

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

FACT SHEET

QLD

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 by providing for a transit time of 24 hours or less for freight trains 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. Inland Rail's Aboriginal communities 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 QUEENSLAND?

As part of the Inland Rail Program five projects will be delivered in Queensland. These include:

- ▶ New South Wales/Queensland Border to Gowrie: approximately 146 km of new track and 78 km of upgraded track
- ▶ Gowrie to Helidon: approximately 26 km of new track including a 6.4 km tunnel
- ▶ Helidon to Calvert: approximately 47 km of new track with a 1 km tunnel
- ▶ Calvert to Kagaru: approximately 53 km of new track with a 1.1km tunnel; and
- ▶ Kagaru to Acacia Ridge and Bromelton: upgrades to approximately 49 km of existing track.

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

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE IN QUEENSLAND

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 Queensland, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (the ACH Act) provides for the recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. This includes the "Cultural Heritage duty of care" understood as the requirement to take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure activities do not harm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

The ACH Act defines Aboriginal Cultural Heritage as anything that is:

- ▶ A significant Aboriginal area in Queensland;
- ▶ A significant Aboriginal object; or
- ▶ Evidence, of archaeological or historic significance, of Aboriginal occupation of an area of Queensland.

WHAT TYPE OF MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED?

Inland Rail is completing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) with the relevant Aboriginal parties for each of the five projects. The CHMP is an agreement that sets out how any potential impacts on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage will be managed.

ARTC will undertake all Queensland projects in accordance with these CHMPs and the ACH Act Duty of Care Guidelines.

During the design and construction phases of Inland Rail, the following types of mitigation can be implemented to avoid, minimise or manage Cultural Heritage impacts:

- ▶ Cultural Heritage assessment for each of the Queensland projects, including onsite inspection and assessment;
- ▶ Direct engagement with Aboriginal parties as part of the Cultural Heritage process, including invitation to participate in Cultural Heritage assessment of specific locations;
- ▶ Completion of CHMPs with the relevant
- ▶ Aboriginal parties; and
- ▶ Implementing appropriate management of Cultural Heritage, through agreements with the relevant Aboriginal parties.



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