

Parkes to Narromine



Boosting freight capacity with double-stacked trains

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

NSW

Parkes to Narromine almost finished

As construction of the first section of Inland Rail draws to a close, we want to thank the Parkes to Narromine community for their continued support, participation and patience during construction over the past 18 months.

The Parkes to Narromine project involves the upgrading of 98.4km of existing rail track, construction of 5.3km of new track and three crossing loops at Nanardine, Peak Hill and Timjelly, to allow trains to pass each other.

When operational from September 2020, the Parkes to Narromine section will enable 1,800m long, double-stacked trains which can carry the same volume of freight as 110 B-double trucks.

During construction, the Parkes to Narromine project team installed continuously welded rail and concrete sleepers to improve track reliability, reduce maintenance costs and promote sustainability.

Creating a new freight future

Opening the Parkes to Narromine line is proof that Inland Rail is already transforming how we move goods around Australia.

The Parkes National Logistics Hub is emerging as one of Australia's largest intermodal sites.

In July 2020, Parkes also became the site of the NSW Government's first regional Special Activation Precinct, which is predicted to create up to 3,000 jobs across a range of industries, including freight and logistics, value-added agriculture and renewable energy.

We're greener

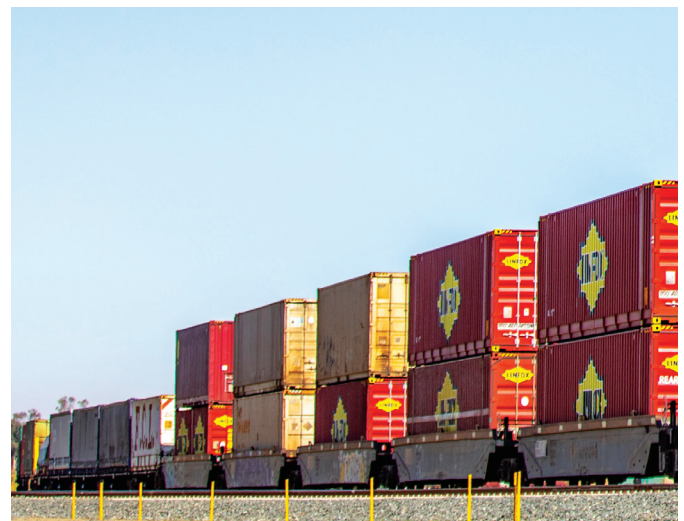
We found ways to be greener when building the Parkes to Narromine section of the alignment.

Environmentally-friendly methods adopted during construction reduced the amount of imported materials needed and waste generated.

Highlights included more than:

- ▶ 297,000m³ of blended ballast and ash reincorporated into the formation. By using locally sourced ballast we reduced the social and traffic impacts from hauling materials to site
- ▶ 98% of the existing rail was removed for re-use on other rail projects.
- ▶ 85% or 46,000 timber sleepers were tested and approved for re-use by a third party for civil engineering or landscaping.

Hydromulch was applied throughout the rail corridor. This is a tailored mix of seeds and mulch that helps control erosion, stop weeds and revegetate the rail corridor with perennial and native grasses.



Boosting freight capacity with double-stacked trains



Trains running from
21 September 2020

In partnership with Humes, the concrete products division of Holcim, we achieved an industry leading sustainability milestone by installing more than 22,600 tonnes of carbon neutral precast concrete culverts. The culverts were certified under the Australian Government's Climate Active program.

All 13 sections of Inland Rail are now being assessed against the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia's rating scheme, providing consistency and challenging the projects to deliver best practice outcomes.

When fully operational, Inland Rail will reduce:

- ▶ carbon emissions by 750,000 tonnes a year
- ▶ truck volumes in more than 20 regional towns
- ▶ road congestion on some of Australia's busiest highways.



Carbon neutral concrete culverts along the Parkes to Narromine line

STOP! if you see a train coming

We've improved safety at 31 level crossings in Parkes, Alectown, Peak Hill, Tomingley and Narromine, as part of the construction of Parkes to Narromine.

Despite this, we're asking you to take extra care, especially at these level crossings.

Trains using the line can travel up to 115km/hour. For your safety, please obey all signage, signals and boom gates at level crossings. If you see a train coming, stop.

We have designed private and public level crossings to allow vehicles to safely use them. However, these standards don't provide enough warning to safely allow livestock or large machinery to cross. Before crossing the new line with livestock or machinery, contact ARTC's Network Control on **02 4902 9410** about train movements in the area, to ensure you have enough time to safely conduct these activities.

Once trains are running, the Parkes to Narromine section will form part of the ARTC Interstate Network. ARTC manages and maintains an 8,500km rail network across five states.

ARTC will monitor operational noise, vibration and flooding levels for the first 10 to 15 years of operation. Monitored results will be compared with predicted levels modelled before construction. Where operating levels exceed targets, ARTC will consult nearby landowners about possible mitigation measures.

Call the ARTC EnviroLine on **1300 550 402** or email enviroline@artc.com.au for more information.

On yer bike!

Peak Hill is about to enjoy a boost to outdoor fun.

As part of the Parkes to Narromine project team's legacy works in the town, we are:

- ▶ building a new children's bike path
- ▶ upgrading the BMX bike track
- ▶ improving picnic facilities at the skate park and nature reserve
- ▶ installing a new granite path and pedestrian bridge at the reserve.

The bike path, with its level crossing, promotes rail safety amongst our youngest citizens while the BMX track could prove the training ground for our next batch of Olympic hopefuls.

Works began on this legacy project in late August and are being managed by Parkes Shire Council.



Pushing ahead on the new kids' bike path at Linder Oval, Peak Hill

Community groups benefit from support

Community groups and ambitious young students in the Parkes to Narromine region are continuing to benefit from our various community assistance programs.

Jessie Rix from Bogan Gate is studying education at the Wagga Wagga campus of Charles Sturt University, while Josh Irvine from Narromine is enrolled in radiology at the Port Macquarie campus. In mid-2020, both students were awarded \$20,000 Inland Rail Scholarships.

We've also partnered with organisations such as the Narromine Local Aboriginal Land Council for the NLALC Learn to Swim program, supported local show days, and from 2018 sponsored key events such as the Parkes Elvis Festival and the inaugural ARC/ALC Inland Rail Conference at Parkes.

From April 2019 to July 2020, the Inland Rail Community Sponsorships and Donations program has awarded 14 local community groups \$40,000 in grant funding.

The most recent sponsorship and donations funding is enabling:

- ▶ grandstand seating at the Eugowra Rugby Club
- ▶ new tools at the Men's Shed and broadcasting equipment for community station Silo FM 89.5, at Peak Hill
- ▶ a projector for the Central West Astronomical Society
- ▶ an online kit for Macquarie Darling Work Placement
- ▶ Domestic Violence support kits by Parkes Que Club.



Bogan Gate student Jessie Rix is studying education thanks to an Inland Rail Scholarship

Applications for the next round of our Community Sponsorships and Donations program close on 31 October 2020. Funding between \$1,000 and \$4,000 is available. Applicants are asked to focus on projects that can readily adapt to current Covid-19 restrictions.

Visit inlandrail.artc.com.au/sponsorships or email IRCommunitySponsorships@artc.com.au for more information.

We're still open for business

Our Inland Rail shopfront at 290 Clarinda Street, Parkes is open for business so you can get the latest updates on Parkes to Narromine and neighbouring sections of Inland Rail, including Stockinbingal to Parkes.

You are invited to join our team in following strict Covid-19 regulations to ensure everyone's safety.

Call **1800 732 761** or email inlandrailnsw@artc.com.au to arrange a shopfront visit or have your questions answered.



Drop into our Parkes shopfront at 290 Clarinda Street

About our neighbouring projects

We're progressing community consultations along Inland Rail sections neighbouring Parkes to Narromine.

To the south, the Stockinbingal to Parkes section of Inland Rail is planned along 173km of existing rail corridor. We will make enhancements or modifications to structures to accommodate double-stacked freight trains. We will also build a new crossing loop at Daroobalgie to allow trains travelling in opposite directions to pass each other safely.

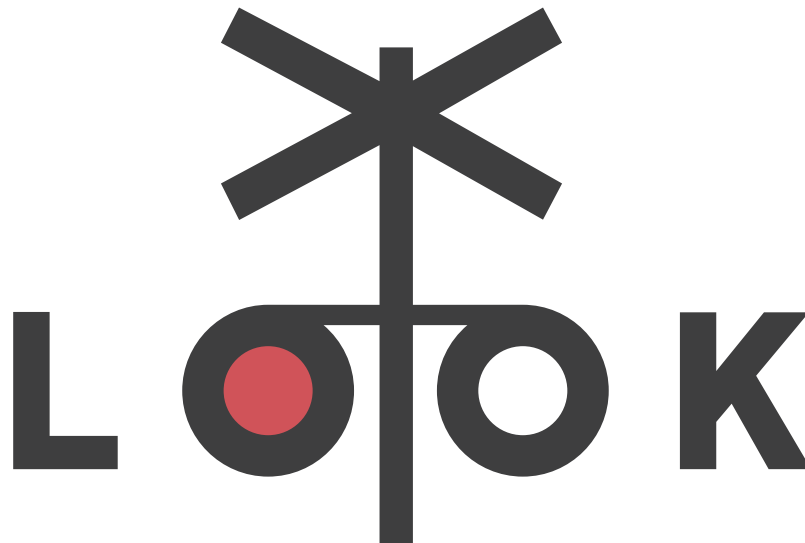
The Stockinbingal to Parkes project is currently in the reference design stage. This stage involves further environmental and technical investigations, engineering and design, as well as additional engagement with landowners and communities.

To the north, the 300km Narromine to Narrabri project is the longest section of the Inland Rail Program.

Community consultations, investigations and field studies are continuing and an Environmental Impact Statement is planned to be lodged with the NSW Government for public feedback in December 2020 or January 2021.



The 13 project sections of Inland Rail's 1700km fast freight backbone



Trains running

From **21 September 2020**, please take extra care at level crossings on the **Parkes to Narromine track**.

Be vigilant, be safe and obey all warning signals at level crossings.

inlandrail.com.au

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 about this fact sheet, please let us know.

 1800 732 761 (24 hours, 7 days)

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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.