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.

The Australian Government selected the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to deliver Inland Rail, in partnership with the private sector.

The Australian Government has committed $9.3 billion to the delivery of Inland Rail, with construction having commenced in late 2018. Inland Rail is expected to be fully operational in 2025, and one 1,800m double-stacked train operating on Inland Rail will carry the same volume of freight as 110 B-double trucks.

Better infrastructure and an effective national freight operation are key to delivering efficient supply chains, improving Australia’s global competitiveness and lifting our nation’s wealth and prosperity.

ARTC AND LANDOWNERS

ARTC has been working alongside landowners for over 18 years and we value our relationships. As a landowner you are an important part in the success of Inland Rail.

ARTC is committed to having a productive and positive relationship with landowners wherever we conduct business. We understand that we are a guest on your property and will at all times behave with respect and courtesy.

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 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.

WHAT IS THE LAND ACCESS AGREEMENT?

A Land Access Agreement is a voluntary legal agreement between you (the landowner) and ARTC, that allows us to access your property to carry out agreed activities.

The Agreement is negotiated between ARTC and the landowner and details the type of activities we would like to complete, timeframes and any conditions for ARTC to access the land.

We will not commence any activity on your property without an agreement in place.

The conditions of access that are agreed between the landowner and ARTC will be provided to all staff and contractors who need to access your property, outlined in a Property Access Protocol.

Your nominated Community Engagement representative will make periodic spot checks and keep in touch with you throughout the activities to make sure that everything is running smoothly.
WHAT ACTIVITIES DO WE NEED TO UNDERTAKE?

To help determine the best possible alignment for Inland Rail in areas where we need to build new rail infrastructure, we need to complete a number of preliminary field studies. We may not need to complete all these studies on your property, however these studies may 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 any easements and to install survey pegs if required.
- **Geotechnical investigations** – to obtain information about the physical properties of the soil and rock.
- **Hydrology studies** – to obtain information about flooding and surface water movements.

Information about the type of activities to be conducted is provided in more detail with any land access negotiations, including anticipated time frames, hours of work, types of equipment and vehicles to be used, etc.

WHAT CONDITIONS ARE USUALLY PART OF A LAND ACCESS AGREEMENT?

We are committed to ensuring the least disruption as possible, so it’s important for you to raise any conditions or concerns you may have when we are negotiating the Land Access Agreement.

For example, a landowner may request that a specific activity is not to take place until after a major event, such as harvest; or that a particular access road is used as the main point of entry.

Some examples of what may be negotiated include:

- the timeframe for the activity
- the path of access
- any biosecurity requirements
- rehabilitation requirements.

IS COMPENSATION PAID?

The activities that ARTC needs to complete at this stage are non-invasive and will have minimal impact on the daily operation of your property so no compensation will be paid.

WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG?

ARTC is fully insured for the field studies it needs to undertake, so you can be assured that in the unlikely event that any damage occurs we will make good on any proven damage.

SHOULD I GET LEGAL ADVICE?

Landowners do have legal rights during our activities and it is your choice to seek legal advice at your own cost.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

ARTC is committed to working with landowners, communities, state and local governments as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

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