About Inland Rail

Inland Rail is a once-in-a-generation project connecting regional Australia to domestic and international markets, transforming the way we move freight around the country. It will complete the ‘spine’ of the national freight network between Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

This new 1,700km line is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia. It will connect our farms, mines, cities and ports to global markets and will support Australia’s four richest farming regions; provide supply chain benefits and substantial cost savings for producers.

The Australian Government, through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), is delivering the multi-billion dollar infrastructure in partnership with the private sector. The Government has committed $8.4 billion to deliver Inland Rail, on top of the previously funded $900 million.

ARTC’s approach

ARTC is committed to minimising the impact of construction and operational activities on the communities and environment in which we work. Landowner and other stakeholder input on existing and potential flood impacts will be incorporated into the design of Inland Rail, ensuring impacts are managed appropriately.

ARTC will undertake flood modelling taking into account the updated Australian Rainfall & Runoff (ARR 4th edition) which now considers projected rainfall patterns associated with modelled climate change impacts.

ARTC’s guiding principles are to minimise the impacts of Inland Rail on flood behaviour for stakeholders, landowners and the wider community, taking natural water flows into account, and to achieve a level of flood immunity which will minimise the risk to operations and maintenance of the rail infrastructure.

What flood studies are being undertaken?

ARTC has been working with communities, landowners, industry groups, local and State governments since 2016 to identify and understand the unique existing and potential flooding issues in the local areas and regions surrounding each Inland Rail project. ARTC has initiated flood studies, gathered existing information on flooding, including photos, and recorded flood levels.

Managing flooding is a high priority for ARTC and we recognise people have raised issues about potential changes in the flood behaviour. As a result, ARTC has developed a flood study engagement framework to provide more detail about our process, including opportunities for input on preliminary design and flood management for the rail line on flood plains.

Inland Rail projects are at different stages and ARTC’s engagement approach will be adapted to suit each design and regulatory approval process, ensuring ARTC engage with landowners and communities and their issues are addressed.

Flood Study Engagement Framework

Over the page please find our framework for flood studies and engagement. The timing, tools, outputs and stakeholders will differ for each project. The first step includes opportunities for landowners and other key stakeholders to provide feedback on the framework.

Want to know more?

ARTC is committed to working with communities and landowners, local and State governments as a vital part of our work, and we value your input.

If you have any questions or comments about the Flood Study Engagement Framework please let us know.

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<th>Process</th>
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<td>Explain the Process</td>
<td>• Landowners, Councils, emergency services agencies, water catchment groups, farmers groups, local experts and Local Aboriginal Land Councils</td>
<td>• Inform stakeholders about the framework and gather feedback to understand community expectations&lt;br&gt;• Confirm study methodology and design process</td>
<td>• Stakeholder meetings</td>
<td>• Community understanding of floodplain assessment process</td>
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<td>Collate the Information</td>
<td>• Landowners, Councils, emergency services agencies, water catchment groups, farmers groups, local experts and Local Aboriginal Land Councils</td>
<td>• Identify sensitive locations within the floodplain&lt;br&gt;• Collate existing/historical flooding information and confirm its suitability with stakeholders&lt;br&gt;• Develop the flood study and a base case model for current flood conditions</td>
<td>• Stakeholder meetings, workshops, data sharing, survey and field investigations</td>
<td>• Broader information to calibrate the flood model of the existing situation and identify locations of high risk/sensitivity within the floodplain</td>
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<td>Understand Potential Impacts</td>
<td>• Landowners, Councils, emergency services agencies, water catchment groups, farmers groups, local experts and Local Aboriginal Land Councils</td>
<td>• Present base flood modeling, discussion regarding design approach, impact and mitigation options&lt;br&gt;• Confirm existing environmental constraints, preliminary flood studies</td>
<td>• Base case model including visualisation and mapping, stakeholder meetings and present to communities</td>
<td>• Summary of existing flood behaviour and initial design for stakeholder comment</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Refine Design and Manage Impacts</td>
<td>• Landowners, Councils, emergency services agencies, water catchment groups, farmers groups, local experts, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and broader community</td>
<td>• Present preliminary design including previous stakeholder feedback, justify what cannot be used&lt;br&gt;• Flood risk and mitigation assessment</td>
<td>• Design and model including visualisation and mapping, stakeholder meetings, community information sessions and present to communities</td>
<td>• Refined design and proposed mitigation approaches</td>
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<td>Project Approvals</td>
<td>• Regulatory agencies</td>
<td>• Submission to regulatory agency</td>
<td>• Report and public information sessions</td>
<td>• Regulatory agency approval of project, taking into account any public comment.</td>
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