

Narromine to Narrabri

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.



A drill rig and support vehicles set up to dig boreholes.

Geotechnical investigations resume

Plans are underway to resume geotechnical investigations between Narromine and Gilgandra in the next few months. We are hoping to complete work across a total of 14 sites identified as potential borrow pits.

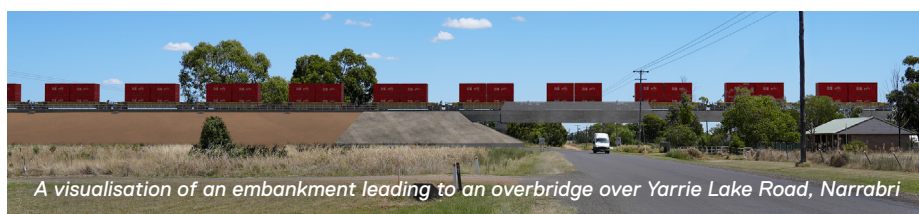
What are borrow pits?

Borrow pits are small quarries that provide earth materials (soil, rock and gravel) to be used in construction. The new construction 'fill' is used to build track embankments or for earthworks around new bridge structures, to ensure the track remains as flat as possible across varied terrain.

As part of the investigations, crews will drill boreholes as deep as 15m and dig test pits as deep as 5m to test soil composition. The soil samples collected are sent to a laboratory for detailed analysis.

The number of boreholes and test pits dug at each site will depend on the estimated size of each proposed borrow pit, and the type of construction material we are hoping to extract.

Inland Rail has been investigating potential borrow pit locations along the N2N section since 2019. Where ground conditions potentially meet our technical requirements, we work closely with landowners to discuss whether a commercial arrangement to obtain earth materials is agreeable to both parties. Inland Rail will also be required to meet relevant environmental regulations around the borrow pits, including consideration of traffic impacts, rehabilitation and other factors.



A visualisation of an embankment leading to an overbridge over Yarrie Lake Road, Narrabri

Introducing Isabella Hall, your new Narromine to Narrabri Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager

Isabella or Isa, has been with the Inland Rail project for over five years, and this month took up the newly created role of Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager, Northern NSW. Isabella will lead a team of passionate and locally focused Stakeholder and Engagement professionals looking after Inland Rail projects between Narromine and the NSW/Qld border.

Isa will draw on her extensive experience in Stakeholder Engagement, the strong relationships she has formed with local councils and landowners in the Moree area and her desire to champion local voices to deliver the best possible outcomes for the Northern NSW region.

Isabella grew up on a sheep farm in the Southern Tablelands, and now lives on a cropping farm near Wallangra, NSW, about 50 kilometres south-east of North Star with her husband and two boys.



Continuing fieldwork to refine the design

Since our last update in July, we've been speaking with landowners about upcoming fieldwork we need to complete to help us refine designs for the Narromine to Narrabri section.

Refining the design means reviewing the engineering assumptions and decisions made so far using new data and information. It involves creating and testing models of the railway and supporting infrastructure and updating them when new detail about the environment emerges. Usually this is based on ground surveys and investigations data gathered in the exact locations where Inland Rail will be built.

For example, through a review of publicly available data and consultation with engineering experts we have proposed

a bridge over a creek. The design of the bridge will be refined, and further decisions made about its length, depth and number of supporting piers, once we have completed a ground survey of the area, including a hydrology review and geotechnical investigations.

Close consultation and input from impacted landowners, councils and local agencies informs design decisions at all stages of the design process.

So Inland Rail can finalise its designs for the Narromine to Narrabri section, we need the continued permission of landowners to access their properties using land access agreements. Thank you to the many landowners who have recently collaborated with us to enable these essential works.



A person using a surveyor's level to measure the height of a landscape feature



See how Inland Rail will connect regional lines

Inland Rail is a fast freight line that will enhance our national freight network and supply chain capabilities, connecting existing freight routes through rail, roads and ports, and supporting Australia's growth. It will better link businesses, manufacturers and producers to national and global markets and generate opportunities for industries and regions during construction and beyond.

This animation showcases how Inland Rail will progressively open up access to more regional lines throughout Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland as each section is built.

Go to inlandrail.info/connect2024 or scan the QR code



News from other NSW Inland Rail sections

Northern NSW

'At-property' noise mitigation treatment installation has started for impacted residents along the Narrabri to North Star Phase 1 section. Meanwhile, we're continuing discussions with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to finalise the Preferred Infrastructure Report as part of the Narrabri to North Star Phase 2 section's Environmental Impact Statement planning process.

Southern NSW

Works along the Stockinbingal to Parkes section are progressing strongly. Two of nine sites - Caragabal and Bribbaree Yards - are now complete. Environmental approvals for the Albury to Illabo and Illabo to Stockinbingal sections, along with the award of a construction contract for the Illabo to Stockinbingal section, are expected in the next few months.



Bribbaree Yards, northwest of Temora, part of Inland Rail's Stockinbingal to Parkes section

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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