Inland Rail: Overcoming Boundaries While Creating New Ones

Mark Pierce
Inland Rail
mpierce@inlandrail.com.au

ABSTRACT

Inland Rail is building a 1,600-kilometre freight rail network which will connect Melbourne to Brisbane via regional areas across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. The project involves upgrading approximately 1,000 km of existing track and constructing around 600 km of new track while maintaining current rail operations. The survey team, headed by author, has a program-wide service function within Inland Rail and plays a vital governance role across the program. The team supports individual project teams throughout the planning, design, construction and handover phases. This presentation highlights the critical role surveying plays in the Inland Rail program. It explores how the linear scale and extended duration of the project have introduced unique complexities from a surveying perspective, showcasing the technical excellence required and the contribution of the broader spatial community to the program. A key priority for the program is securing the Inland Rail corridor, including its cadastral boundaries. This presentation explains how the survey team tackled challenges, overcame boundaries and navigated the complexities of such a large-scale undertaking. It discusses how the surveying scope and property boundary intricacies were managed, delivering accurate, valuable and cost-effective spatial data. This data not only supported construction but will also provide long-term value beyond the build. The presentation provides insights into the boundaries the Inland Rail survey team has overcome and the opportunities that have made this work a rewarding experience.

KEYWORDS: *Boundaries, cadastral surveying, corridor, rail, construction.*