



# Managing construction water

## Need to know



Inland Rail is committed to ensuring water is managed in a sustainable manner and is shared fairly between all users.



We work with local communities and industry to minimise and effectively manage our construction water requirements.



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.

## Sustainable water management

Water availability for construction is a significant consideration for Inland Rail. Given Australia's propensity for drought conditions, we are aware of the justified community concerns around the responsible and efficient use of this essential natural resource.

Our policy is that water is managed sustainably and shared fairly between all users including people, the environment, the agriculture sector, and industry.

In planning each of our projects, we investigate options to secure water, ensure its efficient use and consider water initiatives and infrastructure that could remain a community resource well after Inland Rail is completed.

## Using construction water effectively

Wherever our teams are working, we work with communities and councils to source water from different locations and prioritise:

1. identifying non-potable water sources where potable (drinking) water is not required
2. reusing water where it is safe to do so, and is otherwise considered to be a waste product (e.g. minimising the volume of water intensive works during detailed design)
3. minimising the need for creating new water extraction points
4. focusing efforts on minimising demand where the most significant efficiencies will be made (e.g. work in detailed design to minimise the volume of water-intensive earthworks).

We work with local communities along the alignment and industry to minimise our water requirements as each project transitions through approval and construction phases.

## Environmental approvals and planning

Inland Rail crosses three states, with varying statutory frameworks for the assessment and management of environmental impacts and regulation of water.

Each section of Inland Rail needs to consider construction water supply requirements, including sources, transport, impacts from water extraction and discharge, along with identification of secondary approvals, such as water licences or permits.

We work closely with all levels of government and landowners to ensure Inland Rail water usage meets statutory and legislated requirements in each state, and to understand the long-term water allocation needs of local communities.

## Uses for construction water

Constructing Inland Rail requires significant quantities of water for purposes including:

- accommodation camps (drinking, cooking, laundering, showering and camp maintenance)
- construction administration facilities
- construction activities, including:
  - dust suppression
  - earthworks
  - vehicle washing down / maintenance
- post-construction activities, including:
  - rehabilitation
  - earthworks stabilisation and landscaping
  - vehicle wash down maintenance for ongoing operations.

## Supply options and possible sources

The Inland Rail program's Construction Water Plan and associated project Construction Water Plans have identified several possible construction water supply options, including surface and groundwater sources.

### Surface water sources:

- irrigation and town water
- supply reservoirs
- existing farm dams
- watercourses with permanent flow
- recycled water from wastewater treatment plants of an appropriate quality for use in construction activities.

### Groundwater sources:

- existing irrigation water supply bores
- new bores to be established by each Inland Rail project, if required
- treated water associated with coal seam gas extraction, thus providing a beneficial re-use for the treated water.

Any water used is being obtained in accordance with the regulatory requirements of each state.

## What is the difference between non-potable and potable water?

It is essential the appropriate quality of water is supplied for each water use.

**Non-potable water** is not suitable for drinking, and may still be used for many other purposes, depending on its quality.

**Potable water** is suitable for drinking, cooking and personal bathing.

The standards that define potable water are described in the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*.

## Independent water usage assessment

The importance of sustainable water management is recognised by the Australian Infrastructure Sustainability Council (IS Council).

The IS Council Rating Scheme, which is being applied to all Inland Rail projects, rewards water efficiency as well as considering and using appropriate water sources.

To learn more about our commitment to the sustainable usage of water and other construction materials, including our performance against IS Council ratings, visit [inlandrail.artc.com.au](http://inlandrail.artc.com.au) and search for 'sustainability'.



## 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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