

Environment and sustainability fact sheet

The Wave (Rail)

The Wave (Rail) project is now working to obtain environmental approvals.

The assessment and approval process is set out by the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Wave (Rail) project, between Beerwah and Birtinya, was referred under the EPBC Act in September 2024. The project was referred when it was known as the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line and, as such, this name is used in the referral materials available online and will likely continue to be used by Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The outcome of the referral (referral number 2024/09972) was a controlled action decision, with the project to be assessed by Public Environment Report (PER).

Other state approvals will be progressed as the project design and assessment matures.

For more information about the EPBC Act referral and assessment process, please visit the DCCEEW website at www.dcceew.gov.au.

What is included in the assessment?

The environmental assessment will consider all aspects of the project including the railway, bridges and viaducts, stations, car parks and access roads, rail tunnel, stabling areas, power and signalling infrastructure.

TMR will also assess active transport infrastructure, road realignments, and environmental treatments such as noise barriers, fauna fencing and fauna infrastructure.

What investigations are occurring?

The Wave (Rail) project requires a range of investigations and surveys to support design and environmental assessment. These include:

- protected flora and fauna and ecological communities
- fauna habitat and movement corridors



- wetlands, waterways, floodplains and groundwater
- areas of soft soils, former landfill sites and acid sulfate soils
- noise and vibration.

Sustainability

The transport sector is projected to be the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Australia by 2030.

The Queensland Government has recently legislated renewable energy generation targets and net zero 2050 emissions targets. Moving more people on electric rail services, which can use electricity from renewable sources, will move us closer to Queensland and Australia's net zero 2050 targets.

The Wave (Rail) project will be assessed under the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC) ratings scheme version 2.1 for both design and as-built phases of construction.

Visit the ISC website at www.iscouncil.org for more information about the ISC rating scheme.

More information

Stay up to date with the latest information about The Wave (Rail) or sign up to receive updates when the detailed design is available.

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All information contained in this communication is accurate at the time of distribution.