

Managing air quality impacts

Need to know



The construction and operation of Inland Rail may generate some impacts to air quality for nearby sensitive receivers including residences, schools, businesses and hospitals.



We work with communities and our construction contractors to understand and raise awareness of impacts on air quality.



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 and is 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 air quality impacts

We recognise Inland Rail may impact the air quality of nearby communities during construction and operation.

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 operations and operational maintenance activities.

Air quality during construction

Some sections of Inland Rail require works to existing level crossings and upgrades of existing structures and tracks along the rail corridor. New sections of track and new level crossings are also being constructed in some sections, to enable double-stacked trains.

Works are being managed in accordance with relevant air quality legislation and guidelines.

Air Quality Management Plans guide our construction works and help mitigate any impacts on communities and sensitive receivers.

Assessing operational air quality

Impacts associated with the operation of Inland Rail (including air quality) are assessed in line with state-specific and Australian Government 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 determine 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, the following measures will be applied to reduce air quality impacts:

- 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 best practice for transportation of cargo likely to impact air quality
- 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 are being documented in an Operational 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
- Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science – environment.des.qld.gov.au

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



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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