

INLAND RAIL TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY AND NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE

JULY NEWSLETTER

VIC

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is a key player in Australia's transport supply chain. We manage over 8,500km of interstate rail networks across Australia and are delivering two essential rail projects in Victoria which are continuing to forge ahead.



ARTC teams spoke to hundreds of people about rail improvements over three days at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo in February.

Inland Rail is building momentum and the Victorian section is one of 13 connected projects that will enhance supply chains and complete the backbone of our national rail freight network, achieving a transit time of 24 hours for freight trains between Melbourne and Brisbane.

The North East Rail Line upgrade is set to bring significant improvements for people travelling by train between Melbourne and Albury Wodonga by improving reliability and ride quality. We've completed the first 100km of rail upgrades and are on track for completion within the next 12 months.

CONSULTATION DURING COVID-19

Whilst the current environment remains uncertain and challenging for everyone, we remain committed to talking with our communities and stakeholders through every stage of our projects.

As the impacts of COVID-19 continue to evolve we have implemented changes to our engagement activities to ensure the safety of our people and community members.

Whilst we miss being at events like the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo in February and meeting community groups in person, engagement has by no means stopped. We continue to have a range of ways to speak and meet with you via our website, new online resources, social media, email and telephone. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the project teams at any time with your feedback, questions or suggestions.

Subject to the latest public health information we hope to be back out and about soon.



Seymour-Avenel Rd Bridge, Seymour is in the first tranche of works for T2A.

INLAND RAIL TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY

Stage one of the Tottenham to Albury (T2A) project is moving towards detailed design phase, as we now have preferred reference designs for the majority of our sites in T2A. Work to date has involved technical investigations and field studies as part of refining the rail corridor design to determine a preferred solution for most of the sites.

Throughout June and July, our team has conducted third-party utility locating and surveying at all 12 project sites from Beveridge to Albury, where bridge replacement and/or track lowering construction activities will be executed.

Construction for the first project sites are expected to start mid-2021.

In April, we submitted our environmental referral for T2A and the document has been published on the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning's website.

The Minister for Planning will determine how the project progresses and we will update you on further opportunities for feedback, according to the Minister's direction.

In July, we also referred the project for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* for Heritage Matters of National Environmental Significance at Glenrowan and Biodiversity Matters of National Environmental Significance for all other project sites. Additional details about our referrals and public comment timings can be found at inlandrail.artc.com.au/T2A

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST RELEASED

A major milestone for the T2A project was recently reached with Expressions of Interest being sought to engage two companies to complete the early phase of design and construction work. Local contractors across regional Victoria have been urged to express their interest in the works, especially those with experience delivering a program of complex road and rail infrastructure in regional locations with combined value in excess of \$200 million.

The work involves designing and rebuilding bridges, associated civil works and track lowering at 12 sites, as well as the delivery of overhead wiring and signal gantry installations.

INTERACTIVE MAP GOES LIVE

One of our new online tools is an interactive map to help us share project information and better understand community feedback.

The map allows members of the public to access the latest updates on the project and have their say by simply dropping a pin on the map and adding a comment.

Since its launch in June there's been thousands of visits to the map and we hope you'll take a minute to explore too by visiting inlandrail.artc.com.au/T2A



Learn more, ask a question or provide feedback via our new interactive project map.

NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE

More than 250,000 tonnes of local ballast have now been dropped for upgrade works along the North East line and since major works started with main contractor John Holland there has been:

- ▶ 137km track tamping delivered
- ▶ 120km drainage reinstated
- ▶ 20 level crossing renewals completed
- ▶ 7 rail bridge deck replacements completed
- ▶ 4 pedestrian crossings renewals completed.

Main works began in Wodonga in February with teams working systematically south on the east track to Benalla. Upgrades have included mud hole removal, ballast depth improvements, drainage works, level crossing renewals and rail bridge upgrades.

With works in this section of the track now substantially complete, focus has shifted to the west track, again starting in Wodonga and moving south.

The project is already bringing benefits to the whole region. More than \$50 million has already been injected into the economy for goods ranging from supplies, takeaway coffee, rental properties for workers, and fuel purchased from local businesses.

As the upgrade continues, we would like to thank the communities of North East Victoria for your continued patience as we carry out these essential works. Please remember to take extra care around work occurring in the rail corridor.

Our interactive project map is tracking our progress and has details of current works notifications and temporary road closures due to upgrade works. Visit our website artc.com.au/projects/northeast

MEET MATT

A key focus of the upgrade is to ensure regional centres directly benefit and Matt Tennant and his team from Seymour-based contractor, TENEX Rail, have been working on the project since early 2019.

With a major pipeline of project work booked, Matt's been able to invest in brand new railway maintenance machines, upskill and extend the hours of existing staff as well as create several additional positions for locals.

Thanks Matt and the team for all the hard work.



Photo credit: Ned Meldrum. Epping Kilmore bridge conversion.

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS AND DONATIONS PROGRAM

We've donated \$18,000 to six CFA brigades in 2020, as part of the Inland Rail Sponsorships and Donations program.

Brigades including Winton, Glenrowan, Baddaginnie, Broadford, Goomalibee and Upotipotpon received up to \$4,000 each to purchase a range of equipment including helmet lights, signage, protective equipment, torches and a ride-on mower. Brigades applied for the grants across rounds 3, 4 and 5.

Winton Rural Fire Brigade member Phil Spokes welcomed the funding, saying it enabled the brigade to purchase much-needed safety equipment.

"We bought three protect nozzles, 10 helmet torches and six firefighter carry bags, which have dramatically improved the safety and efficiency of brigade and personnel on the front line," Phil said.

"These items will forever assist us with our future turnouts and help us protect the community and assets in our brigade area."

Round six of the Community Sponsorships and Donations program is now open and will run until July 31, 2020. Round 7 opens 1 August and closes 31 October.

For terms and conditions and to access an application form, please visit the Inland Rail website inlandrail.com.au/sponsorships



Winton Fire Brigade members test out their new protect nozzles.

INLAND RAIL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In May, we awarded three undergraduate scholarships valued at up to \$20,000 each to La Trobe University students, as part of the Inland Rail Skills Academy program.

The three dedicated students selected to receive scholarships are Madeline Tomkins who lives in Wodonga and is studying a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at Latrobe's Wodonga campus, Dellareece Matson from Kilmore studying a Bachelor of Nursing at the Shepparton campus and Carris Leslie who is from Peechelba (near Wangaratta) and is studying a Bachelor of Arts at the Bundoora campus.

The scholarship enables students to undertake studies and ultimately pursue careers to enrich and diversify regional economies and contribute positively to their communities. Successful students also receive invaluable support from La Trobe to help them integrate and stay engaged in their studies.

For information about scholarships in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland through the Inland Rail Skills Academy, visit inlandrail.artc.com.au/scholarships



Madeline Tomkins, Dellareece Matson and Carris Leslie are the inaugural recipients of Inland Rail Scholarships in Victoria.

KEEP UPDATED

ARTC is committed to working with communities and landowners, state and local government 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.



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**NORTH EAST
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