

# Environmental management

## Need to know



We are committed to leaving the surrounding natural environment in the same or better condition than it was prior to Inland Rail commencing.



Our aim is to protect and enhance the local environmental values and heritage for the long term.



Inland Rail is being built now to create a new freight future for Australia.



It is a fast freight backbone spanning more than 1,700km between Melbourne and Brisbane transforming the way goods are moved around a country as big as ours.



As the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia, it's progressively unlocking opportunities for our industries and regions.

## Potential environmental impacts

Potential environmental impacts caused by the planning, construction and operation of Inland Rail may include:

- noise and vibration from construction and train operations
- dust from site clearing, topsoil stripping, rock crushing, plant and equipment operations
- vegetation disturbance, clearing for construction and rehabilitation
- emissions from plant, equipment and vehicles
- spills or leaks from fuel, chemical or waste storage facilities
- erosion or soil lost during storms and from construction activity before rehabilitation is established.

## Managing environmental impacts

The Inland Rail Program Environmental Management Plan establishes the framework for:

- consistent management approaches for environmental risks across all Inland Rail projects
- consideration of environmental matters in design, construction and commissioning activities
- compliance with the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Environmental Policy and the Inland Rail Environment and Sustainability Policy.

The Inland Rail Environment and Sustainability Policy guides the planning, design and implementation of the Inland Rail program.

## Environmental planning

We are working through the appropriate environmental and planning assessment processes for each state (Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland) to obtain the necessary approvals to prepare and construct Inland Rail. Each state mandates specific field studies, environmental assessments, and community consultation.

Environmental management plans are developed to comply with any project-specific conditions of approval. These plans will be shared with our construction contractors and relevant personnel prior to construction starting.



## Project environmental management

Project Environmental Management Plans set out construction requirements for each Inland Rail project. They link the planning approvals with detailed design and environmental management during construction and the expectations post-handover to operations.

Each plan will address the following criteria:

### Air quality

- Air quality monitoring and current baseline readings, risks and mitigation measures, regulatory conditions requirements and the reporting of compliance to conditions.

### Flora and fauna

- Assessment of current flora and fauna habitats, risks to flora and fauna and mitigation measures to minimise impacts, regulatory conditions for flora and fauna and the reporting of compliance to conditions. This includes measures that minimise harm to existing flora and fauna, where possible and the creation and management of wildlife crossings, where appropriate, in accordance with relevant guidelines.

### Hazardous materials

- Hazardous materials baseline information regarding the volume, type and risk associated with any hazardous materials over the period of the project. This includes identification of risk control measures to prevent adverse impacts from contaminants on workers, the community, and the natural environment. These measures are tracked and reported throughout the life of the project.

### Soil and water

- Soil and water baseline information knowledge base, risks to soil and water and mitigation measures to minimise impacts, using appropriate sediment control to maintain existing water quality and minimise impacts on surface and groundwater sources, appropriate management of soil resources for reuse during rehabilitation.

### Noise and vibration

- Noise and vibration baseline information knowledge base, risks associated with construction and operational noise and vibration. Design and planning activities consider ongoing operational noise and vibration as part of design reviews. Mitigation measures to minimise construction noise and vibration impacts, targeted community and stakeholder engagement prior to and during any high intensity noisy works, night-time works and/or 24-hour construction periods, management of noise and vibration in line with relevant legislation.

### Waste and contaminated materials

- Waste and contaminated materials measures to manage all waste as per each state's waste management standards.



## Want to know more?

ARTC is committed to working with property owners, 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, please let us know.

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