

Parkes to Narromine



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

NSW

Parkes to Narromine project now commissioned

The Parkes to Narromine section was commissioned in late September 2020 and is now operational.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton and Parkes Shire Council Mayor Ken Keith, were present at a commissioning ceremony on 15 September during which the Deputy Prime Minister installed the line's final rail clip.

Wiradjuri elder Aunty Rhonda Towney welcomed guests to country for the ceremony which also saw the unveiling of a small plaque alongside the line at Peak Hill.



Wiradjuri elder Aunty Rhonda Towney welcomes guests to country

Local suppliers benefit

Parkes to Narromine saw the upgrade of 98.4km of existing track and the building of 5.3km of new track. Construction used:

- ▶ 14,000 tonnes of new rail, supplied by Liberty Steel Whyalla, South Australia
- ▶ 188,000 concrete sleepers made by Rocla in Mittagong
- ▶ 752,000 rail clips from Pandrol, Blacktown
- ▶ 360,200 tonnes of ballast with supplies from Parkes-based companies Calvani Crushing and Ausrock Quarries
- ▶ \$13 million worth of culverts weighing 26,625 tonnes from Holcim, Tamworth.



Member for Parkes Mark Coulton holds the golden clip, with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack



Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack unveils the plaque with Parkes Mayor Ken Keith and Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton

Going with the flow

Completion of the Parkes to Narromine section of Inland Rail has opened several important cross regional freight links connecting the southern/western and north-western rail networks in NSW. These links are now enabling freight transport of:

- ▶ mineral concentrates such as copper, silver, lead, zinc from Cobar on the Transport for NSW Country Regional Network, via Narromine and Parkes, to Broken Hill and Port Pirie
- ▶ copper and gold concentrates from the North Parkes mine, loaded onto trains at Goonumbra between Parkes and Narromine, headed for export through Port Kembla
- ▶ grain from various grain receival facilities on the Narromine-Nyngan line and Parkes to Narromine line at Peak Hill and Tomingley West. This grain is headed to the Parkes grain sub-terminal and on to Port Kembla for export, and to the major mill at Manildra in the NSW Central West for domestic consumption.

The Parkes to Narromine line will also be available as a diversionary route for traffic from the west and south heading to Newcastle and Brisbane, bypassing Sydney when required.

Trains running again in time for harvest season

Trains are running again on the Parkes to Narromine line for the first time in almost two years.

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is one of Australia's largest rail network owners and managers, is managing this first section of Inland Rail to go into operation.

While it will be a few years before the entire 1,700km Inland Rail freight backbone between Melbourne and Brisbane runs at full capacity, locals can increasingly expect to see:

- ▶ grain and ore concentrate trains returning to the line
- ▶ planned and emergency maintenance activities
- ▶ environmental monitoring
- ▶ track inspections and patrols.

Trains on the line can travel at up to 115km an hour. We are asking everyone to continue to take extra care at level crossings, especially during the bumper grain harvest season.

Check the interactive map at maps.inlandrail.com.au/p2n# for the latest on crossing safety in your area. Call Network Control on **02 4902 9410** in advance if you are moving livestock or machinery across the new line to ensure these activities can be safely done.

Operational noise and vibration impacts have been modelled as part of the EIS process and noise mitigation measures have been put in place. The modelling will be revisited via in-field monitoring once the Melbourne to Brisbane line is running at full capacity to ensure that the implemented mitigation measures are performing. If differences between predicted and recorded flood levels are detected, they will also be addressed with impacted landholders in the same period.

Tasked with modernising rail in Australia, ARTC was established in 1998 to maintain and operate 8,500km of the nation's rail network in five states, managing the transit of around 450 passenger and freight trains per day across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

ARTC has invested more than \$7 billion to deliver key transport infrastructure projects to bolster our national economy and enhance the safety and reliability of our rail network over the past 15 years and is tasked by the Australian Government to build Inland Rail.

We look forward to continuing our role as the rail track manager in the Parkes to Narromine region and supporting the local community. If you have any questions regarding rail operations call the Enviroline on **1300 550 402** or email enviroline@artc.com.au.



Inland Rail will get these canola crops at Alectown to market faster

Community Benefits

Parkes to Narromine Snapshot: December 2018 – September 2020

1862

PEOPLE

have worked on
the project since
December 2018



302 of whom are
Indigenous

762 local
residents

have worked on the project

197

of whom
are local and
Indigenous

938

EMPLOYED FOR
26 WEEKS OR OVER

FOR A MINIMUM OF
15 HOURS A WEEK

SUSTAINABLE JOBS

303

TRADESPEOPLE
EMPLOYED



72

WOMEN
EMPLOYED



99

local businesses
have supplied to
the project

9

Indigenous
businesses

\$109.7M

total spend with
local businesses

\$14.1M

total spend
with Indigenous
businesses

Thank you

It's not every day that one of Australia's largest infrastructure projects comes to town.

And we're very grateful to the people of Central West New South Wales for contributing to the start of Australia's new freight future.

Since the first sod of the Parkes to Narromine project was turned at Parkes in December 2018, you've played a huge part in helping us deliver the first leg of Inland Rail.

And we couldn't have asked for a better region to kick off construction of our 1,700km rail freight backbone.

You've been working with us, supplying to us, and sharing your hospitality. You responded when we asked for your input, visiting us at local shows, community displays and information sessions to provide us with valuable local knowledge.

You helped us keep local businesses buzzing and the economy moving through the challenges of drought and pandemic restrictions.

You've been vital to this project's success.

Inland Rail's principal construction contractor INLink has become part of the local landscape during the past couple of years and committed to sourcing local suppliers and labour wherever possible. The team also contributed significant local spend while delivering the first of Inland Rail's 13 projects.

Thank you for welcoming us all into the region and helping us, directly or indirectly, get the Parkes to Narromine section completed so we can forge ahead to realise the benefits this once-in-a-generation project offers for all Australians.



Parkes Public School Cultural Dance Group, ceremonial sod turn, Parkes December 2018



Community engagement, Parkes 2020



Ceremonial turing of the sod, Parkes December 2018



Parkes Elvis Festival, 2020

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.

CURRENT AS AT OCTOBER 2020