ABOUT INLAND RAIL

Inland Rail is a once-in-a-generation project 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 km line is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia. Based on the 10-year delivery schedule developed in 2015, the first train is expected to operate in 2024–25.

The dedicated freight network will better connect cities and farms to markets and will support some of Australia’s richest farming regions, providing supply chain benefits and substantial cost savings for producers.

The Australian Government, through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), is delivering the multi-billion dollar infrastructure in partnership with the private sector. The Government has committed $8.4 bn to deliver Inland Rail, on top of the $900 m already funded.

WHAT ARE OUR VALUES WHEN WORKING TOGETHER?

Our values guide our actions and we thought it was important to share these with you:

- We will act with integrity and honesty – these values will be the foundation for negotiations
- We will respect your right to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ – you have the right to choose your level of involvement in the proposed activities
- We will treat you with respect and keep you informed – there will be no surprises and we will be available to answer your questions

WHY ARE THESE GUIDELINES IMPORTANT?

To ensure that our relationship with landowners is heading in the right direction, we have developed guidelines which will guide us in how we will work together.

These guidelines reflect the following:

- ARTC is committed to balancing the interests of landowners with the need to obtain access to private property for the purposes of developing a national rail freight network.
- Good relationships between ARTC and landowners, supported by consultation and negotiation, will ensure transparency, equity and cooperation.
- These Land Access Guidelines have been developed on the basis of establishing and maintaining good relationships with landowners, who we regard as our neighbours.

WHY DO WE NEED LAND ACCESS?

ARTC is now moving through, the planning and approvals phases for Inland Rail. This stage of planning and approvals will help to identify the best detailed alignment in those areas where we need to build new rail infrastructure track. To do that, we are carrying out a series of preliminary field studies, concept design and undertake community consultation.

Working with landowners is a vital part of this early planning and consultation work and your input will be important in helping to get Inland Rail underway.

ARTC has been working alongside landowners for more than 18 years and we value our relationships.

We understand that when we enter your property that we are your guests. We will ensure that our staff and contractors behave with courtesy at all times and treat both you and your property with respect.

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HOW WILL WE WORK TOGETHER?

Establishing good relations requires the use of common sense, a practical approach and mutual courtesy between all involved. Good communication will help to make the whole process easier. It is important that we agree on the best way to communicate with each other and who will be the point of contact.

Before any activity starts, we will contact you early on and will make sure that we provide ongoing regular contact while we are on your property.

It’s important that we understand your needs and concerns and that you share all relevant information about your property access requirements. In return we will share all relevant information about our activities. This upfront discussion will make sure we both understand what the other expects and will form the basis of our access agreement.

To make sure staff and contractors understand all your requirements in granting access, we will capture this information in a Land Access Agreement. This Agreement will include any conditions or requirements you may have, for example the locking of gates, livestock interactions and times of access.

The negotiation is an opportunity for us to provide clear information on the type of work that will happen and also cover matters such as rehabilitation, communication processes, complaints mechanisms and insurance.

A fee is not paid as the activities are non-invasive and there is no exclusive possession of land. The agreement provides an indemnity from any damage caused through the stated activities in the agreement.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT

If you agree to our request for access, this will be the start of our communication. You will liaise directly with a nominated person from our Community Engagement team. While we don’t want to increase your workload, we do want to have open lines of communication.

We value your feedback throughout our activities. It’s important for us to know how we can improve our work and also when we get something right – so please tell us.