

Albury to Illabo



PROJECT FACT SHEET

NSW

About Inland Rail

Inland Rail is a 1,700km fast freight backbone providing transit times of less than 24 hours for freight trains from Melbourne to Brisbane.

Once complete, Inland Rail will transform how we move goods around Australia, better link businesses, manufacturers and producers to national and global markets and generate new opportunities for industries and regions.

Comprising 13 individual projects, Inland Rail is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia and one of the most significant infrastructure projects in the world.

About the Albury to Illabo project

The Albury to Illabo project is approximately 185km of existing rail corridor from the VIC/NSW border to Illabo in regional NSW. While we will use the existing rail lines, we will need to make enhancements or modifications to some structures such as footbridges and road bridges, signal structures, aerial cables and level crossings to create the height and width (horizontal and vertical clearances) required for double-stacked freight trains. We will also remove rundown and out-of-use structures in the clearance zone.

In addition, there will be locations where existing tracks will be:

- ▶ moved sideways to provide clearances between tracks
- ▶ lowered to provide clearance under some road bridges.

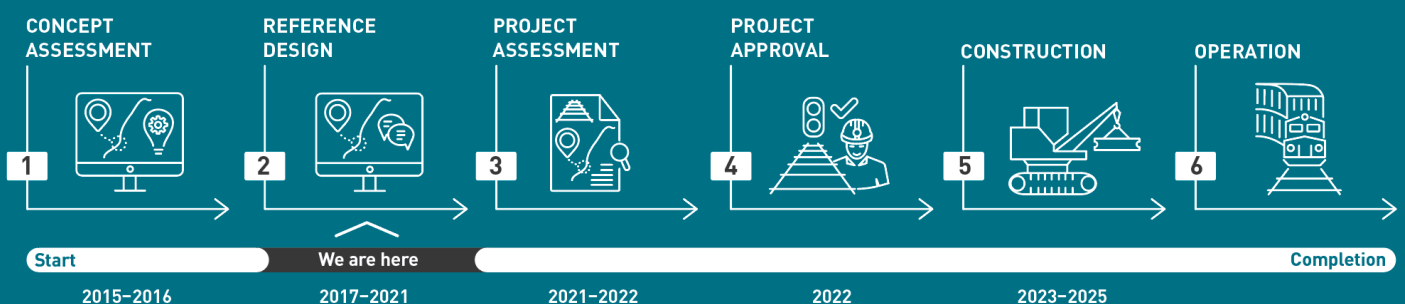
To ensure safety on the rail corridor, all track and trackside infrastructure will be assessed and actions taken to comply with current standards.

What has been happening?

Following a tender process, we have appointed a service provider to deliver the reference design and primary approvals documentation for the project.

Development of the reference design will be managed in close consultation with NSW Government, local councils and local communities. Some of the work we have undertaken so far includes:

- ▶ preliminary field studies such as ecology, geotechnical and heritage studies to gain an understanding of the existing environmental features, technical challenges and opportunities
- ▶ conducting an engineering desktop study to gain an understanding of issues and opportunities within the project area
- ▶ meeting with landowners and other stakeholders to gain a better understanding of local opportunities, impacts and conditions
- ▶ working with councils, industry and the community to better understand the local environment.



**Timeframes are indicative and are subject to change*

Environmental planning and approvals

Following further investigations and due to the increased complexity, the Albury to Illabo project has been identified as State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) in accordance with NSW legislation. This requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which is determined by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

A scoping report was lodged in early 2020 with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and is available on the DPIE major projects website. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) will be used to guide the project's environmental controls and inform development consent, which will be issued to ARTC by DPIE. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment determined the Albury to Illabo project does not require assessment and approval under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

We are continuing design investigations and gathering further information to feed into the EIS. The EIS will outline potential environmental and social impacts of the project for consideration by DPIE. It will also capture information gathered from consultation with the community and other stakeholders such as councils, industry and community groups and how this was considered. The work to compile the EIS will continue throughout 2021.

Once complete, the EIS is placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. Community members and other stakeholders are invited to provide their feedback and make formal submissions, which will be considered by DPIE when assessing the project. The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces makes a decision on the project's approval. The project must be approved in order for construction to commence.

Next steps

We will be undertaking a Multi Criteria Analysis in the coming months to help determine suitable treatment options at major project sites along the alignment. Meanwhile, we will carry out further environmental and technical investigations, hydrology studies and engagement with communities and landowners. Some of the investigations you may see being undertaken in your area include:

- ▶ **ecological surveys** – to identify habitats and/or species that exist within the rail corridor
- ▶ **ongoing geotechnical surveys** – to identify local ground conditions
- ▶ **cultural heritage surveys** – investigations for any evidence of Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal artefacts/heritage
- ▶ **ongoing utility identification surveys** – to identify infrastructure such as gas and water pipelines
- ▶ **noise, air quality and vibration survey** – to measure baseline background noise, air quality and vibration levels.



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 this fact sheet, please let us know.

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ARTC

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

CURRENT AS AT OCTOBER 2020