



INLAND  
RAIL

# ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE



## FACT SHEET

## NSW

### ABOUT INLAND RAIL

Inland Rail is a once-in-a-generation project that will enhance supply chains and complete the backbone of the national freight network between Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Inland Rail will transform the way we move freight around the country, connect regional Australia to markets more efficiently, drive substantial cost savings for producers and consumers, and deliver significant economic benefits.

Comprising 13 individual projects and spanning more than 1,700 km, Inland Rail is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia and one of the most significant infrastructure projects in the world.

The Australian Government selected the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to deliver Inland Rail, in partnership with the private sector.

The Australian Government has committed \$9.3 billion to the delivery of Inland Rail, with construction having commenced in late 2018. Inland Rail is expected to be fully operational in 2024–25, and one 1,800 m double-stacked train operating on Inland Rail will carry the same volume of freight as 110 B-double trucks.

Better infrastructure and an effective national freight operation are key to delivering efficient supply chains, improving Australia's global competitiveness and lifting our nation's wealth and prosperity.

### ARTC'S COMMITMENT

ARTC aims to deliver and operate the Inland Rail Program with the least environmental, cultural heritage and social impact possible, while providing new benefits to the people of Australia at a local, regional and national scale.

ARTC is committed to identifying and preserving Aboriginal Cultural Heritage during all stages of the project delivery cycle. We will do this through working collaboratively with Aboriginal parties in project areas where there is the potential to identify Cultural Heritage.

### WHY IS ARTC IMPLEMENTING AN ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PROCESS?

ARTC recognises Aboriginal people's inherent connection to the land. This includes their historic and ongoing responsibility of stewardship and care for country. ARTC can assist Aboriginal people with these responsibilities, as part of the delivery of the Inland Rail Project.

In doing so, ARTC is reinforcing its commitment to working with all key stakeholders in all Program areas. The Aboriginal communities and people in and around the Inland Rail Program footprint have a strong connection with land and are invested in the Program's outcomes.

Consequently, the Inland Rail Program offers a unique opportunity to survey and explore areas that may have never previously been subject to Cultural Heritage investigation. The potential discoveries will add to the Australian public's knowledge of Aboriginal people's use of the land and Australia's shared Cultural Heritage.

## WHAT IS BEING DELIVERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES

As part of the Inland Rail Program seven projects will be delivered in New South Wales. These include:

- ▶ Albury to Illabo: approximately 185 km of improvements to existing rail corridor
- ▶ Illabo to Stockinbingal: approximately 37 km of new rail track
- ▶ Stockinbingal to Parkes: enhancement to 169 km of existing rail corridor
- ▶ Parkes to Narromine: enhancement of 98.4 km existing rail line and approximately 5 km of new rail, to total 106 km
- ▶ Narromine to Narrabri: it is the longest project within Inland Rail as it comprises approximately 307 km of new track
- ▶ Narrabri to North Star: an upgrade to approximately 188 km of existing track with the addition of 1.6 km of new rail line
- ▶ North Star to NSW/QLD Border: a new rail corridor approximately 37 km in length.

These projects are at different stages of development and delivery, and pass through the traditional lands of many Aboriginal Nations and Cultures.

## ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is protected under Commonwealth and State legislation, providing a framework for the preservation and protection of Cultural Heritage objects, sites and places.

In New South Wales, Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (the NPW Act) provides for the recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. This ensures blanket protection for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage that includes Aboriginal Objects and Aboriginal Places, irrespective of their level of significance or the land tenure; as well as the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.

The Act defines Aboriginal Cultural Heritage as anything that is:

- ▶ A significant Aboriginal area in New South Wales; or
- ▶ A significant Aboriginal object.

There are a range of options available to meet the Due Diligence requirements of the NPW Act, including through an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit, compliance with the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales Checklist, or under an approved Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

ARTC will undertake all New South Wales projects in accordance with the requirements of the NPW Act, including the following as applicable to the particular project and location:

- ▶ Due Diligence Assessments to provide preliminary advice for each of the New South Wales projects;
- ▶ Cultural Heritage Assessments and Community Consultation including with Local Aboriginal Land Councils, native title holders and registered native title claimants as part of the Cultural Heritage process, including invitation to participate in the Cultural Heritage assessment of particular locations
- ▶ Implementing appropriate management of Cultural Heritage, through discussion with relevant Aboriginal Parties; and
- ▶ Development of Cultural Heritage Management Plans, where required, to ensure protection and management of Cultural Heritage.



## 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 contact us.

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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.

CURRENT AS AT APRIL 2019