

Gowrie to Helidon



Lockyer Valley

PROJECT NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2021

QLD

About the Gowrie to Helidon project

The Gowrie to Helidon (G2H) section of Inland Rail comprises approximately 28km of new dual gauge track crossing the Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley local government areas.

G2H is the most technically challenging section of the entire Inland Rail project. It includes a 6.2km tunnel, as well as a number of significant viaducts and cuttings, to create an efficient route through the steep Toowoomba Range.

This section uses both the existing rail corridor at Gowrie and Helidon, along with the Gowrie to Grandchester future state transport corridor protected in 2005.



Have your say on the EIS

The Queensland Coordinator-General has released the G2H project's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public exhibition and submissions commenced on **Monday 2 August** and concludes on **Monday 25 October 2021**.

During the review period, you can make online or written submissions to the Coordinator-General. The Coordinator-General will consider all submissions as part of the evaluation of the project's environmental impacts.

For more information on how to make a submission, visit the Coordinator-General's website at statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/inlandrail-g2h

Community Consultative Committee meetings

We will hold two Community Consultative Committee meetings where our subject matter experts will deliver presentations on key environmental aspects covered in the draft EIS.

Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee
Saturday, 21 August 2021, 1.30pm–2.30pm
Gowrie Junction Progress Association and Community Hall,
Old Homebush Road, Gowrie Junction

Lockyer Valley Community Consultative Committee
Tuesday, 24 August 2021, 5.00pm–8.00pm
Murphys Creek Community Centre, Jessie Lane,
Murphys Creek

Community information sessions

We will also host six information sessions focussing on key environmental aspects that are addressed in the draft EIS. Subject-matter experts will be available to answer your questions and talk with you about matters important to you.

Date	Location	Venue	Time
Saturday, 21 August 2021	Gowrie	Gowrie Junction Progress Association and Community Hall Old Homebush Road, Gowrie Junction	9am–12pm
Tuesday, 24 August 2021	Murphys Creek	Murphys Creek Community Centre Jessie Lane, Murphys Creek	2pm–4pm
Wednesday, 8 September 2021	Toowoomba	Toowoomba Empire Theatre 54-56 Neil Street, Toowoomba	4pm–7pm
Thursday, 9 September 2021	Helidon	Helidon and District Community Centre 15 Arthur Street, Helidon	4pm–7pm
Thursday, 16 September 2021	Murphys Creek	Postmans Ridge Pioneers Memorial Hall 199 Murphys Creek Road, Postmans Ridge	4pm–7pm
Saturday, 9 October 2021	Withcott	Withcott Sports Centre 43 Parkridge Drive, Withcott	9am–12pm

Where to view the draft EIS

Printed copy Electronic copy

You can view printed and electronic copies of the draft EIS at one of the locations below:

- + **Toowoomba Library**, 155 Herries Street, Toowoomba E
- + **Gatton Library**, 34 Lake Apex Drive, Gatton P E
- + **Goombungee Library**, 89 Mocatta St, Goombungee P E
- + **Highfields Library**, O'Brien Road, Highfields P E
- + **Laidley Library**, 9 Spicer Street, Laidley E
- + **State Library of Queensland**, Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, Southbank, Brisbane E
- + **National Library of Australia**, Parkes Place, Canberra E
- + **ARTC Inland Rail Toowoomba Office**, 143–145 Margaret Street, Toowoomba P E
- + **ARTC Inland Rail Gatton Office**, Suite 5, 47 North Street, Gatton P E

You can request an electronic copy by calling us on **1800 732 761** or email inlandrailqld@artc.com.au

You can also view the draft EIS and make a submission via the Coordinator-General's website: statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/inlandrail-g2h

Draft EIS summary of findings

The G2H draft EIS summary of findings provides a high-level overview of each chapter of the draft EIS and where you can find more information. Grab a copy at our information sessions, from our Gatton and Toowoomba offices or download from inlandrail.com.au/g2h

Translation services and literacy support

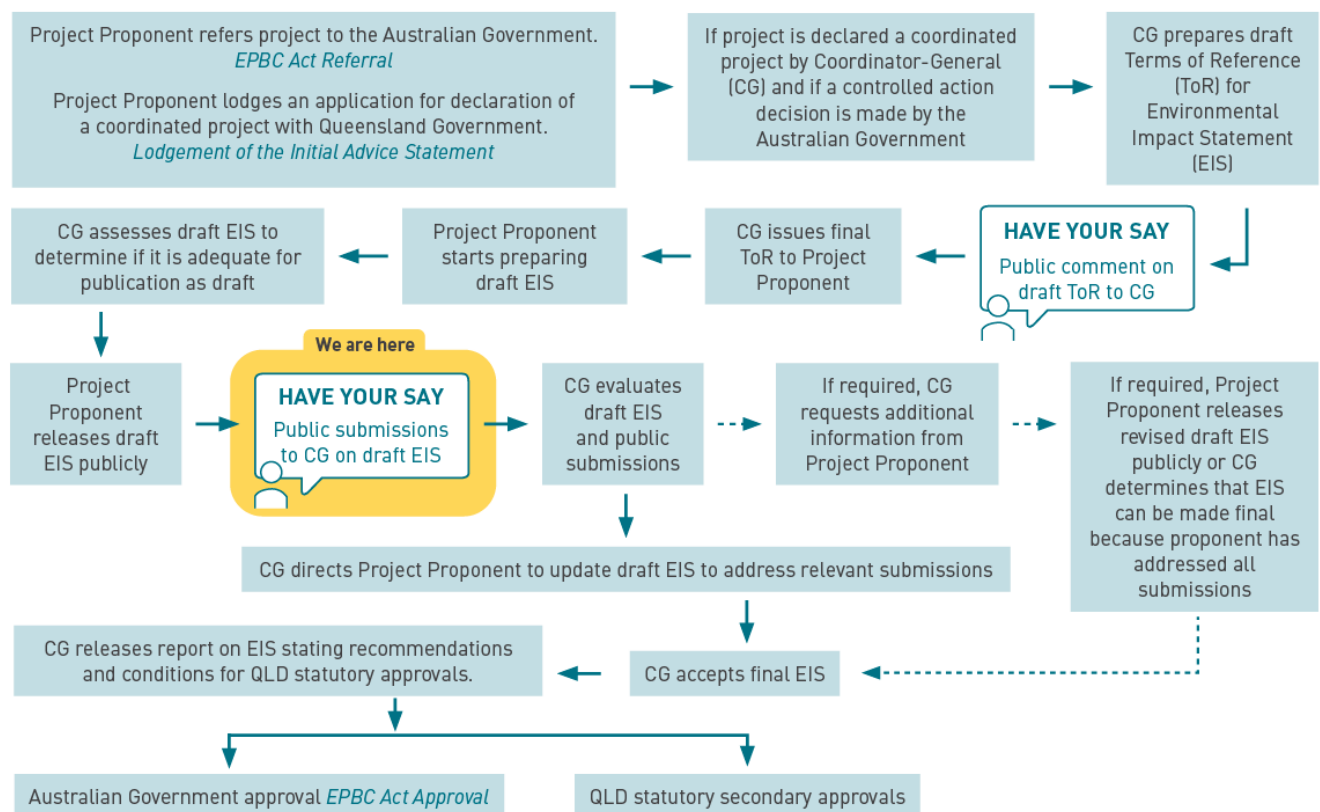
If you need help with reading the draft EIS documents, or if English is your second language, please call **131 450**. This is a free service.

What happens next

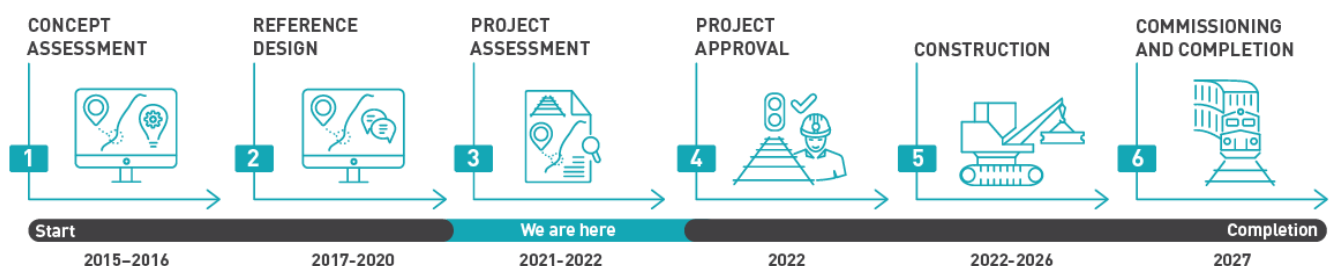
After the public notification period ends, the Coordinator-General will review the submissions received on the draft EIS and the responses from the Project, to decide if further information is required from ARTC or whether it will be considered a final EIS.

The Coordinator-General may decide to publicly advertise the revised draft EIS (if required). When the EIS is accepted as final, the Coordinator-General will write an evaluation report with its recommendation for the project.

Approvals process for Queensland major projects



Project timeline



*Timelines are Indicative only and subject to change



Road and rail interfaces

The G2H project will have no level crossings. The existing Gowrie Junction Road level crossing will be replaced with a road over rail bridge. At this location, the new line will run parallel to the existing railway line with a crossing loop to manage train movements through the Toowoomba tunnel.

This is in line with national, state and local policies relevant to level crossings.

The road over rail bridge will improve safety and connectivity by removing the danger of trains sharing a crossing with vehicles and other users. Road users will be able to move freely without having to wait at railway crossing signals and boom gates.

Where roads are proposed to be closed, access will be maintained through alternate routes. Please visit the G2H interactive map maps.inlandrail.com.au/g2h for details.



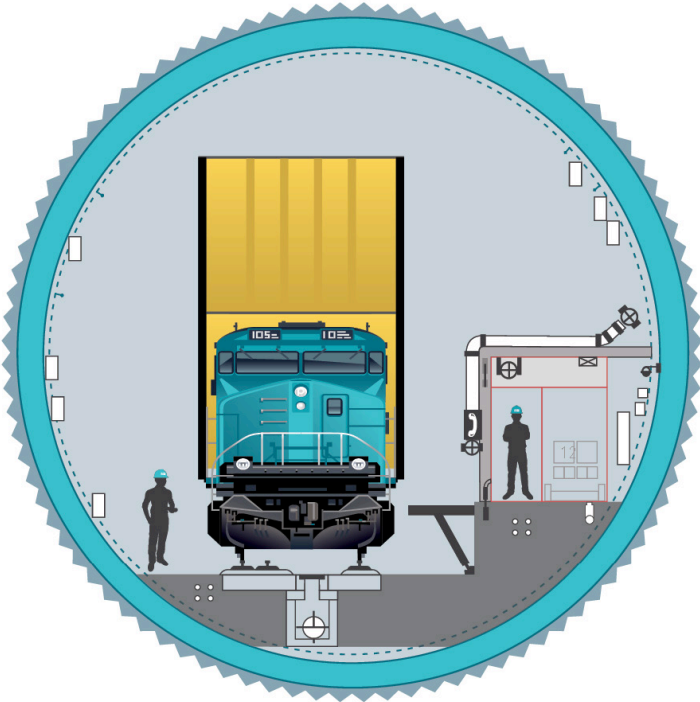
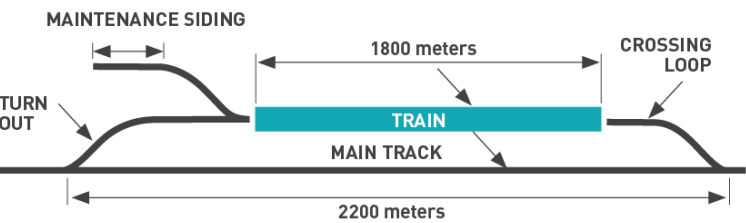
Visualisation of the proposed Gowrie Junction road over rail bridge (final structure subject to detailed design)

Tunnel and ventilation buildings

The Toowoomba tunnel is approximately 6.2km long and 220m below the surface at the deepest point. The single-track tunnel will be designed for bi-directional freight operations. The proposed tunnel will have ventilation buildings at each tunnel entrance/exit portal and tunnel midpoint. The ventilation shaft will be 100m deep. There will be a power substation at each ventilation building location and two in-tunnel power substations.

Crossing loops

Three crossing loops are proposed for the G2H section. They will be parallel to the existing track and will accommodate double-stacked freight trains up to 1.8km long. The crossing loops are located at Gowrie Junction, Ballard and Postmans Ridge.



Cross section of the proposed Toowoomba tunnel

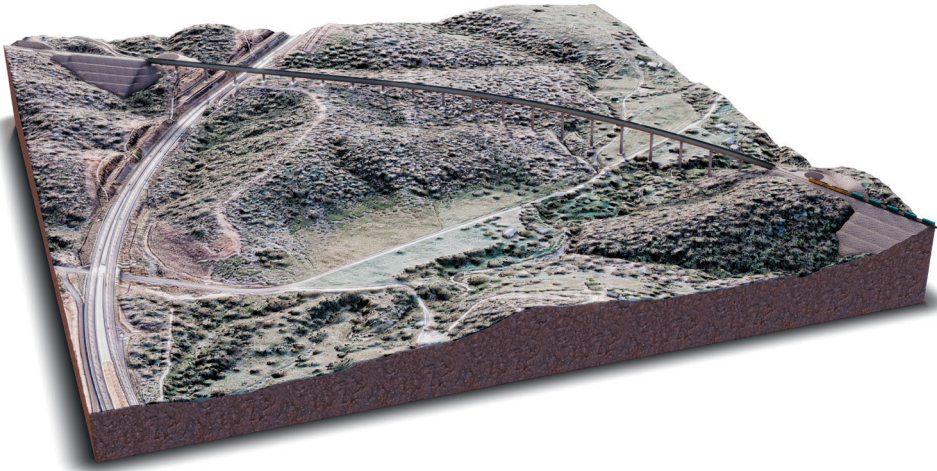
Bridges and viaducts

The Gowrie to Helidon section has 13 bridge and viaduct structures proposed along the alignment totaling 6.7km in length. These include:

- + Two road over rail bridges
- + Seven rail over waterway bridges
- + Four rail over both waterway and road.

The bridges are of various lengths and spans to suit the alignment and topography. The longest structure is the Withcott Seedlings viaduct at 1.8km. The tallest structure is the proposed viaduct at Six Mile Creek being approximately 50 metres tall at its highest point.

A major benefit of these structures is the elimination of level crossings and free movement of road traffic for the communities.



Visualisation of the proposed Six Mile Creek viaduct

Community groups receive funding

Inland Rail is committed to supporting communities along our alignment by making voluntary financial contributions to eligible community groups. Four community groups in the G2H project area recently received grants from our Community Sponsorships and Donations Program.

The Gowrie State School P&C Association used its grant to install window blinds for the new community hub. The hub was officially opened in June – congratulations to the Gowrie community which has dedicated its time and energy to this project.

The Murphys Creek Fire Brigade purchased thermal imaging equipment and incident command system kits. The thermal imaging will provide safety while searching for fire hotspots, while the incident command system kits are used to constantly monitor and ensure safety of volunteers when on a fire ground.

The Withcott State School P&C Association has purchased iPads for students attending science and technology classes.

The Helidon RSL will purchase a new stove and food warmer for its kitchen. The new equipment will help staff prepare meals in a safer and more efficient environment.

The next round of the program is now open until 31 October.

Please email IRCommunitySponsorships@ARTC.com.au for terms and conditions, and to access the application form.

Addressing life pressures

Certain life pressures can sometimes make us feel stressed, anxious or overwhelmed. Uncertainty for landowners and communities during planning for Inland Rail may mean you need a little bit of extra support.

That's where the NewAccess Program can help people manage difficult periods:

- + It's a free program.
- + It can be accessed by anyone over 12 years of age.
- + It's delivered independently by local organisations Richmond Fellowship Queensland and Lives Lived Well.
- + Access to the program does not require a doctor's referral.

To find out more, phone the NewAccess Program on 1300 971 300 or visit liveslivedwell.org.au/our-services/qld/mental-health/newaccess or rfq.com.au/newaccess

Public Private Partnership

The G2H project, along with the Helidon to Calvert and Calvert to Kagaru projects, will be combined and delivered under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

In June 2021, we received bids from the three shortlisted consortia and are currently in the process of evaluating each proposal. We expect to be in a position to award the contract in 2022.

Inland Rail Skills Academy scholarships

Three undergraduate scholarships valued at up to \$20,000 each have been awarded by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to University of Southern Queensland students as part of the Inland Rail Skills Academy program.

The scholarships provide students with financial assistance of \$5,000 per year of study and an additional \$1,000 relocation assistance in their first year of study.



Hannah Fowler, Toowoomba

Scholarship recipients are:

- + Hannah Fowler, Toowoomba (Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science) Toowoomba Campus
- + Makayla Wright, Harrisville (Human Services) Springfield Campus
- + Cooper Timms, Goondiwindi (Bachelor of Education Secondary) Toowoomba Campus.

Now in its second year, the scholarship program is open to students living within areas close to the Inland Rail alignment who want to pursue careers that will enrich, diversify and contribute positively to their regional communities.

For more information visit:

usq.edu.au/scholarships/inland-rail-scholarship

Gatton and Toowoomba offices

If you have any questions and would like to speak to our team, please drop in at our offices at **47 North Street, Gatton** or **143–145 Margaret Street, Toowoomba**. We are open weekdays from 9am to 4pm.

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.

📞 1800 732 761

✉ inlandrailqld@artc.com.au

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inlandrail.com.au



ARTC

The Australian Government is delivering Inland Rail through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), in partnership with the private sector.

CURRENT AS AT AUGUST 2021