

Memo

To	Senate ommittee for Inquiry into the management of Inland Rail
Cc	
From	Simon Eldridge, Director Government & Stakeholder Relations – Inland Rail
Date	29 January 2020
Subject	Inland Rail project status update as at 31 December 2019

1 Purpose

Information for the Senate Rural and regional Affairs and Transport References Committee in reference to the following request received by ARTC:

- *an updated status of each section of the project – planning, assessments, studies and procurement; and*

2 Current status

2.1 Tottenham to Albury Project

The Tottenham to Albury (**T2A**) project remains in Reference Design stage.

A Reference Design proposing engineering solutions for the project was completed in July 2019, technical studies of the defined project areas as per these proposed Reference Design solutions have been completed, and a project referral submission to the regulator has been drafted.

As per current assessment, the environmental approval pathway requires both State – Environmental Effects Statement (EES), and Federal EPBC approvals. Procurement works to procure the EES works service provider have also commenced, with a work expected to begin in March 2020.

Formal requests for tender for the mains works contract for this project are planned to be released to the market in July 2020.

2.2 Albury to Illabo Project

The Albury to Illabo (**A2I**) project remains in Reference Design stage.

A Reference Design proposing engineering solutions for the project is in the final stages of completion.

The project is now required to progress with an Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**), as opposed to a Review of Environmental Factors (**REF**). A Request for Proposal (**RfP**) is being developed to engage a consultant to support the additional requirements of the EIS process. Formal requests for this scope is planned to be released to the market in March 2020.

Formal requests for tender for the mains works contract for this project are planned to be released to the market in April 2022.

2.3 Illabo to Stockinbingal Project

The Illabo to Stockinbingal (**I2S**) project remains in Reference Design stage.

A Reference Design proposing engineering solutions for the project was completed in September 2019, and technical studies of the defined project areas are being finalised. Formal submission of the draft EIS to the Department of Planning Industry & Environment (DPIE), which will address the publicly available Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (**SEARs**) as set by the NSW DPIE (<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10216>), will occur in April 2020.

Formal requests for tender for the mains works contract for this project are planned to be released to the market in November 2021.

2.4 Stockinbingal to Parkes Project

The Stockinbingal to Parkes (**S2P**) project remains in Reference Design stage. Reference Designs proposing engineering solutions for the project were completed in April 2019.

The project is proceeding with the finalisation of 3 Reviews of Environmental Factors (**REF**), and plans to develop a State Significant Infrastructure (**SSI**) application to obtain the environmental assessment requirements for an Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) for the more complex Lachlan River Bridge site. A formal request for tender for an Environmental consultant for Lachlan River Bridge is planned to be released to the market in mid-2020.

A sub-section of the project, named Daroobalgie Loop, is currently being evaluated to proceed to Delivery Readiness stage. The tender release date under the Design and Construction (**D&C**) for the Daroobalgie Loop project has been earmarked for Q1 CY20.

2.5 Parkes to Narromine Project

The Parkes to Narromine (**P2N**) project remains in Construction and Commissioning stage.

The North-West Connection was contractually completed in September 2019, with the final items of scope completed on 13 November 2019.

Completion of construction for the brownfield section of P2N remains forecast as 30 June 2020. It is expected that the contractor will continue on site closing out minor works until the close of September 2020.

2.6 Narromine to Narrabri Project

The Narromine to Narrabri (**N2N**) project remains in Reference Design stage.

The development of a Reference Design to propose engineering solutions for the project is progressing, and anticipated to be completed in July 2020. As part of the same scope of work, the technical studies of the project area are progressing in support of the development of a draft EIS. Formal submission of the draft EIS to the Department of Planning Industry & Environment (DPIE), which will address the publicly available Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (**SEARs**) as set by the NSW DPIE (<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10211>), is anticipated to occur in August 2020.

Formal requests for tender for the mains works contract for this project are planned to be released to the market in March 2021.

2.7 Narrabri to North Star Project

The Narrabri to North Star Project (**N2NS**) is being managed as two sub-projects: one containing the main Track Upgrade with Road Overbridges; and, the other focussing on the Gwydir Floodplain.

The Track Upgrade and Overbridges are in Delivery Readiness stage. Issued for Construction (**IFC**) drawings have been prepared, and are undergoing refinement. As part of the EIS assessment process, a

Submissions and Preferred Infrastructure Report (**SPiR**) has been issued to Department of Industry and Environment (DPIE) in early December 2019 and has been uploaded onto DPIE website (<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10466>) as well as hard copies issued to relevant authorities for public display until February 2020. Approval of the EIS by both DPIE and DEE is anticipated in July 2020.

Following a rigorous Expression of Interest (**EOI**) process, the Release for Tender (**RfT**) documentation for the Track Upgrade and Overbridges works contract has been released to three shortlisted tenderers in December 2019. The contract is anticipated to be awarded in July 2020.

Early construction related deliveries are ongoing with rail material (rail and sleepers) being delivered to site by train operations. Deliveries of rail materials totalling 408km of steel (including rail, loops and excess) are expected to be completed by the end of Q3 CY20.

A separate EIS is being prepared for the Gwydir Floodplain section of the project, and a State Significant Infrastructure (**SSI**) application is currently being prepared and is anticipated to be submitted to the NSW DPIE in March 2020.

Formal requests for tender for the Gwydir Floodplain works contract is planned to be released to the market in May 2020.

2.8 North Star to NSW/QLD Border

The North Star to NSW/QLD (**NS2B**) Border project remains in Reference Design stage.

The development of a Reference Design to propose engineering solutions for the project is progressing, and anticipated to be completed in February 2020. As part of the same scope of work, the technical studies of the project area are progressing in support of the development of a draft EIS. Formal submission of the draft EIS to the Department of Planning Industry & Environment (DPIE), which will address the publicly available Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (**SEARs**) as set by the NSW DPIE (<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10221>), is anticipated to occur in March 2020.

Formal requests for tender for the mains works contract for this project are planned to be released to the market in November 2020.

2.9 NSW/QLD Border to Gowrie

The NSW/QLD Border to Gowrie (**B2G**) Reference Design stage was completed in December 2019.

The technical studies for the project area have been completed, and a draft EIS which addresses the publicly available Terms of Reference as set by the Queensland Office of the Coordinator-General (**CG**) (<http://www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general/assessments-and-approvals/coordinated-projects/current-projects/inland-rail-border-to-gowrie.html>) has been submitted to the Office of the Coordinator-General for adequacy review in December 2019. It is anticipated that the draft EIS will be placed on public exhibition towards the end of Q1 2020 with approval of the EIS by both the Coordinator-General and Department of Energy & Environment (Cth) anticipated by the end of December 2020.

Formal requests for tender for the mains works contract for this project are planned to be released to the market in October 2020.

2.10 Gowrie to Helidon

The Gowrie to Helidon (**G2H**) project remains in Reference Design stage.

The development of a Reference Design to propose engineering solutions for the project is being finalised and anticipated to be completed in March 2020. As part of the same scope of work, the technical studies of the project area are progressing in support of the development of a draft EIS which will address the publicly available Terms of Reference as set by the Queensland Office of the Coordinator-General (**CG**) (<https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general/assessments-and-approvals/coordinated->

[projects/current-projects/inland-rail-gowrie-to-helidon.html](#)). Formal submission of the draft EIS to the CG for adequacy review is anticipated in March 2020. Approval of the EIS by both the CG and DEE is anticipated in March 2021.

Gowrie to Helidon is one of the three projects being delivered as part of a Public Private Partnership (PPP). The Expression of Interest (EOI) process has concluded, and the Request for Proposals (RfP) documentation is anticipated to be released to shortlisted proponents in June 2020.

2.11 Helidon to Calvert

The Helidon to Calvert (H2C) project remains in Reference Design stage.

The development of a Reference Design to propose engineering solutions for the project is being finalised, and anticipated to be completed in February 2020. The technical studies for the project area have been completed, and a draft EIS which addresses the publicly available Terms of Reference as set by the Queensland Office of the Coordinator-General (CG) (<https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general/assessments-and-approvals/coordinated-projects/current-projects/inland-rail-helidon-to-calvert.html>) has been submitted to the CG for adequacy review in September 2019. Approval of the EIS by both the CG and DEE is anticipated in February 2021.

Helidon to Calvert is one of the three projects being delivered as part of a Public Private Partnership (PPP). The Expression of Interest (EOI) process has concluded, and the Request for Proposals (RfP) documentation is anticipated to be released to shortlisted proponents in June 2020.

2.12 Calvert to Kagaru

The Calvert to Kagaru (C2K) project remains in Reference Design stage.

The development of a Reference Design to propose engineering solutions for the project is being finalised, and anticipated to be completed in February 2020. The technical studies for the project area have been completed, and a draft EIS which addresses the publicly available Terms of Reference as set by the Queensland Office of the Coordinator-General (CG) (<https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general/assessments-and-approvals/coordinated-projects/current-projects/inland-rail-calvert-to-kagaru.html>) has been submitted to the CG for adequacy review in August 2019. Approval of the EIS by both the CG and DEE is anticipated in December 2020.

Calvert to Kagaru is one of the three projects being delivered as part of a Public Private Partnership (PPP). The Expression of Interest (EOI) process has concluded, and the Request for Proposals (RfP) documentation is anticipated to be released to shortlisted proponents in June 2020.

2.13 Kagaru to Acacia Ridge and Bromelton

The Kagaru to Acacia Ridge and Bromelton (K2ARB) project remains in Reference Design stage.

The development of a Reference Design to propose engineering solutions for the project remains underway, and anticipated to be completed in September 2020. As part of the same scope of work, the technical studies of the project area are progressing.

An Initial Advice Statement (IAS) was prepared and submitted to the Queensland Office of the Coordinator General (CG) in February 2019. A decision on Coordinated Project Status from the CG remains pending. Formal submission of a draft EIS to the CG, if required, is anticipated to occur in January 2021. Approval of the EIS, if required, by both the CG and DEE is anticipated in December 2021.

Formal requests for tender for the mains works contract for this project are planned to be released to the market in November 2021.