

# Preserving flora and fauna



## FACT SHEET

### Our approach

Minimising impacts on native plants and animals (flora and fauna) along the Inland Rail corridor is vital.

Any potential impacts on flora and fauna by Inland Rail are assessed under state-specific legislation and studies which:

- ▶ identify flora and fauna native to each project area through ecologist-led surveys
- ▶ assess threatened species, native vegetation and fauna habitat clearing impacts
- ▶ identify risks associated with weed and pest species
- ▶ understand how to maintain habitat connectivity for native fauna
- ▶ assess requirements to offset flora and fauna habitat clearing.



*Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (Cacatua galerita)*

### Flora and fauna surveys

We engage qualified ecologists to carry out flora and fauna surveys.

Flora surveys are usually during the day and may be at specific times of the year, e.g. when a plant is flowering.

Fauna surveys are designed to detect animal species of interest and usually happen at dawn, dusk and during the evening, as most Australian animal species are nocturnal.

Surveys can take up to a week and can be done at specific times of the year, e.g. during breeding season.

Our fauna survey methods will depend on the species of interest, and may involve:

- ▶ observations during a walk
- ▶ using specialist call back and recording equipment
- ▶ placing nets or traps to gather hair samples or catch animals.

Fauna traps follow a very careful process to prevent harm and minimise stress to fauna.

### Flora and fauna-sensitive design

The following measures are considered during the design phase of Inland Rail:

- ▶ avoid sensitive ecological areas, such as native vegetation and threatened species habitats
- ▶ fauna habitat connectivity and fauna exclusion fencing
- ▶ fauna-sensitive design and rehabilitation around waterway crossings.

We will investigate and identify biodiversity offsets in line with relevant state and federal government legislation where there are potentially significant impacts.



## Managing impacts during construction

We will work with our contractors to develop project-specific environmental management plans. This includes measures to mitigate flora and fauna impacts during construction, such as:

- ▶ pre-clearing ecological surveys and relocation of fauna
- ▶ well-defined clearing areas and no-go zones
- ▶ weed and pest management
- ▶ reinstatement of temporarily disturbed areas
- ▶ landscaping and rehabilitation.

## More information

Projects delivered under the Inland Rail program require environmental assessment and approval under state and Commonwealth legislation.

For more information, please refer to the following resources:

- ▶ Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy – [environment.gov.au](http://environment.gov.au)
- ▶ Environment Protection Authority Victoria – [epa.vic.gov.au](http://epa.vic.gov.au)
- ▶ New South Wales Government Department of Environment, Energy and Science – [environment.nsw.gov.au](http://environment.nsw.gov.au)
- ▶ New South Wales Government Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – [dpie.nsw.gov.au](http://dpie.nsw.gov.au)
- ▶ Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science – [environment.des.qld.gov.au](http://environment.des.qld.gov.au)



Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

## 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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