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 domestic and international markets and will support Australia’s four richest farming regions; provide supply chain benefits and substantial cost savings for producers.

**About the New South Wales/Queensland Border to Gowrie project**

The New South Wales/Queensland Border to Gowrie (B2G) section of Inland Rail comprises approximately 146km of new dual gauge track, and 78km of upgraded track from the New South Wales/Queensland border near Yelarbon, to Gowrie Junction, north west of Toowoomba. It crosses the two local government areas of Goondiwindi and Toowoomba.

Following a comprehensive ‘like for like’ comparison of four alternative corridors, in September 2017, the Australian Government determined the preferred area for B2G. The two-kilometre-wide study area to progress to the next phase of design will go via Millmerran, Brookstead, Pittsworth and the Wellcamp-Charlton Industrial Precinct. This study corridor is being progressed through the formal project planning and approvals process.

**Inland Rail projects**

Inland Rail has been divided into 13 projects to deliver the 1,700km rail line by 2024/25. There are five projects in Queensland.
Next steps

The B2G project is currently in the Project Feasibility phase and we are in the process of developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a feasibility design for the project. The aim of this phase is to gather baseline data, analyse potential impacts, develop mitigation measures to address these impacts and to refine and finalise the optimal alignment.

During the preparation of the EIS, the project team will be doing a range of investigations throughout the project study area, including:

- **geotechnical surveys** – to obtain information about the physical properties of the soil and rock
- **hydrology studies** – to obtain information about flooding and surface water movements
- **ecological surveys** – to identify habitats and/or species that exist within the area of investigation
- **noise, air quality and vibration surveys** – to measure background noise, air quality and vibration levels at key sites
- **land surveys** – to identify property boundaries and any easements and to install survey pegs if required
- **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
- **Condamine floodplain assessment** – ARTC is prioritising its assessment of engineering and technical options for crossing the Condamine floodplain within the study area. ARTC is working with the community to develop a design for crossing the Condamine floodplain. The preferred design will be finalised in late 2018.

The Inland Rail team will continue to engage with landowners, residents, businesses, community groups and other key stakeholders during the Project Feasibility phase. There will be a range of consultation opportunities throughout this phase and we encourage you to be involved to ensure community issues and concerns are considered and addressed in the EIS and feasibility design.

What has been happening?

ARTC has started environmental investigations in the B2G two-kilometre study area. These investigations include visual assessments, flora and fauna surveys, air quality and noise monitoring, and collection of water, soil and rock samples.

ARTC has also been engaging with landowners and key stakeholders within the study area to inform the development of the design and EIS.

ARTC has established two community consultative committees for the project:
- Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee
- Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee.

Want to know more?

ARTC is committed to working with communities and landowners, 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 the B2G project 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.