



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

ARTC InlandRail

PROJECT FACT SHEET



North Star to NSW/QLD Border



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.



About the North Star to NSW/QLD Border Project

The North Star to NSW/QLD Border (NS2B) project is a new rail corridor approximately 37km in length that will connect North Star (NSW) to the Queensland Rail South West Rail Line just over the NSW/QLD border.

The study area, which is up to 2km wide, follows the existing disused rail corridor towards Boggabilla and then crosses the Macintyre River before joining the existing rail line in Queensland. The NS2B project will involve constructing a new rail line in the existing corridor and over the river.

In 2016 and 2017, ARTC conducted field studies and consultation with communities and landowners to understand the potential issues and opportunities to assist in developing a study area. In response to issues raised during consultation, the study area was refined at the crossing of the Macintyre River.

The study area has been developed to meet both engineering and operational requirements, while aiming to reduce environmental and social impacts. The study area also allows for future connectivity to Goondiwindi and the broader region.

Top image:

Whalan Creek Rail Bridge will be upgraded or replaced as part of the NS2B project.

Neighbouring projects

The NS2B project connects to the Narrabri to North Star (N2NS) project in the south and the NSW/QLD Border to Gowrie (B2G) project in the north. These projects are different in type and timing to the NS2B project.

N2NS will use existing rail corridor and upgrade tracks, culverts and structures, while B2G will establish a new rail corridor and track as well as use the existing corridor between the border and Yelarbon.

Inland Rail projects

Inland Rail has been divided into 13 projects to deliver the 1,700km rail line by 2024/25. NS2B project is a new rail corridor and is one of seven projects in NSW.





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What has been happening?

As part of our activities to date we have undertaken a number of field studies along the existing disused rail line and the area surrounding the Macintyre River.

Some of the work we have completed so far includes:

- ▶ working together with Councils to better understand issues such as flooding, roads, traffic patterns, utilities and services as well as opportunities for regional freight
- ▶ meeting with local industry to gain a better understanding of opportunities, impacts and local conditions
- ▶ completing preliminary field studies such as ecology, hydrology and geotechnical studies to gain an understanding of the existing environmental features, technical challenges and opportunities
- ▶ conducting project information sessions with the community and stakeholders.

Next steps

The NS2B project will now move into the project assessment stage, culminating in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS assesses the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with the construction and operation of the NS2B project as part of Inland Rail.

During the EIS and design phase, further detailed investigations in the study area will be carried out. As part of this process we will continue to work with impacted landowners, stakeholders and the community.



Want to know more?

ARTC is committed to working with State and local governments, communities and landowners as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments about the NS2B project please let us know.

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