

Executive Summary

The Bundaberg Port Rail Link Study identified a rail corridor for the possible future construction of a rail link to transport freight from the North Coast Line to the Port of Bundaberg.

There is no current economic justification for constructing a rail link and there is therefore no intention to preserve the corridor in local government planning schemes.

This report is the culmination of technical work conducted to date and documents the process undertaken, and the outcomes of, the identification of the rail corridor.

The route selection process has been conducted using a multi criteria assessment framework. The multi criteria process adopted resulted in a balanced, transparent and traceable approach that considered environmental, social, physical and built environment criteria.

Some consideration was given to the potential methods for crossing the Burnett River, which helped to inform the corridor selection process. Identification of the preferred cross river route and/or port handling operation will be conducted as and when a detailed analysis is required.

The type of freight that may be exported from the port in the future is uncertain. Hence a detailed analysis of all possible options at the 'port end' of the corridor will be required, if and when a rail link to the port is deemed to be economically viable. This study adopted a concept of a balloon loop at the port end of the spur rail line to enable the use of existing port land on the north bank of the river for future port operations.

The outcome of the route selection process was the identification of a rail corridor connecting the North Coast railway line, to land owned by the Port of Bundaberg on the north bank of the Burnett River. Some works to modify the existing road, cane and waterway infrastructure would be necessitated should the rail link be implemented. With these modifications actioned there would be no significant effect on existing traffic flow.

Indicative cost estimates for construction of the rail link are provided.