

Managing land access



FACT SHEET

Why do we need land access?

We work with landowners and communities sensitively and fairly to gather data and information as part of our field investigations and technical studies.

As we move through the planning and approvals phases for Inland Rail, we need to identify the best detailed alignment, particularly in areas where we're building new track.

To do this we carry out a series of preliminary field studies, concept designs and conduct community consultation. Working with landowners is a vital part of this early planning and consultation work and your cooperation is important in helping to get Inland Rail underway.

Working together

Before we request access to your land, we will agree with you the best way to communicate with each other.

We understand that we are your guests when we enter your property.

To help us understand your needs and concerns, we invite you to share all relevant information about any requirements to access your property because we don't want to unnecessarily interrupt your work.

About Land Access Agreements

To ensure all parties understand your requirements in granting access, we negotiate and provide you with a Land Access Agreement.

This is a voluntary legal agreement between you (the landowner) and Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), that allows us to access your property to carry out agreed activities.

It will include any conditions or requirements you may have, such as locking of gates, livestock interactions and times of access.

It will also outline the type of work we may undertake on your property and our agreed site rehabilitation commitments, communication processes, complaints mechanisms and insurance.

This agreement will be provided to all staff and contractors who need to access your property and we will not commence any activity on your property without an agreement in place.

Your nominated stakeholder engagement representative will keep in touch with you throughout the activities to make sure that everything is running smoothly.

What activities might we need to undertake?

To help determine the best possible alignment for Inland Rail, we may need to complete field investigations and technical studies, including:

- ▶ geotechnical investigations – obtain information about ground conditions
- ▶ hydrology studies – obtain information about flooding and surface water movements
- ▶ noise, air quality and vibration surveys – measure background noise, air quality and vibration levels at key sites
- ▶ land surveys – identify any easements and to install survey pegs, if required
- ▶ ecological surveys – identify habitats and/or species that exist within the area of investigation
- ▶ utility identification surveys – identify infrastructure, such as gas and water pipelines
- ▶ heritage surveys – investigate any evidence of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artefacts/heritage.

Detailed information about any investigations we may need to conduct on your property, including anticipated work duration, hours of work, types of equipment and vehicles to be used, will be discussed with landowners prior to each work activity.

Land Access Agreement conditions

To ensure we minimise any disruptions while working on your property, we encourage you to raise any special conditions you may have during your Land Access Agreement discussions.

Specific requests may include:

- ▶ only conduct works after a major event, such as harvest
- ▶ use a designated access road as the main point of entry
- ▶ timeframe for the activity
- ▶ any biosecurity requirements
- ▶ rehabilitation requirements.

What if something goes wrong?

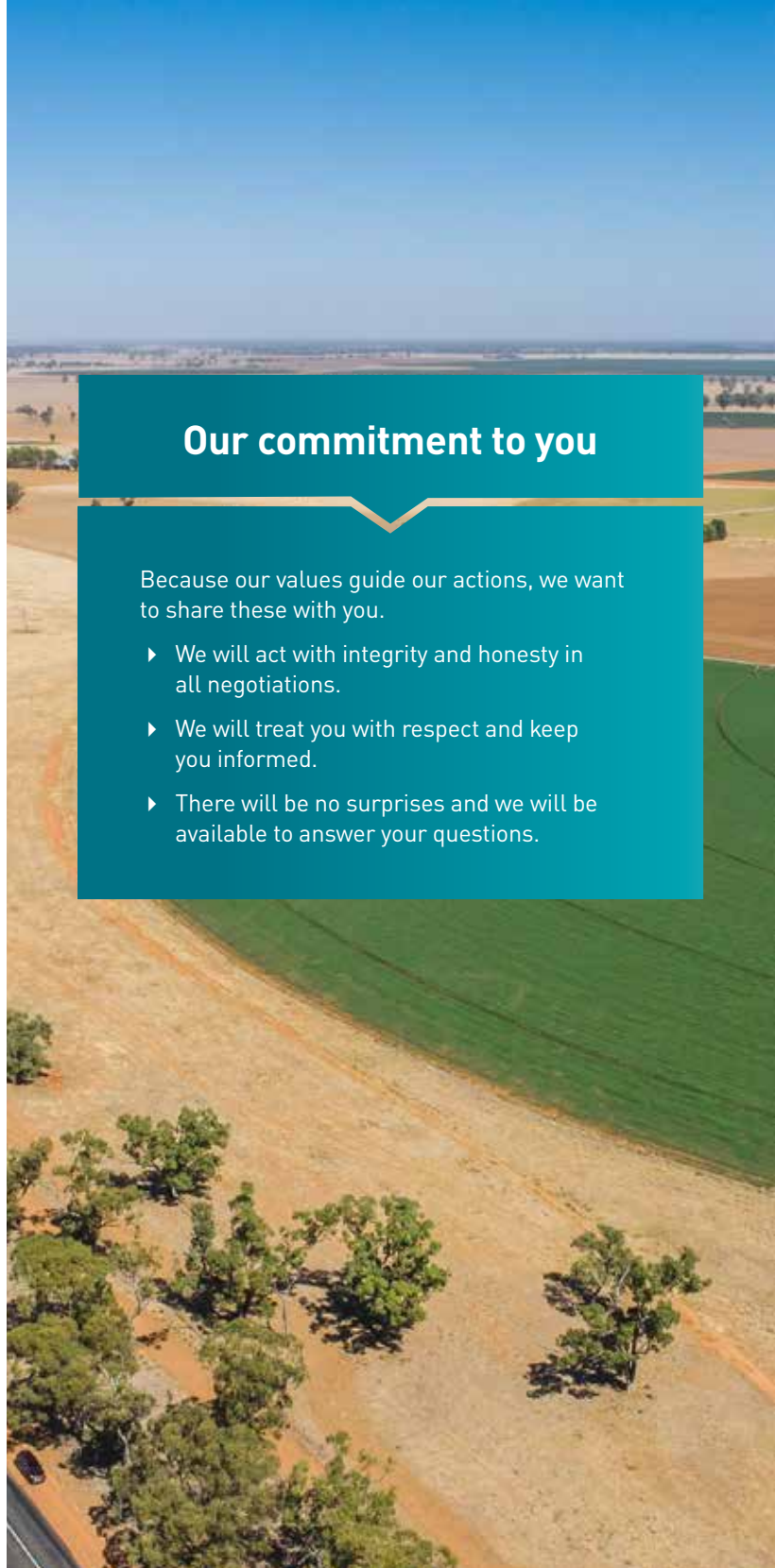
ARTC is fully insured for the field studies we need to undertake. We will make good on any proven damage, in this unlikely event.

Should I get legal advice?

Landowners do have legal rights during our activities, and it is your choice to seek legal advice at your own cost.

Is compensation paid?

Because the activities we need to complete at this stage are non-invasive and will have minimal impact on the daily operation of your property, no compensation will be paid.



Our commitment to you

Because our values guide our actions, we want to share these with you.

- ▶ We will act with integrity and honesty in all negotiations.
- ▶ We will treat you with respect and keep you informed.
- ▶ There will be no surprises and we will be available to answer your questions.

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.

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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.

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