

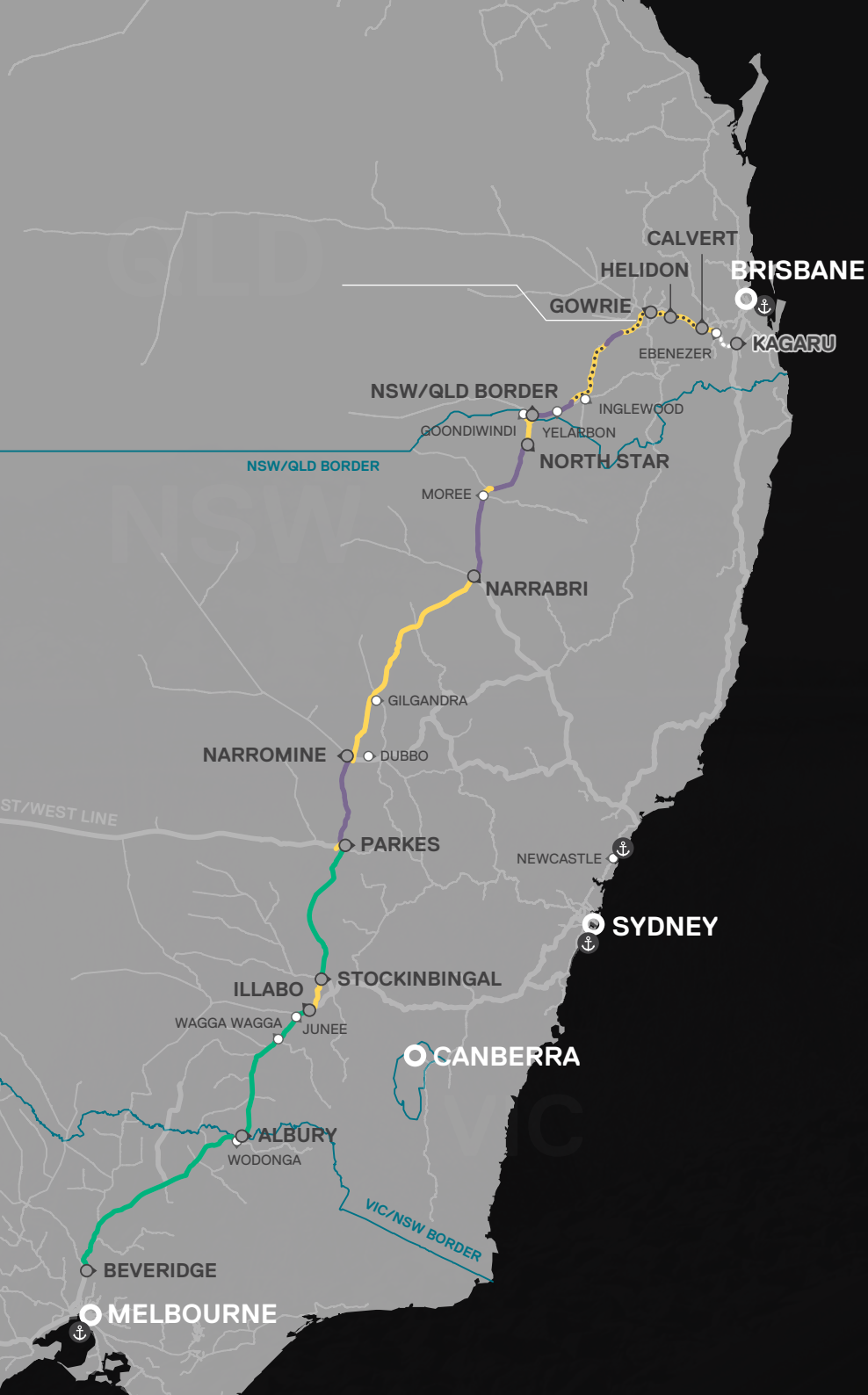


**INLAND  
RAIL**

# Inland Rail at work

Inland Rail is a 1,600km freight rail line that will connect Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, linking businesses, manufacturers and producers to national and global markets and generating new opportunities for Australian industries and regional communities.

Craig Whitfield – Trans4m Rail, Moree  
See story on page 5



## Inland Rail: Connecting Australia though faster freight.

Inland Rail will complete the missing link in our national freight network, providing a fast and reliable connection between our regional centres and capital cities and transforming the way goods are transported around our country.

It will strengthen our supply chain and keep our supermarket shelves stocked as freight demands grow.

To explore the Inland Rail route, visit: [inlandrail.com.au/where-we-go](http://inlandrail.com.au/where-we-go)

### LEGEND

- New track
- - - New track (dual gauge)
- Existing track (upgrades)
- Existing track (enhancements for double-stack operation clearances)
- - - New track (single-stack operation only)
- ARTC rail network
- Existing rail network
- Project boundary
- City
- Town
- ⚓ Port

# Learn about some of the people, places and businesses helping to build Inland Rail

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Inland Rail acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

# Creating jobs for locals

“ Inland Rail has been great for the local economy. The community has been given a real lift in morale. Working on a project like this, we’re on our Country. ”

Craig Whitfield. Trans4m Rail, Moree.

Of the **2,153 people** who worked on the Narrabri to North Star project from September 2020 to September 2023:



- + **678** were local residents
  - > including **185** local Indigenous residents
- + The project employed **220** women
- + **137** local businesses supplied the project
- + The project spent **\$244m** with local businesses.



## Trans4m Rail

Proud Kamilaroi man, Craig Whitfield, has plenty to say about the opportunities Inland Rail has provided. With no previous construction industry experience, the Moree local is now gaining a Cert III in Construction while working for Trans4m Rail, the contractors building a section of Inland Rail's Narrabri to North Star project.

"As well as theory, we're having on the job training with machinery operation like excavator, grader, dozer and roller," said Craig.

Having previously worked jobs in cotton, wheat and shearing, Craig landed the job on the Inland Rail project through the local Aboriginal employment strategy. He believes the project has been amazing for his hometown, especially for the local Indigenous people.

After such a long period of drought, Craig saw more and more people leaving the region due to the lack of jobs. But now that Inland Rail has come to town, the employment and business boost driven by the project has created a hive of activity within the New South Wales town.

"Indigenous people don't like being away from their Country for too long. It's so close knit around here," Craig explains.

For Craig personally, all the training he's been provided has given him a new confidence in himself. He's now looking at buying his own house in the area, something he never thought he'd be able to do.

"Having an opportunity like this on our doorstep, is one of the best I've had in my life, if not THE best."

# Creating new skills and stability

A worker in a yellow jacket and safety helmet is working in a factory. Sparks are flying from a metal piece he is working on. The background shows a large industrial structure with a grid of beams and a window.

“ Inland Rail provides employment and business opportunities. It provides the sense that the country is moving again together. ”

Boris Rozentoul. General Manager, Vossloh Cogifer Australia, Castlemaine



## Vossloh Cogifer Australia

An \$80 million contract awarded to Vossloh Cogifer Australia for the local manufacture of Inland Rail turnouts is providing jobs and innovation, according to General Manager Boris Rozentoul.

Mr Rozentoul said the contract, announced in early 2021, was the most important project for the Castlemaine manufacturer.

“This particular job provides massive innovation for our design and manufacturing methods,” Mr Rozentoul said.

This includes the design and manufacture of more than 200 turnouts, which allow a freight train to diverge from one track to another.

“When Inland Rail is in full swing, we will have an additional 20 full time employees working on that project alone,” he said.

“Australia needs the special dedicated freight service, allowing local produce to be delivered to the ports as quickly as possible and Inland Rail is the project whose time has come and the country needs it.

“Inland Rail provides employment and business opportunities. It provides the sense that the country is moving again together.”



# Providing new opportunities for regional businesses

“ Inland Rail is going to be very good for the towns that it’s travelling through, helping all kinds of small businesses, from fuel stations to hotels and motels, other mechanics, you name it – everything. ”

David Tait. Owner, Tait Auto Group, Goondiwindi and Moree.





## Tait Auto Group

Tait Auto Group isn't just a business, it's a family. Run by David Tait and his daughter Kendall, the company employs around 100 locals across their Goondiwindi and Moree operations.

Tait Auto Group won a vehicle servicing contract for Trans4m Rail, the company that constructed Phase 1 of the Narrabri to North Star section of Inland Rail.

Tendering for the contract began with information sessions held by Inland Rail in the local area. The process to meet the tender requirements has helped the Tait family formalise many internal aspects of their business.

"The tendering process gave us the tools to implement new processes and identify opportunities that will help us grow," said Kendall.

David Tait is passionate about the communities their business operates within. For him, Inland Rail will help towns like Goondiwindi, Moree, North Star and others prosper as a result of the new infrastructure being built.

"Coming out of drought and into the rain, people start to see hope again. Then you have contracts for Inland Rail and Trans4m come and towns like ours really start to thrive," said Kendall.

An aerial photograph of a grain storage facility. Several large, conical piles of grain are covered with bright blue tarps. The facility is situated in a rural landscape with dry grass, scattered trees, and a few ponds in the distance under a blue sky with white clouds.

# Connecting producers and businesses to their markets

“ Inland Rail will give us another avenue to a port. We’ll be able to go to Sydney, to Melbourne or to Brisbane. It’s so important to have all those interlinked. ”

Peter Hassall. Co-Director Murrumbidgee Grain Services, Wagga Wagga.



## Murrumbidgee Grain Services

Wagga Wagga logistics business Murrumbidgee Grain Services can pack and ship up to 50,000 tonnes of grain and 80,000 bales of cotton in a year, and the use of double-stacked containers on Inland Rail provides an attractive alternative to get more product to ports faster for their exporting clients.

Directors John Carroll and Peter Hassall have more than 30 years' experience in the industry and both Directors value efficiency so clients' needs are met and on-demand service levels can be kept at an optimum level during busy times.

"We have a diverse number of merchants, some longstanding companies who buy the commodity and then we store it. We move it out however they want to move it.

"If the merchants have orders for packing come that harvest period time, we'll pack out as quick as we can," John said.

"We'll live load them here at our storage in Bomen and deliver to the Linx rail yard for Melbourne shipments and to the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics hub if they're destined to Sydney.

"There are days where we'll pack 20 containers a day, which is another 20 truck movements. It's important within logistics to have different choices to solve a problem," Peter said.

"Inland Rail will give us another avenue to a port. We'll be able to go to Sydney, to Melbourne or to Brisbane. It's so important to have all those interlinked. If you can provide the rail access, you obviously don't need the same amount of people or trucks to cart the same amount of product."

# Stimulating regional economies

“ What I’ve noticed most, is there’s a real confidence around town. There’s a buzz here now. And it’s all thanks to Inland Rail. ”

Shane Brooker. Owner, Brooker Trading Co, Moree.





## Brooker Trading Co

Brooker Trading Co is serving up more coffee than ever before thanks to Inland Rail. As the project brings more workers and contractors into the Moree area, it's also sending more customers through café owner Shane Brooker's door.

Shane's café is a family-run business, staffed mainly by himself and his three daughters. They not only supply quality espresso to the community, they also bake all their own food and bread using flour that's milled locally. Shane sees all the new people and workers around town as a great boost for the local economy.

"The Inland Rail project is a great boon for Moree. Everyone is gaining something," said Shane.

Several years ago, the Brookers decided to take a risk and invest in renovating the café. Now with the increase of people in town due to the construction of Inland Rail, that investment has paid off and Shane is looking to expand their offering with night openings and events.



# Helping regional producers compete globally

“ With Inland Rail coming to our region, it’s only going to bring greater efficiencies, greater weight capacity and quicker turn-around times for containers from the port and back to the ship. ”

Kate O’Callaghan. Executive Director, Southern Cotton, Whitton.



## Southern Cotton

In a decade, Southern Cotton in the NSW Riverina has grown from a first-year production of 166,000 bales to a total of 1.5 million bales bound for the Port of Melbourne.

At the same time, the Whitton Malt House next door has transitioned from relying entirely on road-based freight to a mixed logistics system that is increasingly being supported by rail.

Southern Cotton Executive Director Kate O'Callaghan said decreasing logistics costs are beneficial to merchants and the cotton growers themselves and enable the industry to be more competitive in a global market.

"When we built, there was a logistical gap for the region... in those first years all that we produced went on the road to Victorian warehouses before being packed into containers for delivery to the port," Kate said.

"Inland Rail is only going to bring greater efficiencies, greater weight capacity and quicker turn-around times for containers from the port and back to the ship."

Logistics has been at the core of Southern Cotton's incarnation, as cotton farmers growing in the southern region were constantly faced with the burden of freight costs as they were carting their materials up country to northern NSW.

"The local craft beer and whiskey has a solid domestic market, but the export potential is completely unrealised," Kate said.

"At the moment everything is leaving here on the road. We haven't even investigated what rail looks like for that part of the business, but in a rapidly expanding business like Southern Cotton, Whitton Malt House and Voyager Craft Malt, continual improvement is always on the agenda and logistics efficiency is at the forefront."

# Helping more contractors participate in construction

Moving ahead with Inland Rail means finding ways to bring certain works forward, while still meeting our significant social responsibilities and rigorous environmental approval requirements.

More than **\$3.7 billion in contracts** has already been awarded to businesses from every state and territory in Australia.

Now's the time for local businesses to get 'Inland Rail ready'. To find out more visit [inlandrail.com.au/opportunities/suppliers/](https://inlandrail.com.au/opportunities/suppliers/)







## Giving back to local communities

Since 2019, our sponsorships and donations program has supported 377 community-led projects with \$1,205,467.68 worth of funding.

We offer funding between \$1,000–\$4,000 for individuals and organisations in regional areas along the Inland Rail route that contribute to local and regional prosperity, wellbeing and sustainability. Our funding support short-term or one-off initiatives like:

- + upgrading community facilities and equipment
- + mentoring and developing local business communities
- + implementing unique STEM projects in schools
- + hosting community events.

### Annual sponsorship rounds

#### Round 1

Applications open  
1 February to 30 April

#### Round 2

Applications open  
1 May to 31 July

#### Round 3

Applications open  
1 August to 31 October

#### Round 4

Applications open  
1 November to 31 January

To apply and for more information, visit [inlandrail.com.au/opportunities/sponsorships-and-donations](https://inlandrail.com.au/opportunities/sponsorships-and-donations)





# Inland Rail: Connecting Australia through faster freight.

[inlandrail.com.au](http://inlandrail.com.au)



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