



Preserving flora and fauna

Need to know



Minimising impacts on native plants and animals (flora and fauna) along the Inland Rail corridor is vital.



In line with legislation, we take practical steps to ensure any potential impacts on flora and fauna are assessed and mitigated.



Inland Rail is being built now to create a new freight future for Australia.



It is a fast freight backbone spanning more than 1,700km between Melbourne and Brisbane and is transforming the way goods are moved around a country as big as ours.



As the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia, it's progressively unlocking opportunities for our industries and regions.

Our approach

Any potential impacts on flora and fauna by Inland Rail are assessed under legislation and studies which:

- identify flora and fauna native to each project area through ecologist-led surveys
- assess threatened species, native vegetation and fauna habitat clearing impacts
- identify risks associated with weed, pest species and emergency animal diseases
- understand how to maintain habitat connectivity for native fauna
- assess fauna crossing requirements and offset flora and fauna habitat clearing.

Flora and fauna surveys

We engage qualified ecologists to carry out flora and fauna surveys. Flora surveys usually happen during the day and may be at specific times of the year, e.g. when a plant is flowering.

Fauna surveys are designed to detect animal species of interest and usually happen at dawn, dusk and during the evening, as most Australian animal species are nocturnal.

Surveys can take up to a week and can be done at specific times of the year, e.g. during breeding season.

Our fauna survey methods depend on the species of interest, and may involve:

- observations during a walk
- using trained fauna detection dogs, laser-based detection, drones and other specialist equipment
- using specialist call back and recording equipment
- placing nets or traps to gather hair samples or catch animals
- genetic sequencing/DNA analysis of animal faeces to establish population movement and resilience.

Fauna traps follow a very careful process to prevent harm and minimise stress to fauna.

Flora and fauna sensitive design

The following measures are considered during the approval, design and construction of Inland Rail:

- avoid sensitive ecological areas, such as native vegetation and threatened species habitats
- maintain or improve fauna habitat connectivity and fauna exclusion fencing in areas where animals may be at risk of being hit by trains
- fauna-sensitive design and rehabilitation around waterway crossings.

We investigate and identify biodiversity offsets in line with relevant state and Australian Government legislation.

Managing impacts during construction

We work with our construction contractors to develop project-specific environmental management plans. These include measures to mitigate flora and fauna impacts during construction, such as:

- pre-clearing ecological surveys and relocation of fauna
- well-defined clearing areas and no-go zones
- weed and pest management during reinstatement of temporarily disturbed areas
- landscaping and rehabilitation.

More information

Projects delivered under the Inland Rail Program require environmental assessment and approval under state and Australian Government legislation.

For more information, please refer to the following resources:

- Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy – environment.gov.au
- Environment Protection Authority Victoria – epa.vic.gov.au
- New South Wales Government Department of Environment, Energy and Science – environment.nsw.gov.au
- New South Wales Government Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – dpie.nsw.gov.au
- Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science – environment.des.qld.gov.au



Rainbow Lorikeet (Trichoglossus haematodus)

Want to know more?

ARTC is committed to working with property owners, 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.

✉ **ARTC Inland Rail, GPO Box 2462, Brisbane QLD 4001**

📞 **1800 732 761**

✉ **inlandrailenquiries@artc.com.au**

🌐 **inlandrail.com.au**

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