

# Narrabri to North Star – Phase 2



13km – Track upgrade | 2km – New track

Boooloofoo Bridge, Camurra

## About the Narrabri to North Star section

Narrabri to North Star is the second section of Inland Rail to enter construction, following the commissioning of the Parkes to Narromine line in September 2020.

Narrabri to North Star includes an upgrade of approximately 184km of existing track and construction of approximately 2km of new rail, crossing the local government areas of Narrabri, Gwydir and Moree Plains. The works will enable 1,800m long double-stacked freight trains to operate on the rail line.

The Narrabri to North Star project has been split into two phases. Phase 1 encompasses the area from north of Narrabri through to North Star and Phase 2 provides a vital link in the middle just north of Moree.

Construction on Phase 1 of the Narrabri to North Star project is almost complete, with the section between Narrabri and South Moree finished in November 2022 and the section between North Camurra and North Star to be completed by mid 2023.

Dividing Narrabri to North Star into two phases allows Phase 1 construction – an upgrade of 171km of existing track – to continue while planning and environmental approvals are gained for Phase 2.

## Phase 2 – Moree to Camurra

Phase 2 of Narrabri to North Star involves upgrading approximately 13km of existing track between Moree and Camurra and building approximately 2km of new track across the Mehi-Gwydir floodplain at Camurra, north of Moree.

We are currently in the approvals phase of the project, having lodged the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in early September 2022. This was followed by a 49-day public exhibition period that began on 21 September 2022.

The EIS describes the potential impacts of the project and proposed mitigation measures. It is a comprehensive document informed by a number of environmental and technical investigations in conjunction with information gathered from consultation with landowners and other stakeholders.

DPE received 20 public submissions and 12 pieces of agency advice in response to the EIS. We are currently preparing a Response to Submissions Report which will address the issues raised in the submissions and advice. The EIS and supporting documents, including submissions and advice, are available to view on the NSW Government's Major Projects website.

In late 2021 ARTC Inland Rail appointed Laing O'Rourke as the preferred contractor for the Central Civil Works Program, which includes delivery of the Narrabri to North Star Phase 2 project.

Investigations, detailed design and consultation will continue as the project approaches construction, which is expected to begin in late 2025.



The project commences north of the Alice Street level crossing

**Key elements of Phase 2 include:**

- raising railway heights to achieve improved flood immunity and enhance operational capability
- replacing and realigning existing bridges over the Mehi and Gwydir rivers and smaller waterways such as Duffys Creek
- upgrading cross drainage and associated flood management infrastructure
- modifying, closing or replacing level crossings to improve safety, integrate with the revised railway alignment and maintain property access
- replacing or upgrading of utilities, infrastructure and fencing affected by the track upgrade.

Phase 2 works will link to the Phase 1 upgraded rail line and the Weemelah line that branches off at Camurra.

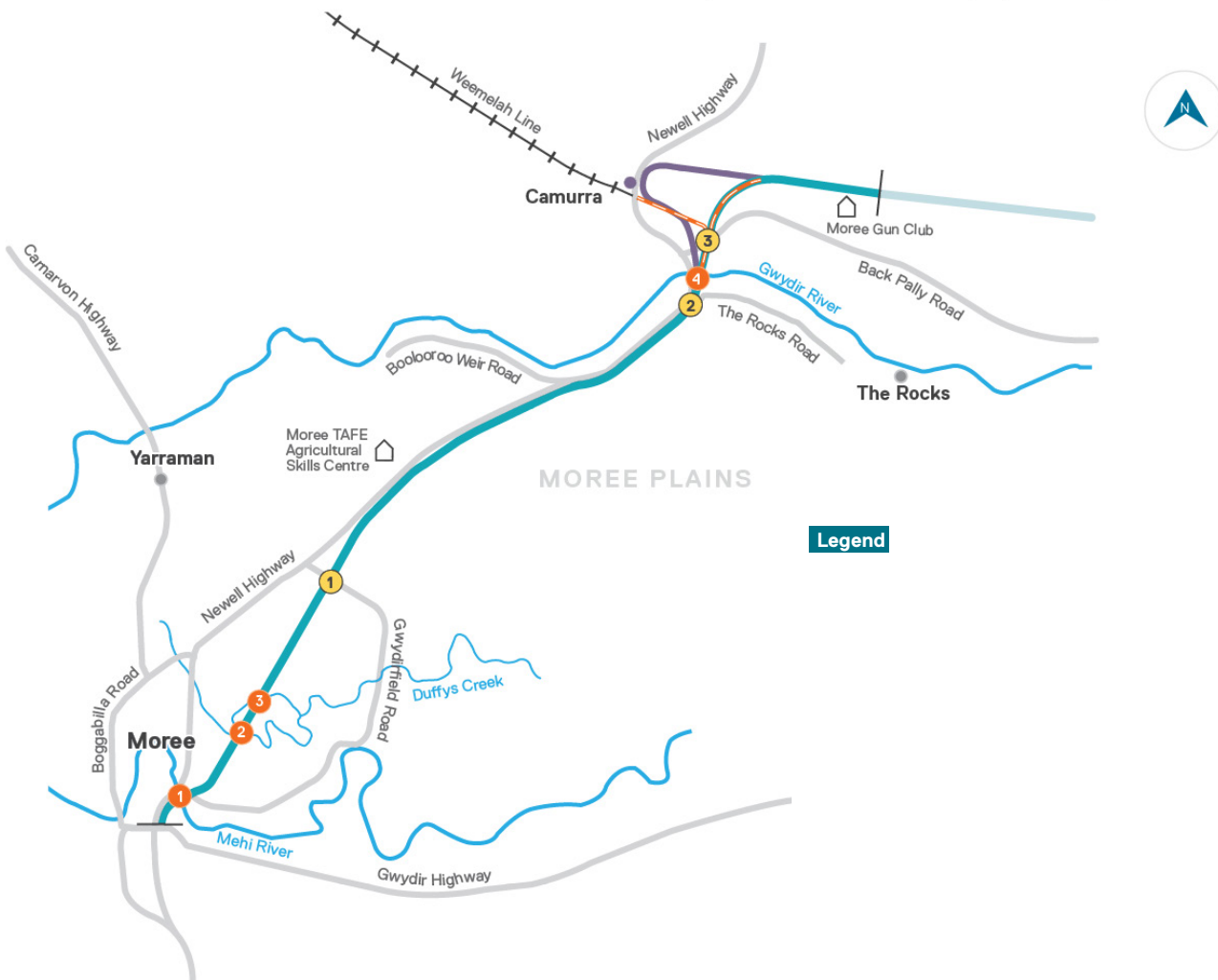
**To date we have:**

- consulted widely with landowners and local government and business stakeholders on a range of project matters to help inform the EIS
- presented landowners with hydrology modelling and the draft design with projected impacts for discussion
- completed initial land and aquatic ecology field studies
- met with local organisations to further understand the social impact of the project
- undertaken noise modelling
- undertaken level crossing safety assessments
- undertaken soil sampling to assist in assessing hydrology impacts.

**Next steps for Phase 2 include:**

- developing and submitting the Response to Submissions report to DPE
- continued discussions with landowners around predicted operational noise levels and proposed mitigations.

**Narrabri to North Star – Phase 2 Map**



**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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