Inland Rail is a once-in-a-generation project connecting regional Australia to domestic and international markets, transforming the way we move freight around the country. It will complete the ‘spine’ of the national freight network between Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

This new 1,700km line is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia. It will connect our farms, mines, cities and ports to global markets and will support Australia’s four richest farming regions; provide supply chain benefits and substantial cost savings for producers.

**PROJECT FACTSHEET**

**ILLABO TO STOCKINBINGAL, NSW**

**About the Illabo to Stockinbingal Project**

The Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S) project is a new rail corridor that will connect Illabo to Stockinbingal in New South Wales. It is approximately 37km in length and is located within the local government areas of Junee and Cootamundra–Gundagai.

This new section of rail corridor will provide a new direct route from the east of Illabo, tracking north to Stockinbingal and connecting into the existing Forbes rail line. The route bypasses the steep and windy section of track called the Bethungra Spiral.

A concept assessment of the Illabo to Stockinbingal section was undertaken between 2016 and 2017 which established a 2km-wide study area. Preliminary environmental assessments and field studies, which contribute to the selection of a preferred rail corridor, have been undertaken within the study area.

**Neighbouring projects**

The I2S project connects to the Albury to Illabo (A2I) project in the south and Stockinbingal to Parkes (S2P) project in the north.

These projects are different in type and timing to I2S. I2S will establish a new rail line, while A2I and S2P are enhancements of existing rail corridors.

**Inland Rail projects**

Inland Rail has been divided into 13 projects to deliver the 1,700km rail line by 2025. The I2S project is a new rail corridor and is one of seven projects in NSW.
What has been happening?

Some of the work completed so far includes:

- preliminary environmental field studies within the 2km-wide study area, including flood, hydrology, ecology and geotechnical studies
- meetings with landowners and local farmers to get a better understanding of local opportunities, conditions and potential impacts
- collaboration with councils to better understand issues such as flooding, roads and traffic patterns
- carrying out Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) to narrow the study area from 2km wide to approximately 200-400m wide and identify possible options for the final rail corridor.

The MCA process is recognised as an industry standard and is widely used in Australia and internationally. An MCA considers a range of factors, including technical viability, environmental impacts, safety, community and property impacts, operational approach, approvals, stakeholder engagement, constructability and schedule.

Next steps

We are gathering further information to feed into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the I2S project. The EIS document aims to outline the potential project impacts for consideration by the Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E). It also captures the information gathered from stakeholder consultation, such as meetings with landowners, councils, industry and wider community. The EIS also details how information gathered from consultation was considered in the narrowing of the study area to a final rail corridor.

Once the EIS document is complete, it will be put on public exhibition for a minimum of 30 days. During the exhibition period, the community is invited to provide feedback for the DP&E to consider, before the project is approved by the Minister for Planning.

Ongoing consultation and engagement with landowners and the broader community is an important part of developing the project. We will be holding further information sessions and meeting with landowners and stakeholders in the coming months to collect your feedback.

Want to know more?

ARTC is committed to working with State and local governments, communities and landowners as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input.

If you have any questions or comments about the I2S project please let us know.

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The Australian Government is delivering Inland Rail through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), in partnership with the private sector.