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.

INLAND RAIL PROJECTS

Inland Rail has been divided into 13 projects to deliver the 1,700km rail line by 2025. A2I is an enhancement of an existing rail corridor and is one of seven projects in NSW.
WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?
In the past year, we have undertaken preliminary studies and spent time speaking with communities and landowners along the rail corridor. We have also been working on outlining potential design solutions for each structure. All proposed changes will be managed in close consultation with NSW Government, local councils and the communities. Some of the work we have undertaken so far includes:

- preliminary field studies such as ecology, geotechnical and heritage studies to gain an understanding of the existing environmental features, technical challenges and opportunities
- conducting an engineering desktop study to gain an understanding of issues and opportunities within the project area
- meeting with landowners and other stakeholders to gain a better understanding of local opportunities, impacts and conditions
- working with councils, industry and the community to better understand the local environment.

NEXT STEPS
The A2I project is currently in the reference design stage. This stage involves further environmental and technical investigations, hydrology studies and engagement with communities and landowners. 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 rail corridor
- ongoing geotechnical surveys – to identify local ground conditions
- cultural heritage surveys – investigations for any evidence of Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal artefacts/heritage
- ongoing utility identification surveys – to identify infrastructure such as gas and water pipelines
- noise, air quality and vibration surveys – to measure baseline background noise, air quality and vibration levels.

These investigations will feed into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA may be in the form of a Review of Environmental Factors (REFs) to ARTC and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

Once complete, the EIS is put on public exhibition for a minimum of 30 days. Community members and other stakeholders are invited to provide their feedback and make formal submissions, which will be considered by ARTC and/or DPIE when assessing the project. The project has to be approved in order for construction on A2I to commence.

NEIGHBOURING PROJECTS
The A2I project connects to the Tottenham to Albury (T2A) project in the south and Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S) project in the north. Similar to A2I, T2A enhances existing structures along the existing rail line. The I2S project involves the construction of a new rail corridor and tracks.

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 about this fact sheet, please let us know.

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Timeframes are indicative and are subject to change.