

# SOUTHERN DARLING DOWNS COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S SUMMARY

# INLAND RAIL

The eighth meeting of the Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee was held at Millmerran Cultural Centre on 11 December 2019.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Graham Clapham and attended by 10 of the 14 Southern Darling Downs committee members. Three members tendered their apologies. The meeting was observed by 11 community members.

ARTC advised the two-year tenure of the four initial Queensland community consultative committees had concluded and it was seeking to renew membership. ARTC thanked committee members for their contributions. The call for nominations is being advertised and is open until 31 January 2020. Current committee members are encouraged to apply. Further details are available on the Inland Rail website. The Chair advised ARTC had offered to renew his position and he intended to accept.

ARTC presented a fly through visualisation of the reference design from Kurumbul to Millmerran, noting the design may change as a result of government approvals and detailed design.

ARTC advised it planned to submit the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the Coordinator-General for review in December 2019. Following this, the draft EIS will be open for

public submissions for a minimum of four weeks. The Chair accepted an action to request the Coordinator-General to extend the public submission period to six weeks.

ARTC advised the EIS submission process would be run by the Coordinator-General, but ARTC would support this by hosting static displays and community information sessions in key towns in the project area, developing an EIS summary document, and distributing communication such as a newsletter and website update.

ARTC provided a response to the presentation shared by the Central Irrigators Group at the last meeting and provided examples of where the model validated well against the 2011 flood. ARTC advised that as the hydrologist was not at the meeting, further questions on hydrology needed to be submitted in writing.

The Chair accepted an action to seek further information on the independent panel of experts being established to review Inland Rail's proposed floodplain crossings, as outlined in the intergovernmental agreement.

ARTC advised it was seeking to encourage Indigenous and local participation on the project and presented on how businesses could benefit from Inland Rail.

Members asked questions about why construction camps were being proposed outside of towns as this would limit opportunity for local businesses to benefit. ARTC responded that the location of the camps was subject to Coordinator-General approval and was ultimately the decision of the contractor appointed to construct the project.

ARTC presented an overview of the property acquisition process and how compensation is determined. For further information, members were referred to the Queensland Land Acquisition fact sheet. This is also available on the Inland Rail website.

The Chair welcomed questions from observers. One observer asked whether the community would be notified when the EIS was submitted to the Coordinator-General for review. ARTC advised the process may take some time and the community would be notified when the EIS was released for public comment.

Mr Graham Clapham  
**Chair, Southern Darling Downs  
Community Consultative Committee**  
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📞 1800 732 761

✉ inlandrailqld@artc.com.au

📍 ARTC Inland Rail, GPO Box 2462, Brisbane Qld 4001

inlandrail.com.au



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# ARTC