

# TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY INLAND RAIL AND NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE PROJECTS

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

VIC

At Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) we're all for rail. Across Australia we manage and maintain a vast rail network and are working hard to bring more of the benefits of rail to more people.



ARTC teams attended a range of events this year to update the community on where projects are at, including in Wangaratta.

**In Victoria we are delivering two projects between now and 2025 to improve freight and passenger services along the North East rail line.**

We're on track with the North East Rail Line Upgrade to improve the reliability and ride quality for passenger services between Melbourne and Albury-Wodonga. We're also tackling the causes of major delays such as signal failures due to copper line wire theft.

We're also delivering the Victorian section of Inland Rail from Tottenham to Albury along the same existing track. Inland Rail is the missing link in our national supply chain, transforming how everyday goods are moved around our vast country, creating more opportunities for regions to connect to cities and businesses to markets.

Throughout the year we've continued to hold community conversations and information sessions at train stations, shows, town centres and community meetings to share our plans and hear feedback about the freight and passenger projects ARTC is delivering.

Most recently we were at the Seymour Show, in the main street at Euroa and Wangaratta and hosted a stall at the Wodonga and Tallarook Farmers Markets.

We'll be back out in the community in 2020. Look out for social media updates and in local papers to find out when we'll be next in your town.

## NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE

The \$235M upgrade project will deliver improvements to the North East rail line that will bring it up to a Victorian Class 2 track performance standard, in line with other long-distance regional passenger rail lines in Victoria.

The project is underway and set for completion by mid-2021 in time for new VLocity trains committed to by the Victorian government.

### MAJOR CONTRACT AWARDED

Recently, we announced John Holland Group as the North East Rail Line Upgrade's main works contractor.

John Holland will deliver works including mudhole removal, track resurfacing and tamping, drainage upgrades, and improvements to over 100 level crossings and rail bridges. Ballast depth along the entire rail line will also be increased with the addition of 300,000 tonnes of new railway ballast.

After a brief period of mobilisation, John Holland will start work on track early in 2020, at which point you will see increased activity in the rail corridor.

### EARLY WORKS CONTINUE

Throughout 2019 we've made good progress on early works along the line and successfully completed a large program of activity during the annual 60-hour track shutdown in September.

These works included tamping to remove several temporary speed restrictions, renewing level crossings and installing two new crossover pairs. To see a time lapse video of the crossover installation at Longwood, visit our website [artc.com.au/projects/northeast](http://artc.com.au/projects/northeast)

Outside of this shutdown period, a high-speed tamping machine has completed a further 85km of tamping along the line. We also completed another level crossing renewal at Boralma-Rutherglen Road, Springhurst and significant mudhole removal works around Seymour.

We plan to continue targeted resurfacing works, ballasting and mudhole removal ahead of the commencement of the main works contractor early next year.

### STOPPING THEFT IN THE RAIL CORRIDOR

Theft of copper signalling wire is a frequent cause of unnecessary delays on the North East line.

Not only is this frustrating for passengers, but it's an extremely dangerous activity and culprits are putting themselves and others at risk.

Signalling works as part of the North East Rail Line Upgrade will help address this issue.

Copper wire theft is a criminal activity and a matter for the police. We encourage anyone with any knowledge of copper wire theft or suspicious behaviour around the rail corridor to please contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.



*Ed Walker, ARTC General Manager Victoria Projects and Julian Richards, John Holland General Manager Rail Infrastructure Services*

### WHERE ARE WE NOW?

March 2018



Funding announced

May – Dec 2018



Project planning

October 2018



Funding granted

Late 2018



Project scope confirmed and independently reviewed. Plans shared with stakeholders and communities

Early – Late 2019



Procurement of main contractor and start of early works

2021



Completion

## INLAND RAIL TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY

In the last 12 months, we have engaged with local communities to develop and test design options for sites along the rail corridor where additional clearance is required to accommodate the taller, double-stacked freight trains that will run on Inland Rail.

Work is progressing to confirm our design concepts across all locations, a milestone called draft reference design. To reach this stage we have considered feedback from councils, our neighbours, emergency service providers and the broader community.

We are also preparing for government approvals in preparation for Stage 1 works which will be focused on our sites located north of Beveridge to Albury.

In 2020, we will award construction contracts for these works. Construction is scheduled to start in 2021 once all environmental and planning approvals have been received, and works will be completed by 2025.

### WHERE ARE WE NOW?

2017–2018



Early design thinking

Late 2019



Draft reference design to support final approvals

Early 2020



Final reference design

2020–2021



Detailed design

2021–2025



Construction to take place

2025



Completion



Community consultation at Kilmore Show.

### METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE UPDATE

We have developed a preferred reference design solution for the project corridor through metropolitan Melbourne which has considered feedback from local communities and all levels of government.

At this time however, we have placed a temporary hold on ongoing project development and delivery activities south of Beveridge while the Victorian Department of Transport undertakes a study to determine the location, configuration and the timeframe of a new intermodal terminal in Melbourne.

Once details of the intermodal terminal are confirmed, we will resume our engagement and progress our reference design as required for Stage 2, south of Beveridge.

### WHAT'S NEXT

For the Beveridge to Albury section, we are soon to refer the project to the Minister for Planning under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The Minister will determine whether an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is required and any conditions that ARTC must meet to deliver Inland Rail.

We will also be referring the project to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment who will determine whether the project requires formal assessment and approval under the *Environment Project and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* or whether the Victorian assessment process will apply.

Communities and stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the EPBC referral as part of this process and we will provide details on our website once the public comment period is open. We are expecting a decision on both State and Commonwealth referrals in the coming months.

## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS AND DONATIONS PROGRAM

We are proud to support local community group events and activities which boost local and regional prosperity, wellbeing and sustainability.

Recently we were thrilled to award grants to six Victorian organisations as part of round two funding.

A big congratulations to these grant recipients:

- ▶ Wangaratta Community Toy Library – expanding the multicultural toy collection
- ▶ Broadford Living and Learning Centre – building a new pizza oven
- ▶ Branjee Fire Brigade – introducing new kit bags and helmet torches for members
- ▶ Mitchell Environmental Group (BEAM) – hosting a 30-year celebration community Bush Dance
- ▶ Lions Club Seymour – funding entertainment and event costs for the Lions District v5 Convention in 2020, and
- ▶ Avenel Action Group – supporting the Avenel Market's Avenel neighbours Christmas party and night market.

Community organisations can apply for financial grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 up to four times a year.

Details on how to apply can be found on the Inland Rail website

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



ARTC supported the Mitchell Environment Group (BEAM) to host a Bush Dance commemorating 30 years.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NORTH EAST VICTORIAN STUDENTS

Students commencing study in 2020 or 2021 may be eligible for up to \$20,000 as part of our new Inland Rail Scholarships Program.

The program provides opportunities for up to six regional students considering an undergraduate degree at La Trobe University's Albury-Wodonga, Shepparton, Bendigo and Melbourne campuses.

Applications close on 31 January 2020 and full details can be found at [inlandrail.artc.com.au/education-and-scholarships](http://inlandrail.artc.com.au/education-and-scholarships)

Thank you for your continued interest and feedback on Inland Rail and the North East Rail Line Upgrade over the past 12 months. We've gained valuable insights and are looking forward to continuing our conversation in the new year.



Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season



Please note: We will also be taking a break between Friday, 20 December 2019 and return to work on Monday, 6 January 2020.

## KEEP UPDATED

ARTC is committed to working with communities and landowners, State and local government 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.

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