The Gowrie to Helidon section of Inland Rail comprises 26km of new dual gauge track between Gowrie, north-west of Toowoomba and Helidon, east of Toowoomba.

It will include a new 6.4km 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.

A map of the proposed alignment and study area is shown on the following pages. This can also be viewed on the Inland Rail website at www.inlandrail.com.au.

About Inland Rail

Inland Rail is the safe, sustainable solution to Australia’s freight challenge and will transform the way we move freight around the country.

This new 1700km freight rail line will complete the spine of the national freight rail network, providing a service that will see freight delivered between Melbourne and Brisbane, via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, in less than 24 hours with reliability, pricing and availability that is equal to or better than road.

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is an Australian Government owned corporation that manages and maintains approximately 8500km of rail network. ARTC has been tasked with getting Inland Rail construction-ready.

How is the alignment being identified?

Inland Rail will comprise approximately 1200km of existing rail corridors and 500km of new corridors where we need to build new track. As almost 70 per cent of the alignment uses existing rail corridors, we are taking advantage of earlier investments in the national rail freight network and minimising the impacts to landholders, the environment and communities.

We now need to refine and finalise the alignment and this will require field studies, detailed environmental investigations and further consultation with landholders, communities and customers.

What has been happening?

In 2016, ARTC undertook a concept assessment of the alignment. During this process, we engaged with landholders, local Councils, peak bodies and local businesses and conducted information sessions with local communities. Initial environmental and engineering investigations were also undertaken.

What is next?

The Queensland Coordinator-General has declared that the Gowrie to Helidon project is a Coordinated Project, which means the Inland Rail team needs to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Coordinator-General will issue Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for public comment in coming weeks (haveyoursay.dsd.qld.gov.au). We encourage everyone to read these and provide any comments to the Coordinator-General. The ToR set out the matters that ARTC must address when preparing the EIS. The Coordinator-General will consider public comments on the draft ToR and then issue the final EIS ToR.

Once the ToR has been finalised the Inland Rail team will start the detailed social, economic and environmental impact studies and continue to engage with landholders, local communities and stakeholders. As part of this process, matters of national environmental significance will be assessed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

These studies will inform the preparation of a Draft EIS, which will be released for public inspection and submissions. We encourage you to be involved in the process and invite you to contact the project team for more information and to provide feedback.
Toowoomba Range Tunnel

Western Portal

Eastern Portal

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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Coordinate System:
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Date: 04/11/2016
Author: IR
Be informed and get involved

ARTC Inland Rail is committed to involving landholders and the community in the development of this landmark national infrastructure project. Please visit the Inland Rail website at www.inlandrail.com.au to view maps of the proposed Gowrie to Helidon alignment and study area, register your details to receive project updates and find out about community information sessions in your area. You can also contact us by phone, email or post:

- Phone: 1800 732 761
- Email: inlandrailqld@artc.com.au
- Address: ARTC Inland Rail, GPO Box 2462, Queen St, Brisbane Qld 4000
- Website: www.inlandrail.com.au

We encourage you to be involved and invite you to contact the project team for more information and to provide feedback at any time.

The Gowrie to Helidon project is about to enter the Project Feasibility Phase, during which an EIS will be undertaken. This will provide a series of opportunities for you to provide feedback about the project.

During this phase, ARTC will complete detailed social, economic and environmental studies according to the Terms of Reference, and develop a reference design for the project. The aim is to refine and finalise the optimal alignment.

**Project timeframe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept assessment</td>
<td>Jan – Nov 2016 (completed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project feasibility</td>
<td>Feb 2017 – late 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project assessment</td>
<td>2018 – 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project approval</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>2019 – 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Environmental Impact Statement phases**

- Declaration of a Coordinated Project
- Draft Terms of Reference
- Final Terms of Reference
- Field Studies
- Draft EIS
- Revised draft EIS (if required by the Coordinator-General)
- Coordinator-General’s evaluation report on the EIS

**Engagement**

- Public Notification
- Public Comment Period
- Public Notification
- Landowner, Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- Public Comment Period
- Public Comment Period (if required by the Coordinator-General)
- Public Notification

**What might you see in your area?**

Some of the investigations you may see being undertaken in your area include:

- Ecological surveys – to identify habitats and/or species that exist within the area of investigation
- Utility identification surveys – to identify infrastructure such as gas and water pipelines
- Heritage surveys – investigations for any evidence of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artefacts/heritage
- 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
- Geotechnical surveys – to obtain information about the physical properties of the soil and rock
- Hydrology studies – to obtain information about flooding and surface water movements.