

FLORA AND FAUNA



FACT SHEET

QLD

ABOUT INLAND RAIL

Inland Rail is a once-in-a-generation project that will enhance supply chains and complete the backbone of the national freight network by providing for a transit time of 24 hours or less for freight trains between Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Inland Rail will transform the way we move freight around the country, connect regional Australia to markets more efficiently, drive substantial cost savings for producers and consumers, and deliver significant economic benefits.

Comprising 13 individual projects and spanning more than 1,700km, Inland Rail is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia and one of the most significant infrastructure projects in the world.

The Australian Government selected the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to deliver Inland Rail, in partnership with the private sector.

The Australian Government has committed \$9.3 billion to the delivery of Inland Rail, with construction having commenced in late 2018. Inland Rail is expected to be fully operational in 2025, and one 1,800m double-stacked train operating on Inland Rail will carry the same volume of freight as 110 B-double trucks.

Better infrastructure and an effective national freight operation are key to delivering efficient supply chains, improving Australia's global competitiveness and lifting our nation's wealth and prosperity.

ARTC'S COMMITMENT

ARTC aims to deliver and operate the Inland Rail Program with the least environmental, cultural heritage and social impact possible, while providing new benefits to the people of Australia at a local, regional and national scale.

ARTC is committed to environmental management, including biodiversity, during all stages of the project delivery cycle.

FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Inland Rail Environment and Sustainability Policy and ARTC's Environmental Policy provide a framework for continual improvement and for management of environmental risks.

WHAT IS BEING DELIVERED IN QUEENSLAND?

As part of the Inland Rail Program five projects will be delivered in Queensland. These include:

- ▶ NSW/Qld Border to Gowrie
- ▶ Gowrie to Helidon
- ▶ Helidon to Calvert
- ▶ Calvert to Kagaru
- ▶ Kagaru to Acacia Ridge and Bromelton.

Each of these projects is at different stages of development and delivery. Up to date information on the project status can be found on the Inland Rail website at inlandrail.com.au.

FLORA AND FAUNA INVESTIGATION

Flora and fauna are defined as the plants (vascular or nonvascular) and animals (vertebrate or invertebrate), that are native to a specific area or region.

ARTC aims to locate, design, construct and operate both permanent and construction works to avoid flora and fauna impacts to the greatest extent possible, and to minimise and manage impacts where they cannot be reasonably avoided.

We undertake flora and fauna impact assessment studies to:

- ▶ assess threatened species, native vegetation and fauna habitat clearing impacts
- ▶ identify risks associated with weed and pest species
- ▶ understand how to maintain habitat connectivity for native fauna
- ▶ assess requirements to offset flora and fauna habitat clearing.

HOW DO WE DO THESE INVESTIGATIONS?

ARTC engages qualified ecologists to carry out flora and fauna surveys along the project area.

Our studies involve a walkthrough of identified areas, with plant species photographed and in some cases sampled where species verification is required.

Flora surveys usually occur during daylight hours and their duration will vary. It may be necessary to conduct surveys at specific times of the year when certain species are more easily detected (e.g. when flowering occurs).

The fauna surveys are designed to optimise the likelihood of detecting species of interest. Since most Australian animal species are nocturnal, many of these surveys will occur at dawn, dusk and sometimes evenings.

Fauna surveys are usually undertaken for up to a week. It may be necessary to conduct these studies at specific times of the year when certain species are more easily detected (e.g. during breeding season).

The fauna survey method adopted will depend on the species of interest. Surveys may involve observations during a walk using spotlights, using specialist call back and recording equipment, and placing nets or traps to gather hair samples, or catch animals.

Some traps may be placed on trees, on the ground, or involve the digging of small temporary pits called 'pit falls' with guide fencing to lead targeted species into the pit fall. All traps are checked at dawn to prevent harm to captive animals, and to allow them to return to their daytime nests.

MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS TO FLORA AND FAUNA

The following management measures will be considered during the design phase of the project:

- ▶ adjusting location of project features to avoid sensitive ecological areas such as native vegetation and habitat for threatened species
- ▶ fauna habitat connectivity and fauna exclusion fencing
- ▶ Fauna sensitive design and rehabilitation around waterway crossings.

Where potential significant residual impacts remain, ARTC will investigate and identify biodiversity offsets in accordance with the relevant offsets policies.

During the construction phase, project-specific environmental management plans, consistent with Inland Rail's environmental management framework, legislative requirements and project approval conditions, will be developed.

Environmental management plans will include measures to mitigate impacts to flora and fauna during the construction phase, such as:

- ▶ weed and pest management measures
- ▶ pre-clearing ecological surveys and relocation of fauna
- ▶ delineation of clearing areas and designation of no-go zones
- ▶ reinstatement of temporarily disturbed areas, landscaping and rehabilitation.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

ARTC is committed to working with landowners, communities, state and local governments as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments about this fact sheet, please let us know.

📞 1800 732 761

✉ inlandrailqld@artc.com.au

📍 ARTC Inland Rail, GPO Box 2462, Brisbane Qld 4001

inlandrail.com.au



ARTC

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