

IMPROVING FREIGHT AND PASSENGER SERVICES ALONG THE NORTH EAST RAIL CORRIDOR

APRIL 2019

We're undertaking freight and passenger line improvements in Victoria – bringing economic and connectivity benefits with more reliable and rideable travel with the Inland Rail and North East Rail Line Upgrade projects.





INLAND RAIL TOTTENHAM TO ALBURY PROJECT

The Tottenham to Albury project in Victoria is one of the 13 projects that complete the ‘spine’ of the national rail freight network, providing a direct route for producers between Melbourne and Brisbane.

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 safe running of double stacked freight trains.

There are 24 sites along the corridor where we are currently investigating ways to provide the 7.1 metres of vertical and around 4.5 metres of horizontal clearance required to allow taller trains to run along the 305km corridor. A list of the sites and the proposed solutions can be found at inlandrail.com.au/T2A.

To achieve the necessary clearance under bridges, track lowering is preferred. At some sites this is not possible and we are looking to replace bridges.

BENEFITS TO VICTORIA

-  \$7 billion of economic return to the Victorian region
-  Less than 24 hours rail transit time from Melbourne to Brisbane
-  Reducing the need for additional heavy trucks on our roads and highways resulting in improved safety
-  Approximately 2,800 job opportunities during the peak of construction

WHERE ARE WE NOW?



Over the past year we’ve undertaken a range of investigations, developed and tested design options, talked to people who live near where works will be undertake and with the wider community to help us develop a preferred design for each of the enhancement sites in Victoria.

We are looking to have a draft reference design towards the end of the second half of 2019 to support the detailed design phase. Construction is scheduled to take place between 2021 and 2025. Before work starts on the ground, we will continue to discuss design with our neighbours, community members and stakeholders, completing assessments like noise studies to refine design, obtaining planning approvals to deliver the work and providing information about construction.

NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

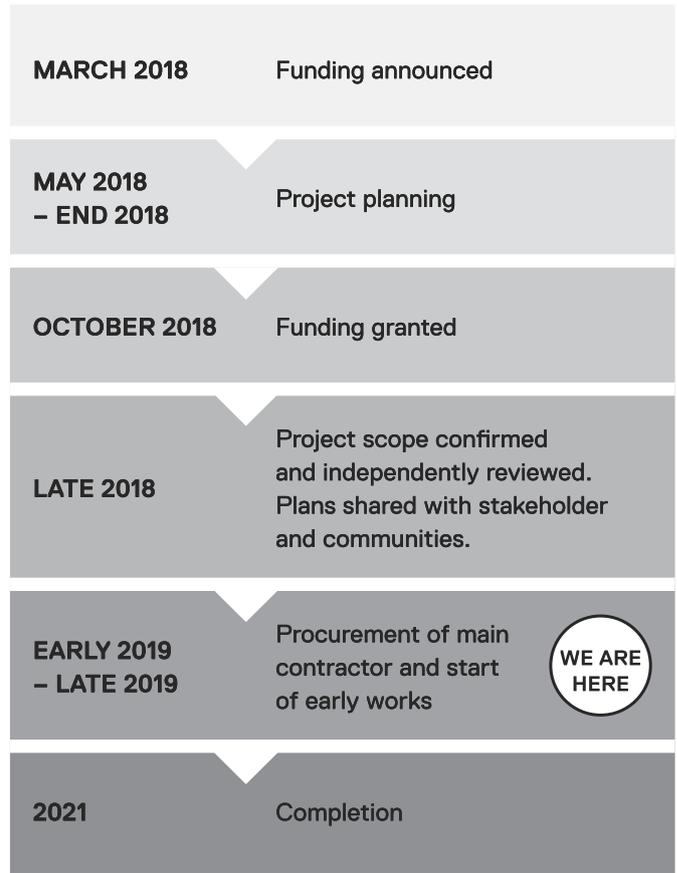
We also know improving the rail network and the performance of passenger train services is important to the communities of North East Victoria.

Early works are already underway to deliver these improvements which are designed to bring the track up to a Victorian Class 2 track performance standard in line with other regional passenger services in Victoria. This includes:

- ▶ priority mudhole removal to reduce the need for speed restrictions, supporting reliable train timetabling
- ▶ level crossing improvements at Faithfull Street in Benalla and Gravel Pit Road, Wangaratta South

A main construction contractor will be appointed before the end of 2019 with the upgrade scheduled for completion in mid 2021.

NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE TIMELINE



**Timeframes are indicative and are subject to change*

TL North East Rail upgrade timeline

To improve rail service reliability, reduce delays and deliver a smoother ride for passengers, here's just some of what we're doing:

REMOVING **OVER 500** EXISTING MUD HOLES
Mud holes form due to poor drainage and can result in temporary speed restrictions.

Installing **2 new crossovers** which means **more access** for work crews and **fewer disruptions** for train services.

As at April, we had also had **over 1,200 conversations**



with community members at events and pop-ups throughout North East Victoria – with more to come.

Relocating overhead signal wires to underground to reduce the risk of signal failures due to trees falling on wires or line wire theft.

+ **ADDING 200,000 TONNES OF NEW BALLAST** ALONG THE NORTH EAST RAIL LINE, THIS MEANS BETTER TRACK FOUNDATION FOR A SMOOTHER RIDE.

 Improving the track at **over 110 level crossings, including 6 pedestrian crossings.** This too will improve ride quality.

UPGRADING **OVER 120 BRIDGES** including replacing **64** older timber top bridges

IG VIC projects

WHAT'S NEXT?

Community feedback has and will continue to play an important part in the planning and delivery of the Inland Rail and North East Rail Line Upgrade projects. We will continue to talk with, and more importantly, listen to our communities as the projects progress.

Over the coming months you can expect to see:

- ▶ more community events - sign up for email updates to receive details on when we'll be in your area
- ▶ a continuation of design development for Inland Rail
- ▶ early works along the corridor for the North East Rail Line upgrade
- ▶ updates on the major works contracts for both projects



KEEP UPDATED

Want to know more? ARTC is committed to working with communities and landowners, State and local governments as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments about either project, please let us know.

Register for email updates on our website or keep in touch with us via phone or email:

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North East Rail Line Upgrade

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