



Mr Graham Clapham

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The third meeting of the Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the committee) was held in Yelarbon on 5 September 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 formal meeting minutes, which will be published on the Inland Rail website following endorsement by the committee.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Graham Clapham and attended by 10 of the 15 local community representatives appointed as members of the committee. Four other members had tendered their apologies. The meeting was observed by 13 community members.

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

- ▶ design development
- ▶ environmental field studies and geotechnical investigations
- ▶ the Condamine floodplain study and
- ▶ the environmental planning and approvals process.

ARTC advised that the B2G project team had been meeting with government agencies and local councils to ensure the design supports existing and future infrastructure projects and carrying out technical investigations and community engagement to inform the development of the design and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

ARTC advised that the Terms of Reference for the EIS had not yet been finalised by the Coordinator-General, however, were anticipated shortly.

There was discussion around field investigations. Members suggested the contractors' vehicles could be branded so they were easily identifiable by members of the public. ARTC responded that it was working towards this.

Members also commented that traffic counters had recently been installed on local roads. Following the meeting, ARTC confirmed these traffic counters were for the B2G project.

ARTC stated that investigations and design development were ongoing and advised that engagement with key stakeholders and potentially affected landowners is expected to commence in the coming weeks. A committee member asked whether ARTC was considering alignments outside of the two-kilometre study area. ARTC responded that it was focussed on finding an alignment within the study area and any alignment outside of the study area would be subject to discussions with the Coordinator-General.

ARTC provided an update on the development of the Condamine floodplain crossing solution. The team has engaged directly with landowners on the Condamine floodplain to gather anecdotal evidence to supplement their technical studies and input to validate the hydrology model. The development of the crossing solution is continuing. ARTC is working towards presenting and discussing the different design options with the directly affected landowners in October 2018. Committee members requested information on the location of the flood markers surveyed and ARTC undertook to investigate if this information could be shared. Members asked if the Macintyre River was being assessed in a similar matter and ARTC confirmed it was.

The Chair advised that as an action arising from the inaugural committee meeting, he was working with ARTC to appoint an independent technical expert to provide a review of the development of the Condamine floodplain crossing solution and other hydrology work.

The Chair also advised that he had learned of Federal funding available to individuals and organisations to undertake economic research into how they might benefit from the Inland Rail Programme. Queensland Farmers Federation is making enquiries into whether the funding programme is still operating, and how access might be made. The Chair will forward details to the committee when it becomes available.

The members agreed that the next meeting would be held in late October to coincide with the release of the initial solution for crossing the Condamine floodplain.

Mr Graham Clapham

Chair – Inland Rail Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee

10 September 2018

For more information please contact the Inland Rail Community Engagement team.