

NARROMINE TO NARRABRI

JULY NEWSLETTER

NSW

From July 2019, Inland Rail will begin visiting landowners to inform them of the project focused area of investigation (150–400 m wide). This is an important milestone for the project and the community.

ABOUT THE NARROMINE TO NARRABRI PROJECT

The Narromine to Narrabri (N2N) project comprises approximately 300 km of new track. It is the longest project within Inland Rail and one of three 'missing link' projects in NSW.

Located in mid north-western NSW, the N2N project is integral to delivering the full benefits of Inland Rail, connecting Melbourne and Brisbane in 24 hours or less.

THE FOCUSED AREA OF INVESTIGATION

Since November 2017, when the Australian Government announced the N2N study area, Inland Rail has been carrying out investigations to identify technical challenges and opportunities in order to refine the rail corridor.

We've also been having real conversations with landowners to help us understand how you use your property.

From July 2019, we will begin visiting landowners to inform them of the project focused area of investigation (150–400 m wide).

NEXT STEPS

Due to the number of landowners and the distances involved, we will inform the community in a staged approach. Initially we will meet landowners between Burroway and the Pilliga Forest.

We will plan out meetings in the remaining areas (Narromine, Curban, Mt Tenandra, Square Top Mountain, Pilliga East and Narrabri North) in the months following. It is anticipated that this work will take several months to complete.

We will also directly contact landowners who are in the study area, but not presently in the focused area of investigation.

At this stage, we do not plan to meet one-on-one with landowners outside of the focused area of investigation. However, we will hold community information sessions across the alignment to discuss what our decisions mean to your community.

Inland rail will now complete further engineering design and environmental investigations to determine where in the focused area of investigation the 40–60 m wide rail corridor will go.

The exact location of the final rail corridor is yet to be determined.



HOW YOU WILL HEAR FROM US



Measuring a scar tree

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS COMING TO A CLOSE

Field investigations that started between Narromine and Narrabri in March 2019 are now drawing to a close as we move closer to developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Our investigations have included property boundary (cadastral) surveys, cultural heritage surveys, geotechnical investigations, flood and utilities surveys and flora and fauna investigations.

Cultural heritage work formed an important part of our investigations. Our registered archaeologists, accompanied by Local Aboriginal Land Council site officers and nominated Native Title field staff, surveyed properties across the study area.

Aboriginal heritage sites can have both tangible and intangible values.

Tangible sites reflect the physical interaction of Aboriginal people with the environment. Such sites may carry artefact scatters (collections of stone tools), grinding grooves (occurs when top stones near waterways are used for grinding grain) and scarred trees (used for making coolamons, canoes and sometimes shields), or include campsites.

Intangible sites have more spiritual value and include story places or 'dreaming' sites. Both types of sites are extremely significant to the Aboriginal community and mark clear connections to their ancestral past and today's cultural landscape.

ARTC is committed to achieving excellence in cultural heritage management. We recognise Indigenous peoples' inherent connection to their traditional lands, which includes their continuing responsibility of stewardship and caring for country.

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY UP TO DATE WITH POP-UP INFORMATION SESSIONS

Inland Rail is committed to working with communities, landowners, local and state governments as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input.

Over April and May, the community engagement team held 4 pop-up information sessions in Narromine, Gilgandra, Baradine and Narrabri.

We spoke with close to 200 local community members, including 36 landowners within the study area.

These sessions gave local communities the opportunity to meet the team, give feedback and have their questions answered.

Keep an eye out for more information sessions in your area by visiting inlandrail.com.au/n2n

INLAND RAIL TEAM AT LOCAL SHOWS

This year, Inland Rail was proud to support the Baradine, Narrabri and Coonamble shows. We recognise the important part that regional shows play in your community, showcasing agriculture, industry, business and community spirit.

In May, the Inland Rail Community Engagement team met with over 130 community members at the Narrabri and Coonamble shows. The team had the opportunity to keep the community up to date on important project milestones and we also listened to some talented regional poets!

We look forward to continuing to support local events and shows throughout the year, so look out for us in your town, or head to our website to find out more about upcoming activities.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Did you know that the N2N project has established a community consultative committee, with 3 sub-committees representing Narromine, Gilgandra and Narrabri?

Community consultative committees serve as a 'one-point of call' for project information and include community representatives and an independent chairperson. They are another way to ensure that your views are heard and addressed by us as we progress the project through the formal planning process.

The third meeting of the Narromine to Narrabri community consultative committee was held on the 21 and 22 May 2019, led by Independent Chair, Michael Silver OAM. In this meeting, the project team discussed our regional recruitment campaign, current project activities, property matters, and broader freight network, capacity and investment work.

All the presentations and minutes of these meetings are available online. We encourage you to get involved.

To find out more please visit inlandrail.artc.com.au/n2n-ccc



The Inland Rail team spoke with close to 200 community members at recent pop-up information sessions

LAND ACCESS AGREEMENTS

As a landowner, you are an important part in the success of Inland Rail.

A Land Access Agreement is a voluntary legal agreement between you (the landowner) and ARTC, that allows us to access your property to carry out agreed activities.

The agreement is negotiated between ARTC and the landowner and details the type of activities we would like to complete, timeframes and any conditions for ARTC to access the land. We will not commence any activity on your property without an agreement in place.

Land Access Agreements help us determine the best detailed alignment and deliver the best outcome for the region. We will continue to seek access from landowners to support our field work.

If you are interested in discussing Land Access Agreements with a property specialist from our team, please contact us on 1800 732 761 (24 hours, 7 days) or email inlandrailnsw@artc.com.au



MEET THE TEAM

Adam Wyatt from Jacobs GHD, flood and hydrology specialist on the Inland Rail N2N project

Tell us about yourself

I grew up in Lake Macquarie, just south of Newcastle, spending most of my time in or on the water with small runabouts, windsurfing and sailing. I still live around the corner from my childhood home and still in or on the water at every opportunity.

What's your professional background?

I have an environmental engineering degree with a focus on water engineering and chemistry, and a doctorate in catchment hydrology.

I'm a consultant engineer, specialising in hydrology and flooding. I've worked on projects ranging from small watercourse regeneration to flood assessments for state and nationally significant developments.

I love the practical application of the complex flood models, and especially enjoy communicating the modelling methods and results to the wider community.

Why are flood studies important for the N2N project?

Understanding flooding is important for the design of the rail line, the culverts and bridges. We also need to identify flooding extents within properties adjacent to the project and the design requirements to minimise impacts.

Why Inland Rail?

Inland Rail is a nationally significant project and it needs a multi-disciplinary design and assessment team. The detailed flood modelling we're doing is at a massive scale rarely seen in Australia. It's a unique opportunity that's both challenging and rewarding. Having an input into the design of the project is gratifying. I look forward to seeing structures such as bridges and viaducts that I've helped design for many years to come.

I also enjoy engaging with the local community – the N2N project gives me the chance to engage with the community consultative committees and explain a number of different flood mechanisms to people.

What is an essential skill that has been beneficial in your role?

Active listening. Flooding is an understandably emotional topic. It is easy for us to get too invested in what our models tell us could happen, without considering the lived experiences of affected people.

Having detailed discussions with landowners allows us to incorporate, as far as possible, their knowledge and experience into our model development. Ideally, this will result in more realistic flood estimates, and therefore higher confidence in the resulting design and impact assessment.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

My wife and I are slowly purging the 1970s from our home (western red cedar and kitchen carpet!) and building a garden with plenty of flowering and fruiting trees, bee and bird attracting shrubs, and spaces for native critters. And I go sailing as often as I can! We regularly compete in state, national and world championships – most recently in Italy.

COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM INLAND RAIL FUNDING GRANTS

More than \$65,000 has been allocated to communities across regional Australia from the first round of Inland Rail funding grants for projects and initiatives contributing to the wellbeing of regional communities. The Warrumbungle Shire Council, one of the recipients of the Inland Rail Community Sponsorship and Donations Program, is planning to use their grant of \$4000 to run small business workshops in the community.

"We're very pleased to see the range of worthwhile projects and initiatives that have been recognised as successful recipients for this initial round," Inland Rail Director of Community and Environment Rebecca Pickering said.

"Along the Inland Rail alignment, recipients include sporting groups, schools, Men's Sheds and Aboriginal organisations with a diverse range of initiatives," Ms Pickering added.

The aim of the program is to support local community groups that are running events and activities which contribute to local and regional prosperity, wellbeing and sustainability. Financial requests between \$1000 and \$4000, from eligible community organisations, are considered.

There are four open rounds each year. The current round is open for applications until **6 pm (AEST) on 31 July 2019.**

For more information please visit inlandrail.artc.com.au/sponsorships

If you have any questions, please email communitysponsorships@artc.com.au

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)

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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 JULY 2019