About Inland Rail

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 1,700 kilometre line is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia. It will connect our farms, mines, cities and ports to domestic and international markets. It will support Australia’s four richest farming regions, as well as providing supply chain benefits and substantial cost savings for producers.

About Gowrie to Helidon project

The Gowrie to Helidon (G2H) section of Inland Rail comprises 26 kilometres of new dual gauge track between Gowrie, north-west of Toowoomba and Helidon, east of Toowoomba. It will include a new 6.4 kilometre tunnel to create an efficient route through the steep terrain of the Toowoomba Range.

This section uses the existing rail corridor and the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ Gowrie to Grandchester 2003 protected corridor, with possible refinements being considered within a defined study area.

Inland Rail projects

Inland Rail has been divided into 13 projects to deliver the 1,700 kilometre rail line by 2024/25 and is one of five projects in Queensland. G2H is one of three projects (along with Helidon to Calvert and Calvert to Kagaru) that are considered the most technically complex sections of Inland Rail, and will therefore be delivered using an innovative Public Private Partnership (PPP) funding arrangement.

Neighbouring projects

G2H connects to the NSW/Qld Border to Gowrie (B2G) project in the west and the Helidon to Calvert (H2C) project in the east.
GOWRIE TO HELIDON, QLD

What has been happening?
The Coordinator-General declared G2H a Coordinated Project in 2017. Following public consultation on the draft Terms of Reference, the Coordinator-General issued the final Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR document provides the framework for Inland Rail to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This process involves collecting community input regarding the social, economic and environmental impacts that may be generated by the project. To collect such information, in 2017-2018, we set up the Lockyer Valley Community Consultative Committee, and conducted face-to-face and online consultation.

Next steps
The G2H project is currently in the project feasibility phase and we are in the process of developing the EIS and a feasibility design for the project. The aim of this phase is to finalise the optimal alignment by gathering baseline data, analysing potential impacts, and developing mitigation measures to address these impacts.

During the preparation of the EIS, the project team will be conducting a range of investigations throughout the project study area, including:

- Geotechnical surveys – to obtain information about the physical properties of the soil and rock
- Hydrology studies – to obtain information about flooding, surface water movements, and monitoring ground water
- Ecological surveys – to identify habitats and/or species that exist within the area of investigation
- Noise, air quality and vibration surveys – to measure background noise, air quality and vibration levels at key sites
- Land surveys – to identify property boundaries and any easements and to install survey pegs if required
- Utility identification surveys – to identify underground infrastructure such as gas and water pipelines
- Heritage surveys – investigations for any evidence of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artefacts/heritage

We will continue to engage with landowners, residents, businesses, community groups and other key stakeholders during the project feasibility phase.

There will be a range of consultation opportunities throughout this phase and we encourage you to be involved to ensure community issues and concerns are considered and addressed in the EIS and feasibility design.

Want to know more?
Inland Rail is committed to working with communities and stakeholders as a vital part of our planning and design process, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments about the G2H 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.