

BENALLA WORKING GROUP MEETING

The latest Benalla Working Group meeting was held on Monday 3 May 2021. It was attended by 11 of the 12 local community representatives, including Benalla Rural City councillors Cr. Justin King and Cr. Gail O'Brien.

The purpose of the meeting was to update members on the Urban Design Framework (UDF) and Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA), and to continue discussions on the scope of the Inland Rail Project for the Benalla station precinct.

The group has worked collaboratively with ARTC (and the UDF consultants) over the last few meetings to develop the design objectives for the Benalla station precinct. The objectives were endorsed by the group at this meeting, and will be used by ARTC and the group to evaluate the design options for the project going forward. The design objectives include:

- ▶ The station is visually and physically connected to Carrier Street and the Benalla town centre
- ▶ Safety and accessibility for pedestrians with provision for car parking and bus stops for all abilities
- ▶ A station precinct that has removed, minimised and mitigated the visual impacts of the bridge to Mackellar Street and adjacent properties
- ▶ A station precinct that increases the prominence of the existing heritage buildings
- ▶ A precinct that is ready for future growth and investment
- ▶ A station precinct that strengthens the landscape character of Benalla.

ARTC provided an update on the PSA process outlining:

- ▶ The purpose of a Planning Scheme in setting out the direction, policies and requirements for the use and development of land
- ▶ The statutory process that determines the way ARTC can use and develop the land needed to construct Inland Rail in Victoria
- ▶ The documentation supporting the PSA is being voluntarily exhibited until 17 May 2021 and is open to submissions from anyone during this period.

ARTC's Project Director Dinesh Batra provided an update on the scope of the Inland Rail project for Benalla. He also explained the process for developing the business case for the project including the need to explore and consider the following options for Benalla:

- ▶ Bridge replacement
- ▶ Track realignment.

The Benalla Working group will consider these options in more detail at the next meeting in June 2021. The working group expressed a particular interest in exploring how the safety, accessibility (for pedestrians, cars and buses), and car parking requirements would be handled in each option.

To learn more about Inland Rail in Benalla, the Benalla Working Group and to read the minutes of previous meetings, visit inlandrail.artc.com.au/bwg

Independent Chair Cath Botta
[Benalla Working Group](#)

Contact us at [@victoriaprojects@artc.com.au](https://twitter.com/victoriaprojects) 📞 1800 732 761 🌐 artc.com.au/t2a or drop into 50 Nunn Street on Mondays and Thursdays from **10am to 3pm**. We are actively implementing social distancing procedures and adhering to other restrictions, in line with Victorian guidelines.

The Australian Government is delivering Inland Rail through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), in partnership with the private sector.