

APPENDIX

E

Environmental risk assessment

ALBURY TO ILLABO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ARTC

INLAND
RAIL

An Australian Government Initiative

E.1 Purpose

The purpose of this environmental risk assessment was to:

- ▶ identify key potential impacts and risks to be considered in the environmental impact assessment for the Albury to Illabo (A2I) section of the Inland Rail program (the proposal)
- ▶ together with the environmental impact statement (EIS), address the requirement of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (the SEARS) item 3 (c) where, for each key issue identified by the SEARS, the proponent must '*identify, describe and quantify (if possible) the impacts associated with the issue, including the likelihood and consequence (including worst case scenario) of the impact (comprehensive risk assessment), the impacts of concurrent activities within the project and the cumulative impacts (parallel and sequential) with other projects.*'

Through this approach, key potential impacts for each key issue were identified for consideration as part of detailed impact assessments (technical papers) or that may be in addition to those issues specified by the SEARS.

E.2 Environmental risk assessment process

E.2.1 Approach

The environmental risk assessment was undertaken in accordance with the principles of the Australian and New Zealand standard *AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management—Guidelines* (Standards Australia, 2018). The approach involved a preliminary desktop level risk assessment, supported by a workshop.

The steps involved:

- ▶ **Issue scoping**—identifying the scope of key potential issues under consideration with constructing and operating the proposal (refer to section E.2.2)
- ▶ **Defining risk criteria**—defining the criteria to evaluate the significance of any impact/risk identified (refer to section E.2.3)
- ▶ **Impact/risk identification**—describing the potential impacts and risks associated with each issue (refer to section E.2.4)
- ▶ **Risk analysis**—assessing the risk level of each identified impact (pre-mitigation) (refer to section E.2.5).
- ▶ **Risk evaluation**—consideration of the results of the risk analysis and determination whether any additional action is required (refer to section E.2.6).
- ▶ **Risk treatment**—the application of mitigation measures and the determination of a new risk rating (post-mitigation) (refer to section E.2.7).

These steps are explained further in the following sections.

E.2.2 Issue scoping

The first step of the impact assessment process involved identifying key potential environmental issues, impacts and risks that would be subject to detailed assessment as part of the EIS. The SEARS identify the following as key issues for the EIS:

- ▶ transport and traffic
- ▶ heritage
- ▶ social
- ▶ economic and land use
- ▶ noise and vibration
- ▶ biodiversity
- ▶ visual amenity
- ▶ flooding
- ▶ water—hydrology
- ▶ water—quality
- ▶ soils
- ▶ climate change and sustainability.

The SEARS specify the potential impacts to be assessed for each key issue as part of the EIS, including for construction and operation. The SEARS were informed by the scoping report, which was submitted to support the request for SEARS made in April 2020.

E.2.3 Defining risk criteria

The risk criteria for the risk assessment, including how likelihood and consequences (both positive and negative) were defined and measured and how the level of risk was determined, has been based on the ARTC Inland Rail Environmental Assessment Procedure.

The likelihood definitions are provided in Table E-1 and the consequence definitions are provided in Table E-2. The risk assessment matrix for the assignment of the risk level (from low to very high) is provided in Table E-3. The risk assessment matrix presents increasing consequence left to right and decreasing likelihood top to bottom.

TABLE E-1 LIKELIHOOD DEFINITIONS

| Likelihood | Description | Frequency of occurrence | Percentile |
|----------------|--|--|------------|
| Almost certain | Is expected to occur in most circumstances | Once per month | >90% |
| Likely | Will probably occur in most circumstances | Between once a month and once a year | 60–90% |
| Possible | Might occur at some time | Between once a year and once in five years | 30–<60% |
| Unlikely | Could occur at some time | Between once in 5 years and once in 20 years | 10–<30% |
| Rare | May occur in exceptional circumstances | Once in more than 20 years | <10% |

TABLE E-2 CONSEQUENCE DEFINITIONS

| Consequence level | Definition |
|-------------------|---|
| Extreme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Multiple but localised fatalities occur ▶ Widespread long term or permanent environmental damage—remediation required ▶ Prosecution of the company and/or its office holders ▶ More than 5 days track closure ▶ More than 5% of project budget (i.e. more than \$500 million in \$10 billion) ▶ More than 10% of project budget (e.g. more than \$10 million in \$100 million) ▶ Corporate loss of shareholder and/or customer support (tangible business impact greater than 3 years) ▶ Influences schedule more than 10% of program-approved schedule period ▶ Influences schedule more than 20% of project-approved schedule period. |
| Major | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Single fatality occurs ▶ Considerable environmental damage—requiring remediation ▶ Prohibition notice or fine(s) ▶ More than 48 hours to 5 days track closure ▶ More than 1.5% to 5% of project budget (i.e. more than \$150 million to \$500 million in \$10 billion) ▶ More than 2.5% to 10% of project budget (e.g. \$2.5 million to \$10 million in \$100 million) ▶ Strategic intervention required (more than 18 months to 3 years) ▶ Influences schedule more than 5% to 10% of project-approved schedule period ▶ Influences schedule more than 10% to 20% of project-approved schedule period. |
| Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Serious injury occurs ▶ Localised/clustered environmental damage—requiring remediation ▶ Improvement notice or threatened action ▶ More than 24 hours to 48 hours track closure ▶ More than 0.5% to 1.5% of project budget (i.e. more than \$50 million to \$150 million in \$10 billion) ▶ More than 0.5% to 2.5% of project budget (e.g. more than \$500,000 to \$2.5 million in \$100 million) ▶ Tactical (business unit/divisional) intervention required (more than 3 months to 18 months) ▶ Influences schedule more than 2.5% to 5% of project-approved schedule period ▶ Influences schedule more than 5% to 10% of project-approved schedule period. |

| Consequence level | Definition |
|------------------------|--|
| Minor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Lost time injury (LTI) results OR medical treatment required ▶ Isolated environmental damage—minimal ARTC remediation required ▶ Notice to produce information ▶ >6 hours to 24 hours track closure ▶ More than 0.05% to 0.5% of project budget (i.e. more than \$5 million to \$50 million in \$10 billion) ▶ More than 0.1% to 0.5% of project budget (e.g. more than \$100,000 to \$500,000 in \$100 million) ▶ Management intervention required (more than 7 days to 3 months) ▶ Influences schedule more than 1% to 2.5% of project-approved schedule period ▶ Influences schedule more than 2% to 5% of project-approved schedule period. |
| Not significant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ No medical treatment required ▶ Contained environmental damage—fully recoverable (no cost or ARTC action required) ▶ Minimal or no regulatory involvement ▶ Up to 6 hours track closure ▶ Up to 0.05% of project budget (i.e. to \$5 million in \$10 billion) ▶ Up to 0.1% of project budget (e.g. to \$100,000 in \$100 million) ▶ Isolated event able to be resolved (up to 7 days) ▶ Influences schedule up to 1% of project-approved schedule period ▶ Influences schedule up to 2% of project-approved schedule period. |

TABLE E-3 RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

| Likelihood | Consequence | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Not significant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Extreme |
| Almost certain | Medium | Medium | High | Very high | Very high |
| Likely | Low | Medium | High | Very high | Very high |
| Possible | Low | Low | Medium | High | High |
| Unlikely | Low | Low | Low | Medium | Medium |
| Rare | Low | Low | Low | Low | Medium |

E.2.4 Impact and risk identification

For each key issue identified by the SEARS (refer to Section E.2.2) potential impacts and risks were identified based on the requirements of the SEARS, results of the preliminary investigations, previous experience with other Inland Rail projects or similar and professional judgement.

E.2.5 Risk analysis

The risk analysis involved assessing the risk level of each identified potential impact by identifying the likelihood the impact can occur and the consequences of the impact (without mitigation) and is presented in Table E-4.

The likelihood of an impact occurring can be described in terms of probability. Overlaying this is the need to recognise the uncertainty that may be associated with the possible impacts, particularly during the initial risk assessment process. Where there is scientific uncertainty a cautious approach will identify a higher level of risk (worst-case scenario). Each identifiable impact can be assigned likelihood between rare and almost certain (refer to Table E-1). In simplifying the possible impacts for the purpose of a risk assessment, an element of subjectivity is introduced. The purpose of the risk assessment is not necessarily to agree on the probability of any particular impact, but to facilitate an understanding of the relative probability of different impacts.

Consequence is defined as the implication of an impact. The consequences of an impact require a degree of subjective assessment as the likely consequences of an impact may consist of several elements. For this assessment each identifiable impact can be assigned a consequence level between not significant to extreme, depending on elements relating to safety, environment, regulatory, assets, financial, reputational and time-based impacts (refer to Table E-2).

Based on the assessment of likelihood and consequence each foreseeable impact was assigned a risk level based on the matrix presented in Table E-3. This determined the significance of the environmental risk associated with a given impact.

E.2.6 Risk evaluation

Following completion of the risk ratings, risks were evaluated to support decisions regarding the environmental impact assessment.

Very high impacts were considered the highest priority and were the focus of the concept design and environmental impact assessment. In general, the following was applied when scoping requirements for the environmental impact assessment.

- ▶ **Very high impacts**—assessment and planning is necessary to avoid these impacts to the greatest extent possible.
- ▶ **High impacts**—detailed specialist investigation and assessment is necessary to enable identification of appropriate management and mitigation options.
- ▶ **Medium impacts**—further investigation as part of the environmental impact assessment is desirable, to address some uncertainties. Impacts could be mitigated through the application of relatively standard environmental mitigation measures.
- ▶ **Low impacts**—may not require specialist investigations, particularly where identifiable management/mitigation guidelines exist then potentially only broad or desktop investigation is necessary. Impacts could be mitigated through other working controls (such as detailed design requirements, normal working practice, safety and quality controls).

The following key issues were confirmed as key considerations, which required further assessment in the form of specialist studies:

- ▶ transport and traffic
- ▶ non-Aboriginal heritage
- ▶ Aboriginal heritage
- ▶ noise and vibration
- ▶ social
- ▶ economic
- ▶ biodiversity (terrestrial and aquatic)
- ▶ landscape character and visual amenity
- ▶ hydrology, flooding and water quality
- ▶ contaminated land (as part of soils)
- ▶ groundwater.

While the remaining key issues also included impacts, which were assessed high, the impacts are well understood based on previous experience with similar projects, including other Inland Rail projects, and implementation of standard design and management measures would minimise these risks. Therefore, these impacts and risks have been assessed within chapters of the EIS. These chapters include those relating to:

- ▶ land use and property
- ▶ soils
- ▶ air quality
- ▶ hazards
- ▶ waste and resource management
- ▶ climate change risk
- ▶ sustainability.

Further technical work was conducted for sustainability as part of the design process, outside of the EIS.

E.2.7 Risk treatment

Mitigation and management measures were identified to minimise or avoid the key potential impacts identified. The aim of these measures is to protect existing environmental values and sensitive receivers, and to achieve the objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines.

The SEARs also require consideration of how residual impacts would be managed or offset. For the purpose of the EIS, residual impacts are considered to be the impacts of the proposal that may remain in the medium to long term, even after the implementation of the identified mitigation measures. The residual risk rating of the potential impacts identified by the environmental risk assessment was assessed after mitigation and management measures were

applied. The pre-mitigated risk level was compared to the residual risk level to assess the effectiveness of the mitigation and management measures. A residual risk assessment is provided at the end of each of Chapters 9 to 26. This includes a description of the approach to managing significant residual impacts (considered to be those rated medium or above).

TABLE E-4 RISK ASSESSMENT

| Issue (SEARS) | Phase | Proposed revised potential impacts for A2I | Pre-mitigated risk | | |
|--|----------------|---|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk rating |
| Biodiversity | Construction | ▶ Clearing of native vegetation resulting in loss of fauna habitat, habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Direct impacts on listed endangered terrestrial ecological populations and communities | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Impacts on potential habitat for listed threatened fauna species | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Increased impacts from pest plants and animals during construction from movement of vehicles, machinery and materials in and out of site | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Indirect impacts on fauna species due to increased dust, sedimentation, and erosion, noise, light and contamination pollution | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Native fauna mortality from vehicle strikes from construction vehicles | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Potential impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Potential impacts on aquatic ecology and threatened species, including as a result of construction on rail bridges/culverts and the temporary waterway crossing at Uranquinty | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| Biodiversity | Operation | ▶ Increase in injury and mortality of fauna from train strikes | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Impacts to aquatic ecology due to changes in water quality or deterioration to fish passage | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Increase in impacts on fauna from noise, vibration and light during operation | Unlikely | Minor | Low |
| Transport and traffic | Construction | ▶ Impact of construction work on existing rail freight operations outside of scheduled possession windows | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Increase to road use as a result of cumulative infrastructure projects in the vicinity of the proposal | Unlikely | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Potential temporary reduced safety and amenity for traffic, pedestrians and cyclists due to construction activities and due to potential conflicts with construction vehicles | Likely | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Impacts to condition of roads due to construction traffic | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Impacts on access to private properties | Almost certain | Minor | Medium |
| | | ▶ Impacts to emergency services through delays in access due to construction works | Possible | Major | High |
| | | ▶ Increase in parking demand from construction workforce particularly during rail possessions | Almost certain | Minor | Medium |
| ▶ Potential temporary deterioration of traffic performance on surrounding road network to an unacceptable level of service, due to construction vehicles and temporary road or lane closures | Almost certain | Moderate | High | | |

| Issue (SEARS) | Phase | Proposed revised potential impacts for A2I | Pre-mitigated risk | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk rating |
| | | ▶ Reduced pedestrian and cyclist access due diversion associated with road and pedestrian bridges replacements | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Loss of parking due to temporary land requirements or adjustments to on-street parking by construction work | Almost certain | Minor | Medium |
| | | ▶ Impacts to bus routes and services as a result of increased road use and diversions due to road bridge replacement | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| Transport and traffic | Operation | ▶ Greater number of delayed vehicles at level crossings due to more frequent train movements | Almost certain | Minor | Medium |
| Flooding and hydrology | Construction | ▶ Impact to regional or local water supply due to construction water demands. | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Potential temporary impacts on flood-prone areas (e.g. increase in flood risk outside the proposal site) due to new temporary structures, changes to overland flows or displacing flood storage areas | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Potential impacts on construction activities due to flooding | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Changes to flow patterns and altered hydrology due to construction over/in watercourses resulting in significant impact to water quality or hydrological processes | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Sedimentation and changes to geomorphology in watercourses | Possible | Minor | Low |
| Flooding and hydrology | Operation | ▶ Potential impacts on flood-prone areas (e.g. increase in flood risk outside the proposal site) due to new/modified structures or displacing flood storage areas | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Impacts on upstream and downstream drainage due to the modification of built structures such as embankments, culverts and bridges, resulting in water quality impacts (including scour and discharges from lowered track) | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| Water—quality | Construction | ▶ Erosion and sediment transport downstream due to works in watercourses | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Impacts on water quality from contamination from spills and leaks during construction | Unlikely | Major | Medium |
| | | ▶ Lead-based paint flakes entering the waterway during works on the Murray River bridge | Likely | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Potential exposure of acid sulfate soils during construction resulting in off-site discharge of acidic water | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Potential exposure of soil salinity/saline soils/saline groundwater during construction resulting in off-site discharge of saline water resulting in exceedances of water quality trigger levels | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| Water—quality | Operation | ▶ Potential capture of saline groundwater resulting in off-site discharge of saline water resulting in exceedances of water quality trigger levels | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Impacts on water quality from contamination from spills and leaks during maintenance | Unlikely | Major | Medium |
| | | ▶ Impact to surface water quality and receiving environments due to increased runoff from an increase in impervious surfaces | Unlikely | Minor | Low |

| Issue (SEARS) | Phase | Proposed revised potential impacts for A2I | Pre-mitigated risk | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk rating |
| Groundwater | Construction | ▶ Contamination from construction activities, including accidental spills and leaks, impacting groundwater quality | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Degradation of groundwater water quality through changes to groundwater flow paths | Unlikely | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Construction work resulting an increased risk to nearby groundwater bores, groundwater dependent ecosystems and watercourse base flow due to groundwater drawdown and/or changes to quality and quantity | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Changes to soil moisture content causing compression or settlement | Unlikely | Minor | Low |
| Groundwater | Operation | ▶ Changes to recharge due to drainage diversions or increased impervious surfaces | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Contamination of groundwater from maintenance procedures during the operational phase | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| Soils and contamination | Construction | ▶ Disturbance of contaminated soils, and subsequent mobilisation resulting impacts at adjacent receptors | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Disturbance of hazardous materials during construction work, including demolition of buildings and structures, resulting in exposure to workers and other receptors | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Contamination of soils due to spills and leaks | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Exposure of acid sulfate soils and subsequent mobilisation of acidic discharges | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Exposure of saline soils resulting in increased soil salinity | Likely | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Erosion as a result of the disturbance of soils, particularly in soil landscapes characterised by dispersive soils. | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| Soils and contamination | Operation | ▶ Contamination of soils due to spills and leaks from maintenance activities | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Increased risk of erosion during maintenance work | Possible | Not significant | Low |
| | | ▶ Increased risk of contamination of land due to leaks and spills from train operations | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| Non-Aboriginal heritage | Construction | ▶ Potential direct and indirect impacts on listed heritage items and known areas of archaeological potential | Almost certain | Major | Very high |
| | | ▶ Disturbance of unknown heritage items (e.g. archaeological items) during construction | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| Non-Aboriginal heritage | Operation | ▶ Design that detracts from the heritage significance of heritage items | Likely | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Potential permanent direct and indirect impacts on listed heritage items | Almost certain | Major | Very high |
| Aboriginal heritage | Construction | ▶ Impacts on areas predicted to have archaeological potential | Possible | Major | High |
| | | ▶ Impacts on unrecorded Aboriginal sites and/or areas of archaeological sensitivity or cultural value | Unlikely | Major | Medium |
| Aboriginal heritage | Construction/operation | ▶ Potential impacts on known Aboriginal heritage items/sites in the proposal site | Possible | Major | High |
| | | ▶ Indirect impacts to Aboriginal heritage items or Aboriginal places | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |

| Issue (SEARS) | Phase | Proposed revised potential impacts for A2I | Pre-mitigated risk | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk rating |
| Noise and vibration | Construction | ▶ Potential exceedances of airborne noise management levels from construction activities within and outside standard construction hours | Almost certain | Major | Very high |
| | | ▶ Construction traffic or traffic detours resulting in an increase in traffic noise greater than 2 dB | Almost certain | Minor | Medium |
| | | ▶ Potential exceedances of human comfort vibration levels during construction or work within safe working distances to structures | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| Noise and vibration | Operation | ▶ Potential exceedance of airborne noise criteria or ground-borne noise criteria from the increased movement of trains along the existing rail line | Likely | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Potential exceedances of human comfort vibration (amenity) criteria due to the increased movement of trains along the rail line | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Changes to road traffic noise due to changes to road infrastructure that results in an increase greater than 2dB | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Noise impacts from warning signals and horns at level crossings converted from passive to active | Unlikely | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Increased potential for exceedance of noise management levels during maintenance activities | Unlikely | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Damage to structures, including heritage structures close to the proposal site, from vibration caused by the movement of trains along the rail line | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| Land use and property | Construction | ▶ Effects on access to properties as a result of changes to private access roads and internal access arrangements | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Indirect impacts on agricultural land use/production and livestock from construction activities, including impacts from changes to access, noise and air pollution | Likely | Minor | Medium |
| | | ▶ Temporary changes to land use as a result of the proposal's land requirements during construction | Almost certain | Minor | Medium |
| | | ▶ Introduction of biosecurity risks due to the movement and storage of construction machinery and materials, including the spread of weeds and pathogens. | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Effects on exploration licences, such that viability is affected | Unlikely | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Impacts on other infrastructure during construction including utilities | Almost certain | Major | Very high |
| | | ▶ Effects to access to Travelling Stock Reserves and other stock movements | Possible | Minor | Low |
| Land use and property | Operation | ▶ Land permanently acquired for the proposal results in a change to land use in the study area, negatively affecting the availability of land for non-transport related uses | Unlikely | Not significant | Low |

| Issue (SEARS) | Phase | Proposed revised potential impacts for A2I | Pre-mitigated risk | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk rating |
| Economic | Construction | ▶ Property acquisition or termination of existing leases and associated business impacts | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Employment opportunities during construction | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Temporary impacts to access, visibility or amenity of businesses | Likely | Minor | Medium |
| Economic | Operation | ▶ Potential alterations to access, connectivity, visibility and amenity of business premises during operation | Possible | Minor | Low |
| Social | Construction | ▶ Potential temporary changes to the way of life for residents close to the enhancement sites | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Temporary impacts on amenity for residents, visitors, businesses and other sensitive receivers, as a result of noise, dust, air and visual impacts during construction | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Temporary impacts to, or temporary loss of, community facilities/open space due to construction activities and/or changes to access during construction | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Increased demand for access to community facilities, services and networks such as sport and recreation, health and emergency services during the construction of the proposal | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Pressure on housing and short-term accommodation market for construction workforce | Likely | Major | Very high |
| | | ▶ Changes to connectivity and access in and around the proposal site | Likely | Moderate | High |
| Social | Operation | ▶ Impacts on amenity for residents, visitors, businesses and other sensitive receivers as a result of increased use of the freight line | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Changes to connectivity and access around the proposal site | Possible | Minor | Low |
| Landscape and visual amenity | Construction | ▶ Temporary light spill due to out-of-hours work during construction | Likely | Minor | Medium |
| | | ▶ Adverse temporary impacts (visual and landscape) due to construction work in the vicinity of sensitive receivers | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| Landscape and visual amenity | Operation | ▶ Visual impact of operational lighting at night-time | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Potential changes (potentially positive and negative) to visual setting and landscape character due to the replacement of key bridge infrastructure and other visible key rail infrastructure | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Potential changes to the visual setting and landscape character due to the introduction of double-stacked and longer trains along an existing rail corridor | Likely | Minor | Medium |
| Waste and resource use | Construction | ▶ Generation of excess spoil that cannot be reused on site (unsuitable for reuse or insufficient space) and needs to be disposed of | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Inappropriate management of waste generated during construction | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| | | ▶ Increased resource demand on local and regional resources resulting in a resource becoming in short supply | Likely | Minor | Medium |

| Issue (SEARS) | Phase | Proposed revised potential impacts for A2I | Pre-mitigated risk | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk rating |
| Waste and resource use | Operation | ▶ Inappropriate management of waste generated during maintenance | Unlikely | Moderate | Low |
| Climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas | Construction | ▶ Emissions of greenhouse gases during construction from embodied energy in materials, or emissions from construction plant and vehicles | Almost Certain | Minor | Medium |
| Climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas | Operation | ▶ Impact of climate change on rail operations and infrastructure, including increased rainfall/ flooding and severe heat events and droughts | Likely | Major | Very high |
| Air quality | Construction | ▶ Potential temporary impacts to local air quality due to emissions from vehicles or plant during construction, and the increase in vehicle movements during construction | Likely | Minor | Medium |
| | | ▶ Potential temporary impacts on local air quality due to dust generation (from exposed soil/stockpiles, excavation and vehicle movements) | Likely | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Odours/emissions from disturbance of contaminated soils or other sources such as asphalt laying during road modification works | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Potential air quality impacts due to fugitive emissions (e.g. VOCs) from fuel/chemicals storage and handling | Possible | Minor | Low |
| Air quality | Operation | ▶ Increase in impacts on local air quality during operation from train emissions including idling trains | Possible | Minor | Low |
| | | ▶ Temporary impacts during maintenance works due to emissions from vehicles or plant and generation of dust | Possible | Minor | Low |
| Hazards | Construction | ▶ Potential risks to construction by bushfire, or bushfire risks due to construction activity in bushfire prone areas | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ On-site handling, management and transport of contaminated soil and hazardous wastes (including asbestos) | Almost certain | Moderate | High |
| | | ▶ Impacts to emergency services due to road network delays or access restrictions caused by temporary changes to the road network | Possible | Major | High |
| | | ▶ Potential incidents associated with transport and storage of hazardous substances and dangerous goods during construction | Possible | Moderate | Medium |
| | | ▶ Potential impacts to utilities causing significant disruption to services | Possible | Major | High |
| Hazards | Operation | ▶ Increased rail accidents caused by increased rail movements (including road–rail interfaces) | Unlikely | Extreme | Medium |
| | | ▶ Potential risks of bushfire to the operation of the proposal | Unlikely | Extreme | Medium |
| Cumulative | Construction | ▶ Potential temporary construction cumulative impacts with other major projects | Likely | Moderate | High |
| Cumulative | Operation | ▶ Potential operational cumulative impacts with other major projects | Possible | Minor | Low |