

# Chairs' Summary

## Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee and Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee

A joint meeting of the Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee and Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the Committees) was held online and in person on **18 November 2021** at Millmerran.

This summary provides an overview of the meeting and ensures information is shared with the community at the earliest opportunity. It is a precursor to the formal meeting record, the meeting minutes, which will be published on the Inland Rail website following preparation and endorsement by the Committees and Chairs.

The meeting was co-chaired by Bill Armagnacq and Graham Clapham, and 14 of 27 Committee members attended in person and online. Representatives from federal and local government agencies, and 11 community members observed the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the Border to Gowrie draft flood report released by the Independent International Panel of Experts for Flood Studies in Queensland (the Panel) earlier this year, which can be found here: [tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/inland-rail/independent-panel-of-experts-for-flood-studies-in-queensland](https://tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/inland-rail/independent-panel-of-experts-for-flood-studies-in-queensland)

Panel members Martin Giles, Tina O'Connell and Steve Clark presented an update to the Committees on the Panel's works since their last meeting with the Committees. The Panel noted that:

- + it is working with ARTC's flood modelling team to address the issues identified in the Panel's draft reports
- + ARTC has accepted the Panel's draft recommendation that quantitative Flood Impact Objectives (FIO) be applied to further assess flood risk and impacts and inform the revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and future design stages of the project
- + it is continuing to receive and review technical responses to identified issues – majority of issues have been addressed and the Panel has been advised the remainder are currently being addressed
- + following the Panel's meeting with landowners, it will review the Condamine and Back Creek models to determine whether these models adequately reflect past flood events
- + on advice from the Panel, ARTC to undertake an early geomorphological risk-based assessment of waterways and drainage lines at risk of erosion to inform design of cross drainage and waterway structures, including scour mitigation measures

- + public submissions to the Panel will be reviewed
- + relevant flood-related submissions to the draft EIS will be reviewed by the Panel.

The Panel's final report will be presented to the Australian and Queensland governments for consideration and release. It will include: advice to governments on whether the individual models are fit for purpose to take into detailed design; FIOs to assess and identify flood impacts, if they arise in the detailed design, and which may require mitigation; issues which cannot be practically addressed at this stage of the design process; and recommendations on matters for consideration by government in relation to the evaluation of each Queensland project.

The Committees received a brief update on the project's EIS, site investigations, one-on-one property acquisition meetings, preferred proponent announcement and social performance initiatives. The Committees also raised concerns relating to land access. The dates of the next Committee meetings are yet to be determined.

**Mr Bill Armagnacq and Mr Graham Clapham, Chairs, Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee and Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee**