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 1,700 km, Inland Rail is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia and one of the most significant infrastructure projects in the world.

ABOUT THE NARROMINE TO NARRABRI PROJECT

Narromine to Narrabri (N2N) is one of 13 projects that completes Inland Rail and comprises approximately 300 km of new track. It is the longest project within Inland Rail.

The study area is generally between 2 km and up to 5 km wide. We have now refined this area to approximately 150–400 m wide. This is called the focused area of investigation. This is an important milestone for the project and the community.

Some of the guiding principles used in determining the focused area of investigation include minimising property and flooding impacts, improving level crossing alignments, and helping achieve a faster, safer and more reliable alternative to road freight. We remain committed to continuing our conversations as we deliver this decision and work to determine the final rail corridor (40–60 m wide).

NEIGHBOURING PROJECTS

Inland Rail has been divided into 13 projects to deliver the 1,700 km rail line by 2025. N2N project is a new rail corridor and is one of seven projects in NSW.
WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?
Inland Rail has been carrying out detailed field investigations to identify technical challenges and opportunities.

The investigations commenced in March 2019, running through to July. The investigations include geotechnical, ecological, cultural heritage, utilities, noise, air quality and vibration surveys.

The results from these surveys will be used for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS assesses the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with the construction and operation of the N2N section of Inland Rail, and recommends measures to minimise and manage potential impacts.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
The N2N project is progressing with initiatives and consultation activities including:

- hosting project information sessions at agricultural shows and pop-up stalls
- accepting applications as part of The Inland Rail Community Sponsorships and Donations Program
- holding regular Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings between the project team and the community.

The team is continuing conversations with landowners, businesses and the community.

NEXT STEPS
From July 2019, Inland Rail will begin visiting landowners to inform them of the project focused area of investigation (150–400 m wide).

Due to the number of landowners and the distances involved, we will inform the community in a staged approach. Initially we will meet landowners between Burroway and the Pilliga Forest.

We will plan out meetings in the remaining areas (Narromine, Curban, Mt Tenandra, Square Top Mountain, Pilliga East and Narrabri North) in the months following.

It is anticipated that this work will take several months to complete.

We will also directly contact landowners who are in the study area, but not presently in the focused area of investigation.

NEIGHBOURING PROJECTS
The N2N project connects to the Parkes to Narromine (P2N) project in the south and the Narrabri to North Star (N2NS) project in the north. These projects are different in type and timing to the N2N project. N2N will establish a new rail corridor and tracks, while N2NS and P2N mainly involve an upgrade of an existing rail corridor.

*Timeframes are indicative and are subject to change

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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The Australian Government is delivering Inland Rail through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), in partnership with the private sector.