

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

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

VIC

The Australian Rail Track Corporation plans, builds and maintains the tracks Australian trains run on and we're working hard to bring more of the benefits of rail to more people.

In Victoria, we're working in communities to deliver two essential projects – the North East Rail Line Upgrade and Inland Rail – to improve freight and passenger services along the North East rail line.



*Ed Walker, ARTC General Manager Victoria Projects discussing the project with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, Senator Bridget Mackenzie, Member for Indi Helen Haines and Victorian Member for Euroa Steph Ryan*

## NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE

### TRACK WORKS COMPLETE

The biggest milestone to date has been reached for the North East Rail Line Upgrade with main works for the \$235 million project now complete.

The announcement was made by Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack, as he inspected track upgrades near Wangaratta on 19 March.

“Any infrastructure funding we invest in means locals jobs for local proponents, local contractors and economic stimulus for local businesses, laying the foundations for Victoria’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

“With the completion of the main works on the North East Rail Line upgrade, passengers will experience more reliable services and a better ride quality between Spencer Street Junction in Melbourne and Albury-Wodonga.

“The works bring the rail line up to a Victorian Class 2 track performance standard, which is in line with other regional passenger rail lines in Victoria, including accommodating new VLocity trains on the line.”

Whilst the objectives of the project have been achieved with the completion of major works, some project signalling works will continue throughout the remainder of 2021.

## TRACK STATS

Track upgrades for the North East Rail Line Upgrade have been delivered ahead of schedule and above the original scope of the project. This means passengers are now experiencing a smoother, more reliable journey.

In just over 12 months we've:

UPGRADED AND  
TAMPED **532KM**  
OF TRACK



ADDED **557,000**  
TONNES OF  
NEW BALLAST



REMOVED **27KM**  
OF MUD HOLES



RENEWED  
**84** LEVEL  
CROSSINGS



UPGRADED **138**  
RAIL BRIDGES



REINSTATED  
**430KM** OF TRACK  
SIDE DRAINAGE



INVESTED  
**\$70 MILLION**  
INTO THE  
REGIONAL  
ECONOMY



## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR LOCAL SUPPLIERS

The benefits of the North East Rail Line Upgrade go beyond the passenger experience, with more than \$70 million invested into regional communities. We would like to sincerely thank the 173 local suppliers who have supported our teams with everything from equipment hire and building materials to accommodation and take-away coffees.

We were proud to have Ashely Day and Max Allen representing our local suppliers during the Deputy Prime Minister's recent visit.

Max Allen, GAME General Manager said, "GAME Traffic and Contracting is proud for being truly a local supplier involved in this project. At a time of uncertainty through the COVID-19 downturn the project provided significant and sustained employment to some 120 GAME casual employees.

We're thankful for being included in the supply chain as a modern and successful social enterprise, not only for providing more work for our employees but also in enabling better outcomes for young people across North East Victoria through our own youth empowerment and employment program, Geared 4 Careers."

Ashley Day, General Manager LS Quarries said, "Infrastructure projects like this are critical to regional Victoria because they support local jobs, especially since a lot of businesses have been doing it tough recently. We employee 100 local people and 50 subcontractors and the flow on effect for the region is huge."



557,000 tonnes of locally sourced ballast has been used on the North East Rail Line Upgrade. New ballast has improved track stability and drainage, helping prevent new mud holes from forming.



Cutting the ribbon on the last bridge deck conversion near Glenrowan. 82 timber top bridges have been replaced with new ballasted concrete deck bridges resulting in a smoother ride.

## TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY INLAND RAIL

### URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK:

We received plenty of feedback from communities along the project alignment, particularly around our urban design framework (UDF), as we continue to shape the design of various station precincts and other project sites.

We hosted community consultation sessions across seven locations in March where attendees provided feedback on what's important to them for the project sites. Common themes we captured from many conversations related to safety, connectivity, accessibility, and the environment.

The UDF outlines the vision, principles, and objectives for impacted communities within Inland Rail's project area in Victoria. We are incorporating your feedback into the final framework and will publish this document on our website.

### PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT:

We are requesting the Victorian Minister for Planning amend six local government planning schemes to streamline the approvals process for the Inland Rail Tottenham to Albury project in Victoria.

We have distributed thousands of letters with submission forms and further information to residents, business owners and other interested stakeholders to gather their feedback by **17 May 2021**.

Visit [inlandrail.com.au/t2a-status](http://inlandrail.com.au/t2a-status) for more information on both the UDF and Planning Scheme Amendment.

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an Urban Design Framework chat with

*Zac Cvitkovic*

AECOM Associate Director, Urban Design

*We interviewed Zac Cvitkovic, AECOM Associate Director – Urban Design, to find out more about the urban design framework for Inland Rail in Victoria.*

### EUROA WORKING GROUP:

The Euroa Working Group held its latest meeting on 3 March 2021 to present the draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) for Euroa.

Representatives from the ARTC-appointed consultants, AECOM, and members of the Inland Rail project team were in attendance to outline the draft UDF and address questions.

At the opening of the meeting, Edwina Thomson, Shirley Saywell, Nola Dudley and Ann Mahon resigned. The remaining Working Group members acknowledged the significant contribution each member had made since the Group was formed. It was then agreed that the meeting should be formally closed and that the Working Group take a pause to consider future options. The UDF presentation continued as a general session.

### BENALLA WORKING GROUP:

The latest Benalla Working Group meeting was held on 2 March 2021. As it was in Euroa, the purpose of the meeting was to present the draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) for Benalla.

Representatives from the ARTC-appointed consultants AECOM and ARTC projects team members outlined the draft UDF and responded to key questions posed by Working Group members. The UDF for Benalla aims to capture the key values and attributes that need to be incorporated into the proposed design solution for the Benalla station precinct. The group discussed the draft objectives and suggested some amendments for AECOM to consider.



*Visit one of our pop-ups across seven locations to discuss the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment and submit your feedback (Benalla pictured).*

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### INLAND RAIL SHINES A LIGHT FOR SOUTH WANGARATTA BRIGADE

CFA's South Wangaratta Brigade can tread more safely in unpredictable fire ground conditions with vital new equipment, thanks to the Inland Rail Community Sponsorships and Donations Program. The brigade is using its grant funding to purchase five new helmet torches and four ultra-high frequency radios, replacing equipment more than 10 years old.

South Wangaratta Brigade Equipment Officer/Firefighter Brendon French said his members are looking forward to testing their new gear at regular training sessions now COVID-19 restrictions have eased.

"This new equipment will be a great help for us, particularly when responding to structure fires and bush fires," Brendon said.



South Wangaratta Brigade members with their new helmet torches.

The next round of Inland Rail's Community Sponsorships and Donations Program is now open until **30 April**.

## WE'RE WORKING ON IT

It's important for us to be a responsible corporate citizen, which includes being transparent about what we do. Recent research told us that few people in the communities in which we live and work know who ARTC is or what we do. So, we've developed a campaign to help explain our role and the important contribution we make to the Australian economy.

Look out for our 'We're working on it' ads across North East Victoria, which proudly feature our local employees and the great work that they do. We'd love to hear what you think.

**“BY IMPROVING OUR RAIL NETWORK WE’RE HELPING TAKE THE LOAD OFF OUR ROADS.”**

– Francisco, ARTC employee

**ARTC**  
A more reliable rail network  
WE'RE WORKING ON IT

### 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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