



Australian Government

ARTC

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

INLAND RAIL TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY PROJECT AND NORTH EAST LINE UPGRADE

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER

We're undertaking freight and passenger line improvements in Victoria – bringing economic and connectivity benefits to regional Victoria and Melbourne.

Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is responsible for managing infrastructure maintenance, capital upgrades and the movement of trains on interstate railway tracks across South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.

The ARTC are delivering the Inland Rail Tottenham to Albury project and the North East Line Upgrade project in Victoria.

INLAND RAIL

NORTH EAST LINE UPGRADE

ABOUT THE INLAND RAIL TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY PROJECT

The Inland Rail Tottenham to Albury project will see the introduction of double stacked freight trains onto 305km of the existing North East Rail Line.

While we will use the existing rail line through Victoria, we will need to make changes to some road bridges, footbridges and tracks where we do not currently have enough height or width to support the running of double stacked freight trains.

There are 27 sites along the corridor where we do not currently have enough clearance to support the running of double stacked freight trains. A list of the sites and the proposed solution can be found at inlandrail.com.au/T2A.

We require 7.1 metres of vertical and around 4.5 metres of horizontal clearance to allow the taller trains to run on the track. To achieve the necessary clearance under bridges, track lowering is preferred, at some sites this may not be possible, and we are looking at other options such as raising or replacing bridges.

The Tottenham to Albury project in Victoria is one of the 13 projects that complete Inland Rail - completing the 'spine' of the national rail freight network providing a direct route for producers between Melbourne and Brisbane.

ABOUT NORTH EAST LINE UPGRADE

We know that improving rail services has been important to the communities of North East Victoria for a long time.

Focused on improving reliability and ride quality for rail passengers between Melbourne and Albury, the North East Line Upgrade project will:

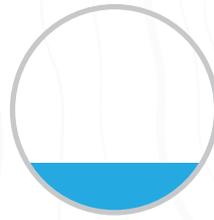
- improve passenger service reliability by upgrading track condition and addressing the main causes of delays
- improve ride comfort for passengers by reducing the bumps experienced during journeys
- reduce the causes of major delays that can impact services such as signal failures due to signal wire theft

These improvement works will upgrade the passenger rail line to a 'Victorian Class 2' track performance standard, which will bring it in line with other regional passenger services in Victoria.

INLAND RAIL TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY PROJECT

Australia's freight volumes are forecast to more than double by 2050 which will mean greater road congestion on our national and local road networks.

Inland Rail is about providing opportunities for producers to move goods without increasing the number of trucks on our roads, and specifically the Hume Highway in Victoria.



2017-2018

Early design thinking

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

While we will use the existing rail line through Victoria, we will need to make changes to some bridges and other structures so that taller trains will be able to travel along the rail line in future.

The main work we are doing now includes understanding what these changes might mean for local walking and cycling connections, noise and visual amenity.

WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

Currently in Victoria freight trains travel on the line between 80 and 115 kilometres per hour and are up to 1.8 kilometres long. This will not change when Inland Rail work is operational.

Freight trains are also currently able to carry up to 25 tonnes of weight on each axle. Inland Rail is optimising this carrying capacity. It is not about increasing weight but increasing the volume of freight carried on a single train.

The key challenge is creating the clearances required to allow double stacked freight trains, which are around 2 metres higher than the existing single stack freight trains, to safely run underneath 43 bridges along the 305km alignment.

HOW NOISY WILL INLAND RAIL BE?

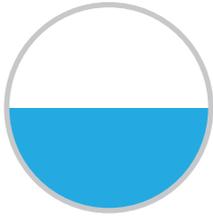
As part of the Tottenham to Albury project, we will be undertaking noise monitoring along this section of the alignment. This will help us understand current operation noise levels as well as how the introduction of double stack trains will impact our neighbours.

In line with the Inland Rail Noise and Vibration Strategy, operational rail noise and vibration will be modelled against the New South Wales Rail Infrastructure Noise Guideline (RING). As there is no current requirement to measure freight noise in Victoria, this will be a step forward in understanding impacts in our communities.

Further information on our approach to noise and vibration for Inland Rail in Victoria can be found at inlandrail.com.au/T2A

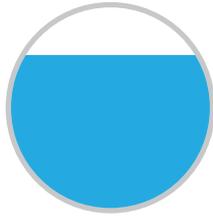
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Over the past year we've undertaken a range of investigations, developed and tested design options, talked to people who live next to the enhancement sites and members of the wider community and with stakeholders to help us develop a preferred design for each of the enhancement sites in Victoria. This has included ecological surveys, geotechnical investigations and technical studies to progress design, as well as considering the comments and feedback we have received from Council, stakeholders and the community during our early engagement. These conversations are continuing.



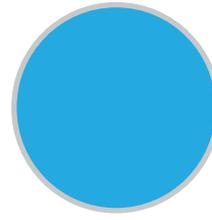
EARLY 2019

Final design



2020-2025

Construction to take place



2025

Completion

WHAT'S NEXT?

We are working towards having a final design solution in the second quarter of 2019 with construction scheduled to take place between 2020 and 2025.

Before work starts on the ground, we will be discussing the design further with our neighbours, community members and stakeholders, conducting assessments like noise studies to inform the design, obtaining planning approvals to deliver the work and providing information about construction.



THANK YOU

Thank you for providing feedback and getting involved in the project over the past months. We've gained valuable feedback on our early design thinking and look forward to continuing the conversation in the new year.

WISHING YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Please note: We will also be taking a break between Friday, 21 December 2018 and will be back from Wednesday, 2 January 2019.

Contact the Inland Rail Tottenham to Albury project team

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inlandrailvic@artc.com.au

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www.inlandrail.com.au

NORTH EAST LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

PLANNED UPGRADE WORKS

To improve rail service reliability, reduce delays and deliver a smoother ride for passengers, there's much to do. The key improvements we're implementing include:

- Install two new sets of crossovers between Seymour and Benalla to improve track access for work crews to minimise disruption of the works program.
- Add, replace and compact new railway ballast (the rocks around the track) improving the track's foundation and drainage.
- Resurfacing including packing and compacting more ballast in-between the rail and sleepers.
- Upgrade the track machinery (turnouts) that enable trains to be guided from one track to another, such as at a railway junction.
- Relocate overhead signal wires to underground to decrease risk of signal failures due to trees falling on wires or line wire theft.
- Install additional backup power supplies including solar in some locations to minimise signal outages due to power supply.
- Drainage improvements by removing mud holes and addressing trackside drainage to ensure water flows away from tracks properly.
- Grind rail tracks so there is a smoother, even interface between the track and wheels of the train.
- Replace older timber top bridges with new concrete and ballast top bridges.
- Improve the track at level crossings to make journeys smoother.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

We've held community pop-ups throughout the North East at train stations, shows and town centres to share our plans and hear community feedback about the projects.

Members from both our technical and community engagement teams had over 200 conversations during the pop-up events and we'd like to acknowledge the support we received from everyone who came to talk with us. We heard that the biggest frustration with the rail service was cancellations requiring replacement coaches. People were also keen to learn more about how the upgrade works would increase reliability and when the new VLocity trains would be coming to the north east.

We're looking forward to even more community events in the coming months and continuing to hear your thoughts. The best way to keep up to date and to learn about upcoming events is to visit artc.com.au/projects/northeast and sign up for our email updates.



TIMELINE



Keep in the know

Register for email updates on our website to hear all the latest news on the North East Line Upgrade project. We'll let you know about our upcoming community events too. You can also contact the project team anytime for more information or to provide feedback via:

1300 550 402

enquiries@artc.com.au

artc.com.au/projects/northeast

CURRENT AS AT DECEMBER 2018

