Information sheet

McCONNELL DOWELL
CREATIVE CONSTRUCTION™

LANDSCAPING AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT DURING CONSTRUCTION

The Inland Rail project in Victoria is being built to provide sufficient height and width clearance to support the safe running of double-stacked freight trains.

Construction partner McConnell Dowell is delivering the first tranche of works at Glenrowan, Wangaratta, Barnawartha North and Seymour-Avenel Road, Seymour as well as along the rail corridor.

To minimise impacts on local communities wherever possible, McConnell Dowell has developed a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan that defines how construction impacts are effectively mitigated, managed and monitored. Supporting this plan are best practice flora, fauna and vegetation management measures, which are being implemented at each construction site.

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING FLORA AND FAUNA

McConnell Dowell avoid and minimise impacts to flora and fauna and have strict plans for each site to protect and preserve as much vegetation as possible.

Before starting construction, McConnell Dowell undertake assessments to understand:

- structural integrity, including the size and location of tree roots
- health and life expectancy
- amenity and environmental value
- location of services in proximity to trees
- location and number of hollow-bearing trees
- the presence of any fauna that may require relocation prior to construction activities.

These assessments help inform which trees will be protected and which will be removed. Where possible, McConnell Dowell seeks to minimise impacts on remaining trees by:

- installing fencing around trees that do not need to be removed to protect roots and branches
- using weed and pest management practices
- having an arborist available to ensure trees remain undamaged.

Nesting boxes are installed prior to removal of any hollow-bearing trees and McConnell Dowell have an onsite fauna handler to assist relocating wildlife during tree and vegetation removal works.

VEGETATION REMOVAL AND SITE REHABILITATION

Vegetation removal has been minimised throughout the design process for Inland Rail. However, as with any major construction project some trees and vegetation removal is required to enable the construction of new structures.

All unavoidable vegetation removal must comply with Victorian and Australian Government planning and environmental approval conditions, including securing and purchasing biodiversity offsets. These conditions have been developed following extensive assessment of flora and fauna in the area.

Where trees and vegetation need to be removed during construction, the following landscaping and rehabilitation works are undertaken:

- reinstating temporary disturbed areas
- developing landscaping plans for project sites
- replacing removed trees with suitable habitat to support native animals
- planting new drought-tolerant and native trees.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Wherever possible, any trees and vegetation which have been identified for removal are repurposed locally.

Smaller trees and shrubs are mulched onsite, while larger logs are retained and recycled (or donated).

McConnell Dowell also works with community groups to donate mulch and logs to support local projects.

A fauna handler assists in relocating wildlife.

Installing nesting boxes.

Nesting boxes at Seymour-Avenel Road provide shelter and protection for local wildlife.

Glenrowan Primary benefits from ARTC Inland Rail's commitment to sustainable construction, welcoming the delivery of free mulch to help protect their school gardens. Pictured are McConnell Dowell supervisor Tony Roman, school business manager Anne Hanrahan and ARTC Inland Rail stakeholder and engagement advisor Graham Springett.

More information

Stay up to date on project construction by scanning the QR code and signing up for regular email updates or visit

inlandrail.com.au/b2a

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.

1800 732 761 **victoriaprojects@artc.com.au** **inlandrail.com.au/b2a**

CURRENT AS AT OCTOBER 2023

IR_4027D4