



# Narrabri to North Star

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

## NSW

As we work towards construction on Inland Rail between Narrabri and North Star, here's an overview of where we're up to, and what to expect over the coming months.

The Narrabri to North Star (N2NS) Inland Rail project is currently in the project assessment stage. We are working to finalise our project approvals in order to progress to construction.

Our recent engagement activities have focused on level crossings and flooding impacts, as well as some early work on noise impacts. We have held many ongoing landowner meetings to discuss the treatment of level crossings and are close to finalising these designs.

Pending government approvals, construction will begin in late 2020 and finish by approximately 2024.

### What does the work involve?

Due to design complexities associated with flood management, the project has been divided into two portions, known as separable portion 1 (SP1) and separable portion 2 (SP2).

This will allow construction to continue on schedule for the majority of the project, while environmental approvals are finalised on the Mehi-Gwydir floodplain.

**SP1:** Upgrading 171km of track between Narrabri and North Star, excluding works over the Mehi-Gwydir floodplain. This portion is currently going through NSW and Australian Government approvals. SP1 is expected to be approved by all relevant agencies by early to mid-2020, with construction to commence in late 2020.

**SP2:** Upgrading 15km of track crossing the Mehi-Gwydir floodplain and building 2.3km of new track at Camurra to bypass the existing hairpin turn. SP2 has returned to the reference design stage to enable us to investigate the more complex hydrology of the area further.

### What's new

#### Expressions of Interest to market

▶ **SP1 construction:**

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for construction of SP1 of the N2NS project opened on 4 October and closed on 1 November 2019. EOI applications are being assessed and three shortlisted companies will be asked to submit a response to a Request for Tender. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in mid-2020.

▶ **Social performance targets:**

The successful Contractor for SP1 will be required to meet targets and conditions related to industry participation, employment and skills development/training. The Inland Rail team will work closely with the Contractor to reach these targets.

▶ **Ballast, capping and fill material:**

In early 2019, we went out to tender on the provision of ballast, capping and fill material for the N2NS project. This opportunity will also be incorporated into the scope of the broader construction Expression of Interest for SP1.

▶ **Concrete sleepers:**

Expressions of Interest were also called for the supply of \$1.44 million concrete sleepers to be used along the full Inland Rail alignment.

▶ **Industry briefings:**

Fully subscribed industry briefings held during October in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, coinciding with the EOI release, is a sign of growing interest in opportunities along the Inland Rail alignment. Content delivered during these sessions can be found at [inlandrail.artc.com.au/suppliers](http://inlandrail.artc.com.au/suppliers)

## Timeframes for SP1 opportunities

Release of EOI documents for Principal Contractor	4 Oct 2019
Close of the EOI	1 Nov 2019
Finalisation of the shortlisted contractors and upload of Request for Tender (RFT) plus all documentation to TenderLink	Nov/Dec 2019
Release of RFT documents to shortlisted contractors	Nov/Dec 2019
Close of the RFT	Feb/Mar 2020
Award contract	Mid 2020

### Becoming a local supplier on Inland Rail

We are committed to creating sustainable economic development and employment opportunities for local and Indigenous suppliers by maximising their opportunities to participate in the project.

Opportunities for local and Indigenous businesses to supply to the project will be managed by the successful Contractor following the award of a contract in mid-2020.

Businesses interested in supplying to the project as sub-contractors and suppliers are encouraged to register their interest via the project's ICN Gateway website at [gateway.icn.org.au](http://gateway.icn.org.au). All registrations of interest from local suppliers will be provided to the three shortlisted Proponents and may also be included in a project-specific supply market analysis being prepared by the Industry Capability Network (ICN).

### How to register your interest

There are three ways you can register your interest as a supplier.

- ▶ Register for Inland Rail tenders via [tenderlink.com/inlandrail](http://tenderlink.com/inlandrail)  
Suppliers should note that Tenderlink is used to communicate opportunities to supply 'direct' to Inland Rail (and costs may apply should you wish to receive notifications about tender opportunities)
- ▶ Register for project-related sub-contract and supply opportunities via ICN Gateway at [gateway.icn.org.au](http://gateway.icn.org.au)
- ▶ Stay informed about Inland Rail as a potential supplier by registering at [inlandrail.artc.com.au/register](http://inlandrail.artc.com.au/register)

## What's coming up

### Regional supplier briefings and other upcoming events

We're planning a range of briefing sessions, workshops and networking events throughout 2019 and 2020.

The series will kick off with regional supplier briefings in December in Moree, Narrabri and North Star, aimed at keeping you updated on project timeframes and potential supplier opportunities.

In 2020, we are planning to hold:

- ▶ workshops to assist suppliers to prepare Business Capability Statements, to register on ICN Gateway and to respond to tenders
- ▶ 'Meet the Proponent' introduction sessions to enable local businesses to pitch their goods and services to the three shortlisted Proponents.

Keep an eye on our website or your local newspaper for dates and venues. Register your interest at [inlandrail.artc.com.au/register](http://inlandrail.artc.com.au/register), if you'd like to hear from us about these sessions.

### SP2: Mehi-Gwydir floodplain planning

This portion of the project will go through a new EIS process and consultation to make sure that railway structures across the Mehi-Gwydir floodplain meet local community expectations and the NSW Government's planning and floodplain management policies.

We have now engaged consultants to commence the SP2 process, which will be rolled out through the remainder of 2019 and across 2020. As part of this work, we will be completing a broad range of site and field investigations. All landowners within SP2 will be notified in advance of proposed work, which are non-intrusive investigations subject to voluntary Land Access Agreements.

### SP1: Construction possession strategy

In response to recent industry feedback, Inland Rail has been developing a construction track possession strategy and engaging with key industry stakeholders and government to understand harvest expectations. We will continue our engagement until May 2020.

Our current construction timeframes allow for consultation with landowners and other stakeholders while approvals are finalised. We're aware of the challenges associated with the ongoing drought and will continue our conversations with the community and industry groups.

## Rail and sleeper delivery

The delivery of steel rail and concrete sleepers will continue throughout the year until mid-2020. Please stay vigilant at level crossings, and stop and check for trains.



## Hydrology information sessions

During September, we held seven community information sessions focusing on hydrology and noise impacts along the N2NS alignment.

The sessions, held in Moree, Croppa Creek, North Star, Narrabri and Bellata, provided a great opportunity to update the community about the project and answer questions.

Any landowners impacted by non-compliant water movements or new water mitigation infrastructure will be contacted directly by the project team.

## Planning for long-term regional opportunities

Expressions of Interest were called for the Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program, which is designed to allow local communities, industry and government to identify projects that could increase and maximise the long-term benefits of Inland Rail.

Through the program, the department will allocate specialist service providers to work with eligible project proponents to develop pre-feasibility and feasibility studies and strategic business cases.

The next expression of interest process will commence in April 2020. For more information, visit [inlandrail.gov.au/interface-improvement-program](http://inlandrail.gov.au/interface-improvement-program)



Community members learning more about the project at Croppa Creek Memorial Hall.

## Opportunities from construction

N2NS will be the second Inland Rail project to kick off, with construction expected to commence in late 2020.

Construction on the Parkes to Narromine project commenced in late 2018, and the local community has seen the benefits flow in from a broad range of direct and indirect opportunities.

### Parkes to Narromine snapshot: October 2019

84 

local businesses have supplied to the project

9 

Indigenous businesses have supplied to the project

\$46.7 

\$46.7M total spend with local businesses

\$6.5 

\$6.5M total spend with Indigenous businesses

997 

997 people have worked on the project since commencement (December 2018)

395 

395 local residents working on the project

153 

Indigenous workers, 96 of whom are local Indigenous workers

50 

women are working

121 

people are working as tradespeople

## Scholarships program open now

The Inland Rail Scholarships Program is proudly supporting students along the Inland Rail route, in partnership with Charles Sturt University, University of Southern Queensland and La Trobe University.

Students living near the Inland Rail project alignment are invited to apply for scholarships valued at up to \$20,000 or the equivalent of \$5,000 for every year of study during their undergraduate degree.

Indigenous people and those experiencing financial hardship are particularly encouraged to apply for assistance.

The Inland Rail Scholarships Program aims to support a total of 20 students through their full undergraduate course.

The scholarships program is designed to deliver regional benefits by investing in students pursuing studies and careers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) fields.

Applications are now open. Apply before 5 February 2020 for the 2020 academic year scholarships.

## Grant funding for passionate community groups

Through our Community Sponsorships and Donations Program, we are supporting community groups who are running events and activities that contribute to local and regional prosperity and wellbeing.

There are four open rounds each year. The latest round of applications closes on 31 January 2020.

### For projects, events, activities commencing:

For projects, events, activities commencing:	Round opens:	Round closes:
June to August	1 February each year	30 April each year
September to November	1 May each year	31 July each year
December to February	1 August each year	31 October each year
March to May	1 November each year	31 January each year

Examples of events, projects and activities that may be funded include establishing a mentoring program for young entrepreneurs in the area, hosting guest speakers at a local Chamber breakfast or assistance with establishing a community garden.

To find out more and to submit your application, visit [inlandrail.artc.com.au/sponsorships](http://inlandrail.artc.com.au/sponsorships) or email [communitysponsorships@artc.com.au](mailto:communitysponsorships@artc.com.au)

## Whitehaven Narrabri Chamber of Commerce business awards

Through our Community Sponsorships and Donations Program, we were proud to sponsor the Innovation in Business Award at the Whitehaven Narrabri Chamber of Commerce Business Awards in September.

Ensuring we contribute to the local economy is a key objective of the project and as we move closer to the beginning of construction, we are working hard to provide local employment opportunities.

Our warm congratulations to all award recipients.



Inland Rail's Melanie Elms (centre), with Innovation in Business Award winners Justin Smith (left) and Darrel Tiemens (right): Image courtesy of The Courier, Narrabri.

## 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.

📞 1800 732 761 (24 hours, 7 days)

✉ [inlandrailnsw@artc.com.au](mailto:inlandrailnsw@artc.com.au)

📧 ARTC Inland Rail, GPO Box 14, Sydney NSW 2001

[inlandrail.com.au](http://inlandrail.com.au)



# ARTC

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