

Narromine to Narrabri



Eumungerie Road looking north

The Narromine to Narrabri (N2N) project comprises approximately 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.

Project approvals update

Since October, our approvals team has been reviewing and responding to the 70 public and agency submissions received by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in response to the project's Preferred Infrastructure/Amendment Report public exhibition.

In mid-November, we finalised the Response to Submissions report and DPE made it publicly available on the NSW Government's Major Projects website.

Next steps

DPE will assess the project on its merits and provide a recommendation to the NSW Minister for Planning for determination. DPE's Environmental Assessment Report and the Minister's decision will be forwarded to the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water with a recommendation on whether the project should be approved, with or without conditions.

Should approval be granted, we will commence detailed design and develop management plans that address the project's conditions of approval.



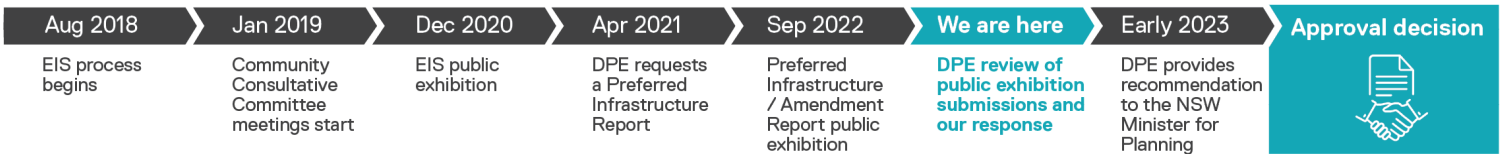
Inland Rail's Erica Tudor with Coonamble Academy students on awards night

Supporting First Nations youth in Coonamble and beyond

Members from the N2N project team were delighted to attend the Clontarf Academy's Coonamble end-of-year awards night which recognised the achievements of 60 First Nations youth for the 2022 school year. Seven students were given special mentions in key learning areas of Community, Encouragement, Clontarf Values, Leadership, Clontarf Spirit, Attendance and Sport.

The students and their proud families were joined by teachers and staff from Coonamble High School, the Coonamble Mayor and several councillors.

Inland Rail is supporting 14 academies with \$500,000 donated over two years to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem, and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men while at school and post-graduation.



Aerial view of Narwonah MDC showing progress on the earthworks

Narwonah MDC site takes shape

Diggers, dozers and dump trucks have been buzzing around the site of the Narwonah Materials Distribution Centre (MDC), located south of Narromine, making a solid start on the construction of the approximately 3.2km long rail yard.

Martinus, the contractor building the MDC has also improved 2km of public road into the site, recently performing works on Craigie Lea Lane. We were grateful to receive positive feedback from local residents about the smoother and safer road surface.

Around 100 people will be deployed at the peak of construction and operation of the MDC, which will allow roughly 370km of the new Inland Rail track infrastructure to be built between Narromine and the NSW / QLD border.

5 facts about the freight challenge



74% of freight between Melbourne and Brisbane is moved by road (passing through 20 regional towns)¹



Freight movement between Melbourne and Brisbane is forecast to grow by 100% by 2040²



Moving freight by road uses almost **x 3 more fuel than by rail¹**



Agricultural freight in northern NSW can **only access** the Port of Brisbane by road



The **cost of road congestion** will be at least \$30 billion a year by 2031³



1 x

1.8km Inland Rail train



= 110

B-double trucks



¹ 2015 Inland Rail business case by PriceWaterhouseCoopers & ACIL Allen Consulting ² Multimodal Aggregate Freight Forecasts 2019 Update (Department of Infrastructure Transport Cities and Regional Development Australian Government) and Who Moves What Where Freight and Passenger Transport in Australia (National Transport Commission) ³ The Centre for Economic Development of Australia forecast

Geotechnical investigations 101

One of the most important early activities undertaken for any infrastructure project, and one which is currently underway along the N2N alignment, is geotechnical investigations (GI). With approximately 306km of rail track to be constructed across varied terrain, there's quite a lot to be investigated!

GI helps us to understand the ground conditions (soil and rock) where the Inland Rail alignment is proposed to run. It allows us to optimise the composition and design of the rail formations. Building a strong foundation

for the rail track is essential, especially in areas with 'black' soils (common in this project) which tend to shrink and swell under variable moisture conditions. Such ground movements can cause structures to move and warp if not engineered properly.

Inland Rail GI engineers use the latest and most innovative methods to study ground and soil conditions to inform safe and optimal designs and construction methods for each rail embankment.

To be continued in the next edition...



Soil testing near Curban Junction

Flood modelling update

The major rainfall events that hit Narrabri and Moree in October gave us the opportunity to gather more detailed information as well as 'road test' the extensive hydrological models we've developed for the N2N project.

We carried out aerial and land surveys in the Narrabri Shire to add to the extensive data we've collected to date as part of our planning and design process. Local data is essential to our decision-making. We encourage the community to share photos or rain gauge data from the most recent event by dropping into 85 Maitland Street, Narrabri or using the channels below.



Camels captured west of Narrabri during the aerial survey in mid-October

Happy holidays from everyone at Inland Rail

We wish everyone in our communities a safe and restful festive season. Thank you for your ongoing engagement and feedback on the project. We look forward to working with you in 2023. Our Narrabri office will be closed from **Friday 23 December and will reopen at 9am on Tuesday 3 January 2023.** Our community phone line will remain open so you can reach us anytime on 1800 732 761.



Kickstart your career in construction

The Instruction Company in partnership with Inland Rail Skills Academy is running a Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure in Narrabri starting late January 2023. This training is fully funded for eligible participants.

Call 1300 722 104 for more information.

In 2023 ARTC and the Inland Rail Skills Academy will continue to work with TAFE NSW to offer in-demand qualifications to build skills and knowledge in the construction and infrastructure industry. Courses will kick off in February 2023 in Narrabri, Gilgandra and Narromine. **Call 131 601 or scan the QR code**



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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