

Biodiversity offsets in Queensland



The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) must compensate for any identified biodiversity loss under Australian and Queensland Government legislation.

What is a biodiversity offset?

During the construction of Inland Rail there will be some unavoidable impacts to biodiversity.

Biodiversity offsets are a government requirement to compensate for an identified loss of biodiversity and impacts to threatened species habitat and ecosystems from project activities.

We aim for no overall net loss for identified threatened species habitat or ecosystems.

Through biodiversity offsets we can improve existing ecosystems or habitats and create ecosystems and habitats to deliver long term benefits for impacted species or ecosystems.



How are we approaching offsets in Queensland?

For Inland Rail's Queensland projects, ARTC identifies and acquires suitable properties and takes steps to directly support and improve impacted species, ecosystems or habitats.

Offset properties will be actively managed long-term and protected in perpetuity. Delivering offset outcomes on these properties compensates for the loss of biodiversity caused by project impacts and protects biodiversity values into the future.

The biodiversity offset program in Queensland creates a portfolio of offset properties that maximises biodiversity outcomes at a landscape level. Our protected biodiversity areas will be located in the Brigalow Belt and South-east Queensland bioregions.



How do we assess a property for a biodiversity offset?

Biodiversity values

Impacts must be offset on a like-for-like basis. Properties with a high number of relevant biodiversity values and those that meet a large proportion of the offset requirements are particularly suitable.

Potential for improvement

Offset outcomes must achieve a gain and be additional to what is required under other legislation. Outcomes must also be achieved within a 20-year timeframe.

Rarity

Some matters are rare in the landscape and only occur in very discrete locations and habitat types.

Position in landscape

Offsets must occur in the same bioregion and be as close as possible to the impact. We also aim to maximise broader landscape level outcomes.

Want to know more?

To learn more about Inland Rail's Biodiversity Offset program and to register your interest email inlandrailqld@artc.com.au or call on **1800 732 761**.

To learn more about the relevant biodiversity offset legislation for the Queensland Government and the Australian Government visit the following websites:

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water: dcceew.gov.au

Department of Environment and Science: des.qld.gov.au



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