

Narromine to Narrabri



Township of Coonabarabran

The Narromine to Narrabri 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 nearing completion 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

In late February ARTC Inland Rail received approval from the NSW Minister for Planning to progress the Narromine to Narrabri Project, subject to conditions and Australian Government approval.

To view the Planning Secretary's Assessment Report and the Project's Conditions of Approval please visit planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/inland-rail-narromine-narrabri

Now that State approval has been received, Project assessment will be finalised by the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. A decision is expected in the coming weeks.

ARTC will continue working with the preferred civil works construction contractor, Acciona CPB Joint Venture (ACACPB JV), to develop the Project's detailed design, environmental and social management plans, permits and licenses. The project team will also conduct low-impact works such as service utility relocations and site investigations, including geotechnical surveys to better understand ground conditions.

As we move through our approvals, we will continue to consult with the community and be there to answer your questions and hear your concerns.



Workshop attendees practising on a junior manikin

Helping to upskill local first responders

Over 40 members from organisations including the Rural Fire Service and SES attended free workshops in Gilgandra and Narromine earlier this month where they received advanced clinical training to treat patients with traumatic injuries.

Facilitated by CareFlight, a not-for-profit air ambulance and medical training organisation, the sessions were designed to help first responders manage serious trauma incidents they may encounter in their local communities.

Grant funding from ARTC Inland Rail's Sponsorships and Donations program helped purchase a quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation (Q CPR) junior manikin, like the one pictured above. These are essential to providing simulated accident scenarios and enable first responders to learn and practice paediatric airway management, CPR techniques, and essential trauma care skills to maximise a child's chances of survival.

More than \$1 million has been donated to local communities and associations along the Inland Rail alignment since the program launched in 2019.



Our commitment to you

As the project progresses toward final approvals and the start of construction, keeping you informed about design development, potential impacts, and proposed mitigations is important to us. We remain committed to working with the community to ensure the best outcome for the region and encourage you to get in touch with us, with questions big or small on **1800 732 761**.



Rail delivery to Narwonah MDC

Narwonah MDC enters next stage of construction

Work at the Narwonah Material Distribution Centre (MDC) south of Narromine is ramping up! More than 215 tonnes of rail was recently delivered by train and unloaded directly at the Narwonah facility to enable upcoming rail line construction.

In late April, our contractor, Martinus Rail, will install a new rail turnout in the rail corridor near the MDC. The works will take place 24 hours/day over a 72-hour period from **6pm Friday 28 April to 6pm Monday 1 May**.

Residents can expect to see various large construction vehicles frequently entering and exiting the site and may notice increased noise during the work. We will mitigate noise wherever possible and make every effort to minimise impacts on residents and businesses.



Two minutes with Jo Tait

Business Development Manager
– Southern Qld and Northern NSW, ARTC

What does your role at ARTC entail?

I work with industry and communities to get more freight on our existing Interstate lines and ultimately on Inland Rail.

What's the best part of your job?

Getting to understand what drives different businesses and how rail could make their freight journey faster, cheaper and more sustainable.

What benefits is Inland Rail bringing to the Interstate rail network?

While Inland Rail is a multi-year project, the build schedule allows for individual components to be released into ARTC's national network when complete. This means regional producers will have earlier access to ARTC's 8,500km national freight network.

For example, the North West connection at Parkes, a 5.3km new section of track built for Inland Rail, provides a link between the north-south Inland Rail and the east-west Transcontinental Railway to Adelaide and Perth.

What benefits will be realised once Inland Rail is fully operational?

Inland Rail will reduce the need for more large freight trucks, like b-doubles and b-triples, to pass through the 20 regional towns between Melbourne and Brisbane currently experiencing significant large truck traffic.

It will also support four of Australia's richest farming regions, providing supply chain benefits and cost savings for producers.

What's the one thing people may not know about Inland Rail?

A lot of people think that Inland Rail will only have express freight trains running from Melbourne to Brisbane in 24 hours.

In reality, Inland Rail will operate like the rest of the ARTC network, with flexibility for fast trains and slower trains travelling between whichever origin and destination is required. It all comes down to customer needs and how our train planners plan a specific train's journey.

What else do businesses in Northern NSW need to know

I'm happy to meet with businesses and discuss how rail might fit into their supply chain. We understand that businesses are all at different stages of considering rail, so we aim to provide information and connections that help businesses make a decision that suits their situation.

Call me on **0436 341 140**.



Borehole sample being removed from the drill

Geotechnical investigations 101 continued

In our last newsletter, we explained why understanding ground conditions is so important to helping us design, construct and operate a reliable and safe Inland Rail.

We've been undertaking geotechnical investigations for several years now, however as we progress towards major construction the frequency of investigations will increase.

Activities will range from surveying the land, visually assessing ground conditions, and sampling soil and rock fragments by digging test pits and/or drilling boreholes. The samples collected are sent to a laboratory for detailed analysis.

Test pit excavations involve machinery including an excavator or a backhoe, while boreholes generally require a drill rig and a support truck.

In April, you will see us digging boreholes near the Macquarie River, and in May and June we will be doing both types of investigations between Narromine and Curban.

Like to chat in person?

Pop by our Narrabri community shop front – open every weekday or see us at the monthly markets in Narrabri and Gilgandra.

See us at your local Ag Show:

- Gunnedah Show – 15 April
- Gilgandra Show – 28 & 29 April
- Narrabri Show – 5 & 6 May
- Walgett Show – 13 May
- Dubbo Show – 19 & 20 May
- Coonamble Show – 23 & 24 May
- Gulargambone Show – 27 May



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.

