

# INLAND RAIL TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY AND NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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At ARTC, we're working in communities across Victoria to deliver two essential rail projects to improve freight and passenger services along the North East rail line.

Despite the challenging circumstances everyone has faced this year, both progress on the North East Rail Line Upgrade and design planning for Inland Rail in Victoria have continued to forge ahead.



*Covid safe working on Mitchell Street rail bridge upgrade in Benalla*

Many things have looked different for all of us this year, including how we've gone about community engagement. But what hasn't changed is our commitment to hearing your feedback and sharing project updates via our website, online meetings, social media, email and telephone. With restrictions easing, our regionally based stakeholder engagement teams are busy making plans to get back out regularly in our communities.

From November we will have a regular presence at the below locations with details for Benalla coming soon. Look out for social media announcements or on the events page of our website for commencement dates.

Where	When	Time
<b>Wandong:</b> Wandong Public Hall, 19 Rail Street	1st and 3rd Thursday of the month	9:00am 4:00pm
<b>Broadford:</b> Living and Learning Centre	Tuesdays	9:00am 4:00pm
<b>Avenel:</b> Harvest Home, 1 Bank Street	1st Friday of the month	8:30am 3:00pm
<b>Euroa:</b> Town & Country, 46 Binney Street	Wednesdays	10:00am 4:00pm
<b>Glenrowan:</b> Lions Park, Gladstone Street	1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month	10:00am 4:00pm
<b>Wangaratta:</b> Cnr Reid and Murphy Streets	Wednesday	10:00am 4:00pm

We hope to see you there with questions or feedback about the North East Rail Line Upgrade or Inland Rail, or just to stop by and say hi.



Level crossing renewal at Dudley Road, Euroa

## NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE

The North East Rail Line Upgrade is continuing to progress at pace with the 300km section of track between Benalla and Wodonga now complete. As a critical infrastructure project, our regionally based teams have been able to continue these essential works with the utmost commitment to CovidSafe work practices. We're still on track to finish by mid-2021, bringing improved reliability and ride quality for passengers on the North East rail line services.

September saw the successful completion of another 60-hour program of work where upgrades focused on the single-track section south of Seymour. Over three days, 12 level crossing renewals were completed as well as three bridge upgrades, 12km of track tamping and 1.6km of mud removal. Have a look at our project snapshot to see more impressive statistics the team have achieved.

Work is currently occurring in both the Benalla to Seymour and south of Seymour sections of the track. 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 and visit our interactive map for the latest progress photos and works notifications [artc.com.au/projects/northeast](http://artc.com.au/projects/northeast)

## TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY INLAND RAIL

The Victorian section of Inland Rail is continuing community consultation and planning to prepare for the start of construction mid-2021. We've progressed several environmental planning and approvals processes and continue to consult with communities and other stakeholders to inform our planning.

ARTC

### NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE

Improving reliability and ride quality for passengers on North East rail line services.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT  
(February–October 2020)

PROJECT COMPLETION  
MID 2021

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

**\$70M** being injected into the NE Victorian economy



**100**  
regionally-based workforce

**173** Victorian businesses supplying the project including

**> 17** SUBCONTRACTORS local to NE Victoria  
**> 68** LOCAL SUPPLIERS of goods and services

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**40,000** works notifications distributed

**5,000** visits to interactive project map

**800** community enquiry responses

**30** social media posts f in o

### PROGRESS STATS

**300km**  
track upgrades completed

**250,000+**  
hours worked

**510,000**  
tonnes of new ballast

**84** level crossings renewed

**94** rail bridge upgrades

**23km** mudholes removed

## OUR RECENT KEY MILESTONES AND NEXT STEPS

### NO EES WITH CONDITIONS:

The Minister for Planning has confirmed the project does not require assessment through an Environment Effects Statement (EES). However, we are required to follow conditions including the completion and acceptance of an environment report and environmental management framework, in consultation with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The Minister's decision and Environmental Effects referral can be viewed at

[planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment](http://planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment)

### ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS UNDERWAY:

Environmental surveys relating to overhead powerlines commenced along the North East rail line from Beveridge to Albury in October. Throughout November, locals may see teams of up to three ecology and heritage specialists walking through areas surrounding powerlines to assess the presence of sensitive flora and fauna, and heritage sensitivity.

### HERITAGE CONSULTATION:

We're consulting with local communities and stakeholders as part of a process to gain heritage permits at Glenrowan and Wangaratta. We have and will continue to speak with a range of groups including the Rural City of Wangaratta, Wangaratta Historic Society, Benalla Historic Society, Glenrowan Improvers and Glenrowan Tourist Centre, and welcome views for all community members.

### NEW WORKING GROUP FOR BENALLA:

Following a thorough selection process, we have appointed 12 new members of the Benalla Working Group to help refine our proposed solution for the Benalla Station precinct. The group comprises of local councillors (subject to change), two Better Benalla Rail representatives and eight independent community members.

### EUROA WORKING GROUP:

Following constructive collaboration with the Euroa Working Group, a proposed track re-alignment at Euroa Station has been included in the project's finalised delivery strategy, which will inform the Early Contract Involvement (ECI) process to refine designs for Euroa in 2021.



ARTC Environment team out assessing project sites

## TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY PROJECT TIMELINE



## IN THE COMMUNITY

### NEW BENCHES FOR BOWLS CLUB

Portable bench seats are keeping Wangaratta Bowls Club bowlers comfortable, thanks to a recent Inland Rail Community grant.

The club purchased 11 aluminum bench seats, which are lighter and easier to shift into the shade during the range of competitions hosted at Wangaratta.

“Light and portable benches mean players can keep out of the sun when they’re not bowling for their team, offering a place to rest between games and stay sun smart,” Wangaratta Bowls Club President Frank Smith told us.

“Useful items like these bench seats help the club retain and grow membership because we’re well-equipped to accommodate members of different ages and abilities.”

To find out how your community group may benefit from Inland Rail’s Community Donations program, visit our website [inlandrail.artc.com.au/opportunities](http://inlandrail.artc.com.au/opportunities)



*Sitting pretty on Wangaratta Bowls Club’s new benches*

### GLENROWAN HOTEL PUBLICAN OWNER BACKS INLAND RAIL

As the Glenrowan Hotel publican for the past eight years and a local resident for more than 20, Andrew Crimmins sees several benefits flowing from the Inland Rail project in Glenrowan.

Mr Crimmins believes building a new bridge in the vicinity of the existing Beaconsfield Parade bridge, rather than relocating it, is a sensible option to keep traffic flowing through the town centre.

“I travel upwards of six times a day back and forth across the bridge, as do many other local people and tourists exploring the town,” he said.

“It’s an important thoroughfare because it keeps people coming past our shops and cafes, and stopping in on their way through.”

While the existing bridge served its purpose, Mr Crimmins described it as ‘a bit of an eye sore’.

“A new bridge will definitely tidy the town up,” he said.

A recent EY Inland Rail Regional Opportunities report estimated that Victoria’s Gross Regional Product would increase by up to \$4.6 billion over a 50-year operating period, on top of the positive local economic impacts realised during Inland Rail’s construction.

We welcome all community views on our plans for Inland Rail. Call, email or drop into one of our new community pop-up locations listed on the front page.



*Glenrowan Hotel publican Andrew Crimmins sees the regional benefits of Inland Rail*

### 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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