

FASTER RAIL PROSPECTUS – PROPOSAL FACT SHEET

NORTH COAST CONNECT – BRISBANE TO MORETON BAY AND THE SUNSHINE COAST

The North Coast Connect Consortium will explore upgrades to the rail connection between Brisbane and Nambour as well as a new rail spur to Maroochydore. This new and upgraded infrastructure would facilitate higher speed passenger rail services between Brisbane and the regions of Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast.

Travel times could be reduced from approximately 2 hours to 45 minutes between Nambour and Brisbane and the trip between Brisbane and Maroochydore is also expected to take 45 minutes.

The business case undertaken by the North Coast Connect Consortium would assess three stages of work covering corridors between Brisbane, Nambour and Maroochydore:

Stage 1a – involves an upgrade of 64.5km of the North Coast Line from Brisbane to Beerburum through curve easing, level crossings removal and systems upgrade.

Stage 1b – involves an upgrade of 40km of the North Coast Line from Beerburum to Nambour through curve easing, level crossings removal and systems upgrade. This work would include duplication of the North Coast Line which is part of a Queensland Government proposal currently subject to an Infrastructure Australia assessment. The Australian Government would require the North Coast Connect Consortium take into account the Queensland Government's proposal.

Stage 2 – involves a new passenger rail service comprising a spur line with 40km of new track from Beerwah to Maroochydore, and include several new stations.

Benefits

-  Improve travel time reliability (from 2 hours to 45 minutes) and increase capacity.
-  Increase comfort and amenity at stations and on new trains capable of reaching speeds in excess of 160km/hr, with new stations created on the Beerwah to Maroochydore line.
-  Maximise safety for the travelling public on both rail and road including the Bruce Highway.
-  Minimise the impact of transport on the environment.
-  Revitalise the historic railway towns like Nambour.
-  Improve connectivity to the surrounding region through integrating public transport services with improved rail services.
-  Unlock housing supply and job growth between Brisbane and the regions of Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast; the third most populated region and the fastest growing region in Australia.

Estimated business case cost

The Australian Government has committed \$20 million in funding to develop faster rail business cases. The North Coast Connect proposal is one of three successful proposals that will receive a funding contribution from the Australian Government.

The Australian Government funding contribution to the North Coast Connect proposal is up to \$6,500,000. However, it should be noted that financial support for the development of a business case does not indicate Australian Government support for delivery of a construction project.

Timeframes

Business cases are expected to be delivered to the Australian Government by mid-2019. The business case will need to demonstrate faster rail travel times through new infrastructure or upgrades to existing rail infrastructure.

Completed business cases will be considered in the context of the Australian Government's wider infrastructure priorities and future Budgets, and any future funding commitments will take into account state and private sector financial support.