

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 between Narrabri and North Star and the Parkes to Narromine section that is already complete and supports freight transport to Adelaide and Perth.



Surveyors setting up equipment (L) and a seismic survey in progress (R).

Site investigations update

Our ongoing schedule of site investigations and surveys along the Narromine to Narrabri section is continuing in 2025 at multiple locations.

Soil erosion testing between Narromine and Gilgandra wrapped up in March. Hydrology specialists are now analysing the samples collected to determine water flow speeds in different locations. This data will inform the design of drainage structures.

We've completed geotechnical investigations between Narromine and Coonamble, including 27 boreholes, 65 test pits and 3,745 linear meters of seismic surveys. Crews will take a well-earned break and are scheduled to return to site in May, subject to gaining land access approvals.

Meanwhile, the borrow pit geotechnical team completed their scope around Gilgandra and are now progressing to sites between Baradine and Narrabri.

In April, locals will also see biodiversity investigation teams, flood level surveyors and utility investigators in the field. Turn over to see what's involved when we map utility locations.

Our work is not possible without the continued support and proactive collaboration from alignment landowners. We appreciate and value your commitment to progressing Inland Rail in the central west.

To see our current and upcoming program of work, visit inlandrail.info/N2Nwork2025 or scan the QR code



Why we need Inland Rail

Australia's population is predicted to reach between 37.4 and 49.2 million people by 2066 (ABS Data 2023). We need a reliable and efficient rail network to meet our increasing freight needs and take the load off our already congested roads. Inland Rail will future-proof Australia's freight network for generations to come.

Learn more about the need for Inland Rail by visiting our website at inlandrail.com.au/what-is-inland-rail/benefits.



Pop by and see us!

We'll return to your local Ag shows in May – catch us at the Narrabri Show (3 May), Gilgandra Show (10 May) and in Narromine (30 August). Our community shopfront remains open every weekday, at 85 Maitland Street, Narrabri. Pop by and get the latest news on Inland Rail.



Inland Rail Narrabri office

Graduate spotlight

David Cresswell

Project Engineer with
the Northern NSW team



In 2021, Inland Rail partnered with Engineers Australia to build our Graduate Development Program, enabling the best young minds to contribute to Australia's largest rail infrastructure project. Four years later, a top recruit has graduated as a Project Engineer and is working on site.

What are you currently working on?

I am supervising soil erosion testing at multiple sites along the alignment.

Where and what did you study?

Bachelor of Engineering (Civil),
Diploma in Engineering Practice at the
University of Technology, Sydney.

What got you interested in Engineering as a career path?

I was pretty decent at maths and science in school... and when some infrastructure projects kicked off near my home town, you could say I was inspired!

What has been your Grad journey?

I spent 16 months on the Narrabri to North Star Phase 1 section before relocating to Brisbane in November 2022 to work on the North Star to NSW/ Qld Border section. Fresh out of uni, it was a life changing experience. I was fly in/fly out at the height of the pandemic, and lived in the workers' camp in Moree. It was a steep learning curve, professionally and personally.

Acclimatising to the corporate world from working on site was another change, but again full of opportunities. I added value to new areas, which saw me being offered a Project Engineer position in early 2024.

Congratulations on your new role.

What are you most looking forward to now?

The project is so complex, and I've learnt something new every day working at Inland Rail. As the team move towards Preliminary Design for Northern NSW, that is another new experience and set of skills I will gain.

What is the best thing about working at Inland Rail?

Apart from the intricacy and constant learning opportunities, the ability to travel around and see new parts of the country. I grew up semi-regional on the NSW mid north coast, so I enjoy visiting small towns. Each one comes with its own unique qualities and often a surprise!

What surprises have you seen?

Gilgandra was charming! Interesting old cars on show at the entry to properties (including an old mini lifted onto the chassis of a Hilux), and the beautiful Warrumbungle mountain range on the horizon.

What motivates you day to day?

Having a supportive team of great people around.

What do you do in your spare time?

In the city, I love indoor bouldering. When I can get out, I enjoy surfing, camping and hiking.

And finally, what's your favourite beef cut?

It would have to be a T-bone, from the Royal Hotel in Gil.

Utility investigations overview

Next month, we kick off a program of utility investigations in the southern part of the Narrabri to Narromine section. These investigations identify and map services to prevent damage during future construction and prevent dangerous and costly accidents.

We will locate water pipes, electric cables, fiber optic cables, gas pipes, drainage and sewage pipelines. Our work will also include confirming the height of all overhead power lines.

Our contractor MinStaff Survey will deploy a small crew of field surveyors to collect the data. Here's what you may see if you spot the team on site:

- Service locators using equipment like a Ground Penetrating Radar or an Electromagnetic Locator to identify depth and position of underground utilities.
- Technicians using hand tools or a vacuum truck to expose below ground utilities. Vacuum trucks use high pressure water and suction to remove material to expose services in the ground, particularly sensitive utilities like gas or electric cables.
- Wooden stakes in the ground identifying utility locations. Markings will indicate utility type, depth and direction the utility runs.

Once the field work is completed, the data will inform preliminary designs and help determine if the utility will need to be lowered, protected, removed or relocated.



Illustration of a Ground Penetrating Radar.

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.

📞 1800 732 761

@ inlandrailnsw@inlandrail.com.au

➦ inlandrail.com.au/n2n