



Australian Government

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INLAND RAIL SOUTHERN DARLING DOWNS COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE



Mr Graham Clapham

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The second meeting of the Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the committee) was held in Millmerran on 7 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 formal meeting minutes, which will be published on the Inland Rail website following endorsement by the committee.

The meeting was attended by 13 of the 15 members of the committee, with two committee members having 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 for crossing the Condamine floodplain. The consultant team is in the process of preparing management plans and developing its detailed methodology ahead of engaging directly with landowners on the Condamine floodplain to gather anecdotal evidence to supplement their technical studies and input to the detailed model. ARTC invited committee members and meeting observers to contact the Inland Rail Community Engagement Team if they wished to discuss specific flood behaviour at their respective properties. An initial solution for the Condamine floodplain is expected to be released for community consultation mid-year.

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'.

Interested community members are welcome to attend committee meetings as observers. The next Southern Darling Downs committee meeting will be combined with the Inner 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.

Phone: 1800 732 761
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If the project is declared, the Coordinator-General will issue draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public comment. The timing of a declaration and release of the draft ToR 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 ToR mid-year.

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 requested information about the timing of project milestones and opportunities for community involvement. ARTC has committed to providing an indicative program before Easter.

There was discussion around the alignment of the project through the Brookstead area and the competing interests of different sectors of the community. Committee members undertook to have conversations in the community to understand people's views.

Committee members asked if the budget for the project was sufficient to enable ARTC to meet community expectations around minimising project impacts. ARTC advised that there wasn't a 'budget' as such for the project, with costs for construction determined by the tender, which will take into account approval conditions. As part of an EIS process, the Queensland Coordinator-General would assess potential impacts and set conditions of approval to ensure that impacts are appropriately managed.

Committee members agreed that an extraordinary meeting, to focus on the Condamine floodplain study methodology, will be held in conjunction with the Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee on 10 April 2018.

The date of the next ordinary meeting will be scheduled to coincide with the release of the draft ToR for the project and will be held in Yelarbon. Both meetings will be advertised in advance.

Mr Graham Clapham
Chair
Inland Rail Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee
13 March 2018