

# Narromine to Narrabri

The Narromine to Narrabri (N2N) section 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.



Artist's impression of a bridge over the Macquarie River near Narromine.

## Narromine to Narrabri achieves Australian Government approval

On 31 January, Inland Rail received approval from the Australian Government to progress the Narromine to Narrabri (N2N) section. This followed a detailed assessment by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The approval includes strict conditions to manage and report on outcomes on matters of national environmental significance and the environment.

With NSW and Australian Government approvals now in place, the project team is focusing on site investigations, refining the N2N design and acquiring land to secure the Inland Rail corridor.

## New CEO appointed to lead Inland Rail

In late 2023, the Inland Rail board appointed Nick Miller as CEO to lead the organisation as it enters a new phase of delivery as a subsidiary of ARTC.

Mr Miller joined Inland Rail after five years as Chief Executive Officer of Adbri, an Australian construction materials manufacturing company, and is a well-recognised and respected leader within the Australian and New Zealand infrastructure and construction industries.



New Inland Rail CEO Nick Miller.



Earth sample collected from the Narrabri alluvial plain in late 2023.

## Geotechnical investigations wrap up in Narrabri

In February, we finished a four-month stint of geotechnical investigations along the rail corridor in Narrabri. Our team collected 46 bags of earth samples from 20 boreholes, some of which were 40m deep!

These samples, which comprise alluvial soils, are being analysed in Narrabri. Testing data will help us determine the size of the concrete piles (or pylons)

needed to build strong and safe foundations for the Narrabri viaduct.

For the science buffs out there further testing of the soil will look at particle size distribution, Atterberg limits, linear shrinkage, dispersiveness and unconfined compressive strength results.

Tune in next time for more updates and curiosities from N2N site investigations.



## Second Victorian site completed

Just over a year since construction began in Victoria, a second site was completed in March with the opening of the new Beaconsfield Parade bridge in Glenrowan. To celebrate, our new CEO, project team members and locals joined the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications for an official ceremony and bridge walk.

The bridge design incorporates a network of pathways to better connect Glenrowan's heritage sites, improves vehicle and pedestrian safety, and enhances landscaping and finishes to respect the precinct's heritage.



Aerial view of the completed Beaconsfield Avenue bridge in Glenrowan.



GrainCorp train filling up with canola at Croppa Creek silos.

## Croppa Creek grain back on train after 6 ½ years

The northern end of the Narrabri to North Star section of Inland Rail was put through its paces in March as GrainCorp moved twelve trains of canola seed out of its handling facility at Croppa Creek.

This was the first time in six and a half years that GrainCorp had hauled grain by train out of Croppa Creek and the first time ever to transport canola from the site. The trains are travelling between Newcastle and Croppa Creek,

with canola stockpiled at Newcastle port before it's loaded onto a ship for export to Europe.

2,600 tonnes of grain, which would otherwise be moved by 50 B-double trucks, was efficiently transported to port by train. This means farmers, industry, local residents and the environment are already seeing the benefits of Inland Rail.

## Supporting First Nations youth

In March Inland Rail announced the extension of a partnership with the Clontarf Foundation and a new two-year association with the Stars Foundation. The organisations work to improve the education, life skills, self-esteem, and employment prospects of First Nations boys and girls in regional communities.

To help celebrate this double milestone day, International Rugby League great Greg Inglis hosted a Rugby League Carnival at James Fallon High School in Albury. Clontarf Foundation students from Albury and surrounding academies were put through their paces with a fun training session and heard Greg speak about his own mental health journey.



## What's coming up in the next several months

These activities will help provide greater certainty on the full scope and cost of the N2N section, as required by the Australian Government.



Addressing NSW and Australian Government conditions of approval, including developing environmental and social management plans, permits, and licenses.



First Nations cultural heritage field work and assessments.



Refining designs of key infrastructure assets, particularly the section around Narrabri. Approved low impact site investigations will help inform these design refinements.



Land access and acquisition negotiations with landowners and stakeholders will continue.

## Want to know more?

Keeping you informed about the N2N section's design development and our proposed impact mitigation actions is important to us, and we will continue working with the community to ensure the best possible outcomes for the region.

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