

# Narromine to Narrabri



Town of Baradine

The Narromine to Narrabri (N2N) project comprises 306km of new rail corridor and track. When complete, it will enable freight trains to connect with the section of Inland Rail under construction between Narrabri and North Star and the Parkes to Narromine section that is already complete and supports freight transport to Adelaide and Perth.

## What's been happening with project approvals?

In March this year, a Response to Submissions Report and Preferred Infrastructure Report (PIR)/Amendment Report were submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for adequacy review.

The reports outline proposed project amendments to further reduce impacts identified in the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and respond to feedback from community, key stakeholders and EIS submissions.

In May, DPE provided comments on the PIR and related documents, and requested further information relating to biodiversity, hydrology and social impacts of the project.

The Inland Rail team is working through all EIS comments with DPE and we expect to submit our final reports in coming months.

In the next 12 months, we expect to obtain all statutory and environmental approvals, complete the property acquisition process and commence detailed design of the full N2N alignment.

## Growing careers in construction

Students and teachers undertaking a new construction program at TAFE NSW Narrabri welcomed the chance to meet Inland Rail project representatives at a BBQ in early May. The meet and greet gave students the opportunity to speak with leaders in the industry, learn how they got started and get the lowdown on construction activities required to build Inland Rail.

The customised program, developed by TAFE NSW in partnership with the Inland Rail Skills Academy, covers rail construction-related topics like the Railway Industry Safety Induction (RISI) and the Certificate II in Construction.

Candidates will also attend career preparation sessions including resume writing, interview skills and financial literacy, and building capability in essential life skills. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to secure an interview with Inland Rail's construction contractors.

The fundamentals program is one of many skill building and pathway initiatives being launched by Inland Rail in communities along the alignment. To find out more, contact TAFE NSW Narrabri on 13 16 01.



TAFE NSW Narrabri Fundamentals Course students and Inland Rail project representatives outside the Inland Rail office in Narrabri

## Addressing flood water flows

At Inland Rail, we acknowledge that responsibly managing potential risks of flooding in known floodplain regions is a fundamental expectation of communities along our alignment.

That's why we have been studying and modelling the impacts of flooding along the route since 2016.

Our hydraulic model was developed by globally renowned engineering firm JacobsGHD JV and is informed by historical and existing flood behaviour.

The model evaluates the impact of the Inland Rail alignment on flood waters and simulates various flood scenarios up to, including and above a 1-in-100 year flood event.

To ensure we meet statutory obligations and community expectations, our model and associated assessment report have been independently reviewed by flood modelling specialists BMT Group, industry professionals from ARTC's Technical Advisory team and DPE.

In addition to formal reviews, Inland Rail meets monthly with DPE as

part of the N2N Hydrology Working Group to address community and regulator concerns, review new information and update the model if required.

Six years of expert hydrological analysis and local knowledge has given us a deep understanding of flood risks associated with the building of Inland Rail.

This, together with strict flood impact limits set by DPE, will ensure we deliver a final design that is safe for the communities we pass through and safe for the ongoing operation of Inland Rail.

## Securing Gilgandra Shire's water for generations to come

In March, the first of four water bore test locations was established with the delivery of a drilling machine to a site near the Curban Community Hall. The delivery marked a major milestone for the Water Bore Legacy Project, led by Gilgandra Shire Council and funded by Inland Rail.

The project was created to investigate the viability of introducing new water bores in the Gilgandra Shire, to help mitigate increased pressure on water availability once construction begins on Inland Rail.

Community feedback in 2020 about water use drove early investigations and discussions between Inland Rail and Gilgandra Shire Council.

Since then, Council has conducted further desktop research and is now formally managing the project, including procuring drilling contractors.

We're pleased to help Gilgandra Shire Council realise its vision to share long term water usage benefits with the community once Inland Rail's construction is complete.



An example of an MDC in Queensland. Narwonah will be three times larger.

## Narwonah Material Distribution Centre update

The Narwonah Material Distribution Centre (MDC), located 8km south of Narromine, is the largest proposed site of its kind in the southern hemisphere. A public display of the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the proposal concluded on May 18 and ARTC is currently assessing submissions before a final report is lodged with DPE.

Spanning 4km<sup>2</sup> in area, the MDC site will process 675,000 concrete sleepers, more than 45,000 tonnes of new rail and more than 500,000 tonnes of ballast.

When operational, the MDC will allow our preferred rail corridor contractor Martinus to install roughly 368km of new track infrastructure between Narromine and the NSW/Qld border.

Martinus will deploy up to 100 people throughout the construction of the MDC and will install sections of new track as the N2N civil construction works are completed. The first piece of work is installing a turnout, just south of Craigie Lea Lane, which is expected to be completed in August / September.

## Giving back to communities along the alignment

The Inland Rail Community Sponsorship and Donations program supports local community groups organising events and activities that contribute to local and regional wellbeing. From 9–10 July, Inland Rail will be supporting the Tom Quilty Gold Cup, an endurance horse race that brings riders and their teams from across Australia to the beautiful village of Tooraweenah in the Gilgandra Shire. Members of our Stakeholder Engagement team will volunteer at this year's event, cheer riders on and meet with locals. We hope to see you there!

Inland Rail has already awarded nearly \$65,000 to passionate community groups in the Narromine to Narrabri region!



To learn more or apply, visit [inlandrail.artc.com.au/opportunities/sponsorships-and-donations/](https://inlandrail.artc.com.au/opportunities/sponsorships-and-donations/) or scan the QR code

## Business networking sessions a smash hit along the alignment

In May, over 200 people attended local business forums hosted by Inland Rail's N2N Project Team in Narromine, Gilgandra, Coonamble, Baradine and Narrabri.

The sessions introduced local and regional businesses to our preferred civil contractor for the Narromine to Narrabri section, ACACPB JV and our preferred rail corridor contractor Martinus and raised awareness about how local businesses and suppliers can get involved with building Inland Rail.

Attendees were also briefed about ICN Gateway – the online platform that connects businesses offering materials, services and equipment with major contractors seeking suppliers for their construction projects.

Following the presentations, guests welcomed the opportunity to network with the N2N project team and our contractors to better understand scopes of work and make that important first impression.

If you missed out and are interested in potential supply opportunities with Inland Rail, visit [inlandrail.artc.com.au/suppliers](https://inlandrail.artc.com.au/suppliers)



Paul Giess, Inland Rail Delivery Director Southern presenting at the Narrabri event

Or you can register your business and your interest in the project direct with ICN Gateway by visiting [inlandrailcwp-s.icn.org.au](https://inlandrailcwp-s.icn.org.au)

## Keep updated

- Visit our Narrabri community shopfront at 85 Maitland Street, Narrabri
- Subscribe to receive updates, details of upcoming events or other information

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