



# INLAND RAIL INNER DARLING DOWNS COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE



Prof Steve Raine

## CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The second meeting of the Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the committee) was held in Pittsworth on Tuesday, 6 March 2018.

This summary provides an overview of the meeting in order to share information with the community at the earliest opportunity. The summary is a precursor to the meeting minutes, which will be published on the website following endorsement by the committee.

The meeting was attended by 12 of the 16 members of the committee. All other members had tendered their apologies.

The meeting was provided with an update on the Inland Rail NSW/QLD Border to Gowrie (B2G) project, particularly in relation to:

- ▶ the Condamine floodplain study
- ▶ the environmental planning and approvals process.

ARTC has recently engaged consultants to carry out the priority works on finding design solutions to crossing the Condamine floodplain. The consultants are in the process of preparing management plans. Whilst they are still developing the detailed methodology, they were able to confirm that they will be engaging directly with landowners on the Condamine floodplain to gather anecdotal evidence to supplement their technical studies and input to their detailed model. ARTC is working towards presenting an initial solution for the Condamine floodplain for community consultation in mid-2018.

ARTC advised it had submitted an application to the Queensland Office of the Coordinator-General, including an Initial Advice Statement (IAS), requesting that the B2G project be declared a 'coordinated project'.

If the project is declared, the Coordinator-General will issue draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public comment. The timing of a declaration and release of the draft Terms of Reference is determined by the Coordinator-General, but ARTC anticipates that, if declared, indicative timing may include a project declaration in late March and the draft Terms of Reference in mid-2018.

ARTC has also electronically lodged the Referral for the project for consideration under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy (DEE).

Committee members were very interested in the timing of activities and upcoming consultation. ARTC expects to have more detail available about the program of works over the coming weeks and is aiming to share an indicative program with the committee prior to Easter.

Committee members engaged respectfully and provided ARTC with ideas on how to communicate effectively, recognising the demographics of the region and emphasising the importance of adequate notice for engagement activities. Other issues raised included local procurement and the need for vehicles travelling between properties to implement strong biosecurity measures to avoid weed spread across the region.

Minutes of the meeting will be made available on the ARTC website in March 2018.

The committee members resolved that an extraordinary meeting to focus on the Condamine floodplain study methodology will be held on 10 April 2018. This meeting will now be a joint meeting with the Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee. It will be advertised in advance.

Prof Steve Raine  
Chair  
Inland Rail Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee  
13 March 2018

Interested community members are welcome to attend committee meetings as observers. The next Inner Darling Downs committee meeting will be combined with the Southern Darling Downs committee and is scheduled to occur on Tuesday 10 April 2018, with details to be advertised prior to the date. For more information please contact the Inland Rail Community Engagement team.

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