rail operator that is dedicated to the operation and restoration of heritage railway section cars on mainline rail networks in Queensland. Section Cars Australia is a 'Third Party Railway Operator', meaning that we can legally access railway tracks owned and operated by organisations such as Queensland Rail. This allows the co-operative to travel over most railway tracks across Queensland.

Being an accredited rail operator means that Section Cars Australia has appropriate safety systems and regulations in place to keep our members and operations safe. Safety is our number one priority for our organisation and strict regulations are enforced by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR). Section Cars Australia is held to the same high standards as major rail operators such as Queensland Rail, Aurizon and Pacific National.



BECOMING A MEMBER

- New member completes membership form on our website or mail and submits to Section Cars Australia.
- Membership application is tabled at the next board meeting for acceptance and new member is advised of outcome.
- Once accepted, Section Cars Australia will assist the new member in completing initial induction and rail safety training. This will comprise of:

Section Cars Australia Induction: A small online training course that introduces the new member to the co-operatives operations and safety management system. This course is conducted free.

ACCELL Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure: 6 modules are required to complete in your own time. The online courses provided by ACCELL are at a Section Cars Australia reduced price of \$120 each with the Safely Access Rail Corridor (SARC) course of \$130.

TLID0020 – Shift materials using manual handling methods = \$120

TLIE1003 – Participate in basic workplace communications = \$120

TLIF0025 – Follow work health and safety procedures = \$120

TLIF2010 – Apply fatigue management strategies = \$120

TLIU2008 – Apply environmental procedures to rail infrastructure = \$120

TLIF0020 – Safely access the rail corridor (SARC) = \$130

These courses only to be completed once and are nationally recognised. To operate a Section Car members (if not already qualified) will be trained, mentored and assessed in **TLIC0010 *Operation of Light Rail Vehicles***. Please note these modules are only part of the full Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure.

All members are required to undergo a category 1 rail medical to participate on and operate section cars. This is a requirement under rail safety legislation and is renewed generally every 5 years (depending on the age of the member).

Section Cars Australia can assist with organising medicals however the cost is covered by the individual member. If a member cannot pass a category 1 medical, category 2 and 3 can also be used, subject to restrictions (i.e., a member holding a category 3 medical can ride on a section car but cannot drive). Generally, there are a very low number of people that cannot pass a medical. New Members that have an existing medical certificate with another Australian Rail Operator can transfer that certificate over to Section Cars Australia. The Section Cars Australia induction and ACCELL online training is performed before the first tour a new member participates in.

GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP FEES

- One time membership joining fee of \$200. Member will receive 200 shares in the Co-operative.
- Yearly administration / membership fee of \$180.
- Part of Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure. 6 modules \$730. These courses only must be completed once and are nationally recognised. If a member already has completed these modules, ACCELL will accept a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) upon proof of completion.
- Rail Medical. Approximately \$120 - \$350, depending on Health Professional chosen. Section Cars Australia will assist members with organising their medicals.

GUIDE TO TOUR FEES

An approximate formula to work out the tour fees is:

Track Access fee + 10% admin fee divided by number of participants.

Accommodation (\$100 - \$150 a night), Food & Drinks and Fuel for section car. Members on the tours travelling as a passenger usually organises a payment for the owner of the section car for fuel expenses. Members are required to wear full Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) e.g. high visibility shirt/vest, long pants, protective boots, sunscreen, hat, eye protection.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to own a section car to become a member?

No. Members that do not own section cars themselves can enjoy participating in the tours. Section Car owners are generally more than happy to take other members as passengers on tours.

Does Section Cars Australia only accept section cars with a 4-stroke engine?

No. We welcome all makes and models of section cars to participate in tours.

I don't own a section car; can I still learn how to drive one?

Yes. Subject to the car owner's approval, you can be trained and assessed to be an Operator.

I am restoring a Section Car; can you help me?

Yes, we certainly can. Members are very knowledgeable and are always willing to assist other members in their restoration projects.

Can I learn Safeworking positions?

Yes, however Safeworking positions will require relevant rail AQF qualifications.

What is the general cost of each tour?

The cost of each tour can depend on the number of participants and location, but generally is \$50 -100 per day. Daily tour fees cover the cost of the access fee charged by the railway owner (generally Queensland Rail). Members can elect to participate on all or only part of the tour if they wish. Tours are generally held on weekends over 2-3 days but can also be up to 6-7 days. Single weekend day tours, such as in the Brisbane or Toowoomba area, are also held.



What generally happens on a Section Cars Australia tour?

After returning their tour form and paying their participation fees, members will arrive at the designated meeting point to set on track at the start of the first day. Leaving their cars behind, the group will travel throughout the day to the next township nominated to stay overnight. The convoy will stop at nominated locations for photos and lunch, with most tours stopping at townships that can provide food and fuel. Upon arriving at the destination, members will stay overnight before setting out again the next day. Members will also generally share an afternoon drink and evening meal together at a local restaurant or hotel before retiring for the night.

Does Section Cars Australia provide accommodation?

Section Cars Australia does not provide accommodation for overnight stays on tours, and this cost is covered by the member. Members will generally stay in the same motel with many members happy to share a room with another member to reduce costs. However, it is up to the member where they wish to stay in the township. This is generally organised as a group.

Who leads Section Cars Australia tours?

The Protection Officer and Safeworker are the railway qualified officers that oversee the protection of the movement of the section cars in accordance with railway procedures. The Safeworker will always ride on the lead section car and authorise the movement of the convoy in accordance with signal indications and Train Control. Safeworkers are generally Section Cars Australia members who are employed by Queensland Rail or Aurizon and have significant experience in rail/train operations. Directions given by Safeworkers must be always followed by members and they are tasked with the smooth operation by overseeing members and ensuring everything is in the right place at the right time. On each tour for safe operations there will be 1 Protection Officer, 2 Safeworking Officers and 1 or more First Aid qualified officers.

Does Section Cars Australia operate in areas where there are trains?

Yes. We operate on open railway lines where passenger and freight trains travel. Protection Officers and Safeworkers continuously monitor the safety of members around other trains and their directions must be always followed.

What governs the operation of the Co-operative?

The Section Cars Australia board, Section Cars Australia Constitution (2021), as well as our Safety Management System (SMS), rules, regulations, and procedures.

Can I bring a family member or friend along?

Yes. Paying passengers (Non – members, family, friends, etc.) are permitted to attend one tour. Passengers must join as a member if they wish to attend more than one tour. Passengers do not need to go through operator training and a medical for a one tour.

Can I be a member of other Section Car groups?

Yes. The only restriction is that Section Cars Australia requires that the section car is only used with Section Cars Australia tours. In summary it comes down to asset management. If the section car is used with another group, then we can't keep track of kilometers and any issues as we don't have access to that information/no agreement to share information. Also, other groups may have different standard requirements to us as they are a separate operator. Rollingstock is generally only registered to one operator. If people have two section cars and each one is separately registered for use, then that's fine.

What happens to members who are caught operating section cars illegally outside Section Cars Australia run events?

Section Cars Australia and Railway Owners have a zero-tolerance approach to anybody who brings the hobby into disrepute by operating section cars illegally outside Section Cars Australia tours. Members will have their membership with Section Cars Australia terminated if it is found that they engaged in illegal activity (including sexual harassment, bullying, assault, theft, etc.)

Can I suggest where I would like a tour held?

Yes. Feedback is most welcome, as well as communicating with the board, is used to determine where the co-operative holds tours for members. Input by members is vital for the co-operative's operations.

What is the prescribed alcohol limit on a tour?

Members participating on a tour must have no alcohol (0.00) in their system and are tested before each day during the tours. Section Cars Australia and Railway managers such as Aurizon and Queensland Rail have random drug and alcohol testing polices in place. Police can also breath-test participants in accordance with legislation.

After more information?

We are more than happy to answer any questions you may have prior to joining as a member. Please get in contact with us via:

Website sectioncars.com.au

Email secretary@sectioncars.com.au / safety@sectioncars.com.au



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