

PROJECT UPDATE

NSW/QLD BORDER TO GOWRIE, QLD

NOVEMBER 2018

Environmental Impact Statement consultation

ARTC is currently carrying out environmental and technical investigations to inform the development of the project design and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the NSW/QLD Border to Gowrie (B2G) project. The Queensland Coordinator-General declared B2G a 'coordinated project' in March 2018, triggering a requirement for the preparation of an EIS.

Below is a list of ongoing investigations for the EIS and updates on the current status.

Topic	Status
Alignment	Following community consultation and technical review, ARTC has determined a focused area of investigation for the Inland Rail alignment. The design of the bridges/viaducts, embankments, culverts and access roads is ongoing, and we will provide further detail as it becomes available.
Water	Flood modelling for the various catchments in the project area is underway. These models incorporate data gathered from government sources and local knowledge supplied by community members. Ground water and surface water sampling in local and regional catchments has started. The preliminary Condamine floodplain cross-solution has been developed and will be available on the Inland Rail website.
Noise and vibration	Monitoring locations are being selected along the proposed alignment to capture representative background noise levels. The development of the noise model for both construction and operation is underway.
Transport/level crossings/road impact	Consultation with the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), councils and landowners is underway to determine the need for access and type of crossing required at every road/rail interface.
Air	ARTC will use existing information from the Department of Environment and Science to inform the regional air quality assessment.
Hazards, health and safety	Technical assessment of hazards is ongoing. Potential risks consider the location of population centres, densities and activities.
Land use/visual/soils	Geotechnical investigations and subsurface sampling/testing/analysis have commenced.
Social and economic	Development of the social baseline (information about local communities) has commenced. A community survey will be available online. Assessment of the economic impacts, including cost benefit analysis, has commenced.
Flora and fauna	Desktop studies are complete and field studies are underway.
Cultural heritage – non-indigenous	Targeted surveys focusing on previously unsurveyed areas and areas of high potential significance will be carried out over the coming months.
Cultural heritage – indigenous	Ongoing compliance with Cultural Heritage Management Plan – including continued engagement with indigenous parties and investigation for any sites of interest.

How is your feedback used?

We gather information provided during engagement sessions, landowner meetings and stakeholder interactions and provide it to the technical design and environmental assessment teams to inform the feasibility design and EIS.

The comments submitted to the Coordinator-General during the draft Terms of Reference consultation in 2018 were provided to ARTC by the Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG). These comments have been considered and referenced in the development of the feasibility design and ongoing EIS studies.

As we progress with the feasibility design and EIS studies, we will continue to respond to feedback from the community.



About the B2G project

The B2G project comprises approximately 146 kilometres of new dual gauge track, and 78 kilometres of upgraded dual gauge track from the NSW/QLD border near Yelarbon to Gowrie Junction via Millmerran, Brookstead, Pittsworth and the Wellcamp-Charlton industrial precinct.

The focused area of investigation

Since the Australian Government announced the two-kilometre wide study area for the B2G project in 2017, the community has requested ARTC to provide more clarity to the impacted landowners.

As a result, we have prioritised studies over the past year to enable us to narrow the area of investigation, which varies in width depending on the area, constraints and results from initial design investigations. The map in this newsletter shows this focused area of investigation, and a more detailed version can be viewed on the Inland Rail website at inlandrail.artc.com.au/B2G.

The project team is continuing to develop the design and the focused area may change as a result of ongoing investigations or government approvals. ARTC will continue to engage with landowners and key stakeholders and keep you up-to-date about any changes to the focused area of investigation.

Design work will now start on bridge structures, earthworks, level crossings, drainage and other associated infrastructure.

Condamine floodplain crossing

During August 2018, the project team carried out meetings to validate the Condamine flood model with landowners whose properties were surveyed for historic flood markers. This model was well received by landowners at these meetings and we received feedback that it accurately reflects existing flood behaviour. Gaining feedback and developing an understanding of the landowners' requirements is key to the Condamine design development.

We have now developed a preliminary Condamine floodplain crossing solution and are consulting with landowners on the floodplain about potential impacts and mitigations. The preliminary crossing solution will be available on our website.

The preferred design is expected to be released in early 2019.

Community survey – tell us what you think

The EIS includes a Social Impact Assessment (SIA), which looks at how the project may affect people near the project corridor and in nearby communities. This includes potential negative impacts and potential benefits, and how ARTC can make sure the B2G project has positive outcomes for local communities.

Why take the survey?

- ▶ your views will be directly counted
- ▶ to identify community values and features to consider
- ▶ provide your views on how the project could affect communities, and how we can reduce project impacts
- ▶ it only takes ten minutes (though you're welcome to take more time to provide additional information).

The survey will be completely anonymous, and the results will be analysed by independent consultants.

We will inform you as soon as the community survey becomes available.

Once available, please complete the survey online, or contact us on **1800 732 761** to have a copy posted to you.

Coming soon: a new way to have your say

Soon we will have an online interactive map of the B2G project which will allow you to view the study area and focused area of investigation in detail and post comments and questions. The interactive map will be available at inlandrail.artc.com.au/B2G



1. Kurumbul-Yelarbon

The focused area of investigation follows the existing rail corridor through Yelarbon to Whetstone.



2. Whetstone-Inglewood

The focused area of investigation has been developed in consultation with Goondiwindi Regional Council and landowners and seeks to align with the property boundaries.



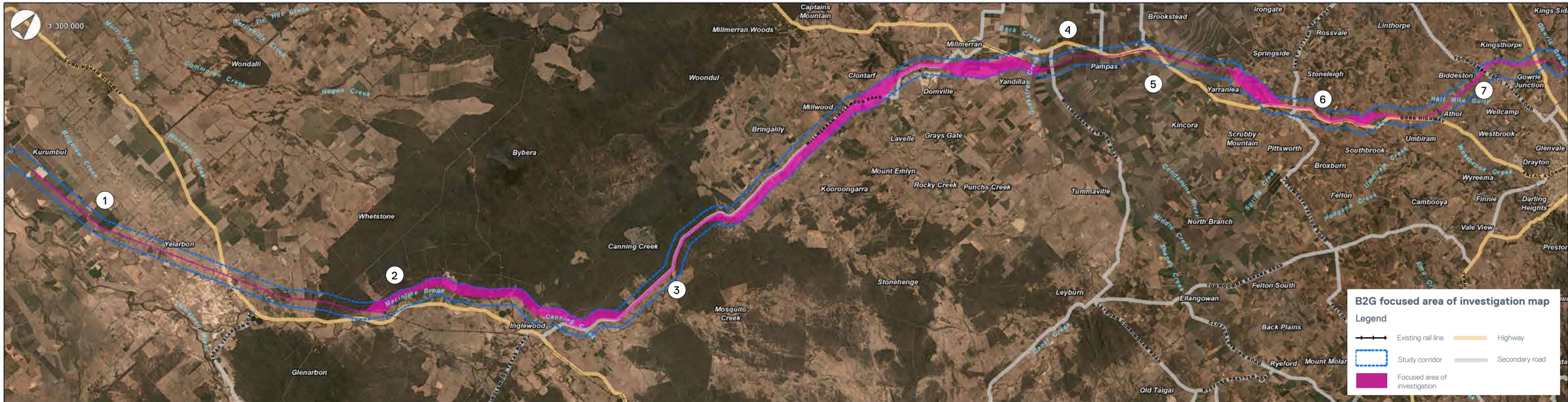
3. Inglewood-Millmerran

The focused area of investigation is close to Millmerran-Inglewood Road and seeks to avoid impacts on key infrastructure.



4. Condamine

The focused area of investigation follows the existing rail corridor.



5. Brookstead

The focused area of investigation in Brookstead was selected following consultation with adjacent landowners and community members. It is to the south of the existing rail line.



6. Pittsworth/Southbrook

To reduce the impacts to properties, the focused area of investigation follows the highway and property boundaries, where possible and practical.



7. Wellcamp/Charlton/Gowrie

The focused area of investigation runs on the northern side of the study area to:

- ▶ allow for a rail over road crossing at the Warrego Highway and accommodate the Queensland State Government's requirements for the highway
- ▶ allow for a grade separated crossing at Brimblecombe Road to improve road safety and accommodate the expected growth in the area
- ▶ balance cut and fill for earthworks and providing an efficient rail service by reducing curves and gradients
- ▶ connect to the existing rail line and future intermodal facility at Gowrie.

Current consultation

During the preparation of the EIS and the development of the rail corridor we will continue to engage with local authorities, government agencies, landowners and community members.

The key focus of our current consultation include:

- ▶ engaging with landowners about the focused area of investigation
- ▶ releasing the focused area of investigation to the community
- ▶ engaging with landowners about the Condamine flood model and preliminary crossing solution
- ▶ engaging technical working groups for transport matters, particularly level crossings
- ▶ encouraging the community to provide feedback about the project via the B2G community survey.

Staffed information displays

We encourage you to attend one of the staffed information displays during November 2018. Our team will be there to provide more details about the focused area of investigation and the preliminary Condamine floodplain crossing solution, as well as to consult with the community to inform the EIS.

Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 10 November 2018	9am – 12pm	Pittsworth Function Centre
Saturday 10 November 2018	1:30pm – 4:30pm	Millmerran Community and Cultural Centre
Tuesday 13 November 2018	11am – 1pm	ARTC Inland Rail Toowoomba Office
Tuesday 13 November 2018	3.30pm – 5.30pm	Kingsthorpe and District War Memorial Hall
Wednesday 14 November 2018	11am – 2pm	Southbrook Hall
Wednesday 14 November 2018	3:30pm – 7:30pm	Brookstead Hall
Tuesday 20 November 2018	5:30pm – 7:30pm	Inglewood Civic Centre
Wednesday 21 November 2018	5:30pm – 7:30pm	Yelarbon and District Soldiers Memorial Hall

If you are unable to attend any of the sessions, please drop in to our **Toowoomba office at 65 Neil Street, Toowoomba** between 9am and 5pm on business days.

Sign-up to our e-project updates

If you would like to receive regular updates about the B2G project, please email us at InlandRailQLD@artc.com.au and include B2G e-news in the subject line. You can also register on our website inlandrail.artc.com.au/register or by calling us on **1800 732 761**.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or comments about the B2G project or our upcoming engagement activities, please let us know.

☎ 1800 732 761

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