

Managing air quality impacts



FACT SHEET

Potential air quality impacts

We recognise Inland Rail may temporarily impact the air quality of nearby 'sensitive receivers' including residences, schools and hospitals during construction and operations. These impacts include:

- ▶ dust or emissions from earthworks and construction activities
- ▶ gas from diesel combustion of train exhausts
- ▶ dust from cargo and movement of train wagons on the tracks
- ▶ dust or emissions from operational maintenance activities.

Air quality during construction

Some sections of Inland Rail will involve works to existing level crossings and upgrades of existing structures and tracks along the rail corridor. New sections of track and new level crossings will also be constructed in some sections.

We will work with construction contractors to ensure targeted community and stakeholder engagement raises awareness of impacts on air quality.

All works will be managed in accordance with relevant air quality legislation and guidelines.

An *Air Quality Management Plan* will guide the delivery of construction works and mitigate, where possible, impacts on communities and sensitive receivers.

Assessing operational air quality

All impacts associated with the operation of Inland Rail (including air quality) are assessed in line with state-specific and Commonwealth legislation.

The National Environment Protection Council (*Ambient Air Quality*) Measure, or (*Ambient Air Quality NEPM*), establishes national ambient air quality standards and a framework for monitoring and reporting.

Air quality impact assessments will determine the potential impacts to nearby sensitive receivers, and if any measures are needed to reduce and/or mitigate these impacts.

Managing operational air quality

When Inland Rail is operational, measures which may be used to eliminate, minimise or manage air quality impacts include:

- ▶ managing train operations, such as optimising train speed based on wagon class and axle loading
- ▶ ensuring freight operators adhere to regulatory standards and/or industry practice for transportation of cargo likely to impact air quality
- ▶ removing dust from ballast and tracks
- ▶ ensuring tunnel ventilation designs meet technical standards
- ▶ communicating with the community and stakeholders to raise awareness of dust-reduction initiatives
- ▶ wagon washing to reduce dust during unloaded return trips
- ▶ correctly operating and maintaining vehicles and equipment.

Measures to mitigate operational air quality impacts will be documented in an *Operation Environmental Management Plan* and/or the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Environmental Management System.

More information

For more information, please refer to the following resources:

- ▶ Environment Protection Authority Victoria
epa.vic.gov.au
- ▶ National Environment Protection Council
[nepc.gov.au/nepms/ambient air quality](http://nepc.gov.au/nepms/ambient-air-quality)
- ▶ New South Wales Environment Protection Authority
epa.nsw.gov.au
- ▶ Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science
environment.des.qld.gov.au



Landscape along the Narrabri to North Star section of the alignment in New South Wales.

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)
- ✉ inlandrailenquiries@artc.com.au
- ✉ ARTC Inland Rail, GPO Box 2462, Brisbane QLD 4001

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 JANUARY 2020