

## **Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee Chair's summary**

The first meeting of the Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the committee) was held in Pittsworth on Thursday, 14 December 2017.

The Chair's summary provides an overview of the committee meeting and ensures that information is shared with the community at the earliest opportunity. The summary is a precursor to the formal meeting record, the Committee Meeting Minutes, which will be published on the website following preparation and endorsement by the committee Chair and members.

The meeting was chaired by Professor Steve Raine and attended by 12 of the 16 local community representatives appointed as members of the committee. The other four members had tendered their apologies.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish a strong sense of direction for the committee going forward, particularly with respect to:

- Understanding the range of interests and views across the Committee
- Ratifying the Interim Charter for the committee
- Driving good project outcomes based on two-way communication between ARTC and the community.

Members engaged actively and respectfully in discussions which spanned issues such as the construction and operation of rail on the Condamine Floodplain, property access, severance and potential devaluation of land, engagement processes and impacts of the construction and operation phases on local communities, businesses and schools.

Members expressed their desire for ongoing updates regarding key project milestones and early clarity as to whether properties will be impacted or not.

The Interim Charter was ratified with two proposed additions:

1. Under Scope, the word 'negotiable' was removed, to amend to "The Committee will discuss and provide comment or feedback on aspects of the Project" – to enable the committee to discuss all aspects of the project, rather than limiting discussion to only aspects that are considered negotiable.
2. Under Operating Principles of Committee members, the words "without taking responsibility from ARTC" were added, to indicate it remains ARTC's responsibility to disseminate project information to the community, rather than this being the responsibility of the committee.
3. Addition of a clause to enable ARTC and the Chair to identify and invite individuals who have significant understanding of the local area or specialist knowledge to attend committee meetings from time to time, as relevant, and actively contribute to those meetings.
4. Addition of a clause to enable the committee to review the Charter every 12 months.

The breadth of issues raised in the first meeting demonstrated a valuable cross-section of views on the committee. It is the intent of the Chair and the committee to work through key issues in each meeting. ARTC will provide up-to-date project information about these issues, allowing for a dynamic flow of information back into the community through committee members and ARTC's community engagement framework.

Minutes of the meeting will be made available on the ARTC website in January 2018. The members determined that the next meeting should be scheduled to align with the release of the Draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement as anticipated in early 2018.

**Prof Steve Raine**

Chair

Inland Rail Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee

21 December 2017