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.

ABOUT THE STOCKINBINGAL TO PARKES PROJECT

The Stockinbingal to Parkes (S2P) project comprises approximately 173km of existing rail track. It is an enhancement project that will modify existing structures and rail infrastructure within the rail corridor to accommodate the height and width of 1.8km long, double-stacked container trains.

The current modifications to existing structures include replacing the Lachlan River rail bridge and either lowering the track or replacing the road bridge at Wyndham Avenue in Forbes.

A new passing loop, called Daroobalgie Loop, will also be constructed inside the existing rail corridor north of the Daroobalgie Road level crossing. The passing loop will be approximately 2.2km long to improve rail operations by allowing trains travelling in opposite directions to pass.

NEIGHBOURING PROJECTS

Inland Rail has been divided into 13 projects to deliver the 1,700km rail line by 2025. The S2P project is an enhancement of an existing rail corridor and is one of seven projects in NSW.
Construction on the Daroobalgie Loop is scheduled to commence in 2020, ahead of the other sites in the S2P project, where construction will be carried out before Inland Rail operations commence in 2025.

Other clearance and safety works will include modifications at Forbes Station and to several existing passing loops and structures, as well as some utility relocations. This work will be completed within the existing rail corridor.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

To date, we have undertaken preliminary field studies on the S2P project and spent time consulting with communities and landowners along the rail corridor. Some of the work we have completed so far includes:

- preliminary field investigations such as ecology and geotechnical studies to understand the existing environmental features, technical challenges and engineering opportunities
- completing a desktop study to understand potential issues and opportunities within the project area
- meeting with landowners, NSW state government agencies and other key stakeholders to understand the local community
- working with Councils, industry and the community to understand their needs and how we can minimise disruptions during construction and provide lasting regional benefits.

NEXT STEPS

The S2P project is currently in the reference design phase. This phase involves further environmental and technical investigations, engineering and design, as well as additional engagement with landowners and communities.

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

- ecological surveys – to identify habitats and/or species that exist within the rail corridor
- geotechnical surveys – to identify property boundaries and any easements and to install survey pegs if required
- cultural heritage surveys – investigations for any evidence of Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal artefacts/heritage
- utility identification surveys – to identify infrastructure such as gas and water pipelines
- noise, air quality and vibration surveys – to measure background noise, air quality and vibration levels at key sites.

More information will be available as the project develops, including dates for construction and duration of activities.

NEIGHBOURING PROJECTS

The S2P project connects to the Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S) project in the south and Parkes to Narromine (P2N) project in the north. These projects are different in type and timing to S2P. I2S will establish a new rail corridor and tracks, while P2N is an upgrade of an existing rail corridor.

*Timeframes are indicative and are subject to change*