

Meeting minutes

Southern Darling Downs Consultative Committee Meeting

Date / Time

1 March 2023
6.00pm to 8.00pm

Location

Inglewood Civic Centre, Inglewood

Facilitators

Graham Clapham, Southern
Darling Downs CCC (GC)

Minute taker

Mieke Koorts (MK)

Distribution

All

Attendees (Show organisation if not ARTC)

Southern Darling Downs Committee

- Mr Robert Barrett (RB)
- Ms Maria Oliver (MO)
- Ms Georgina Krieg (GK)
- Ms Rosalie Millar (RM)
- Mr Robert Webb (RW)
- Mr Rick McDougall (RMc)
- Mr Jeffrey Chandler (JC)
- Mr Andrew McCartney (AMc)

Apologies (Show organisation if not ARTC)

- Mr James Lister, Member for Southern Downs
- Mr Garth Hamilton, MP, Federal Member for Groom
- Mr Justin Saunders

Guests

- Mr Warren Crowther, Program Manager BHQ JV (WC)
- Ms Melanie Richardson, Engagement, BHQ JV (MR)
- Ms Dianne Loughnan, Inland Rail Regional Liaison Officer, Department of Transport, Regional Development and Communications and the Arts (DL)

ARTC Inland Rail

- Mr Ed Matthews – Delivery Director Northern (EM)
- Mr David Isbister – Senior Project Manager (DI)
- Ms Majella Doyle – Manager Stakeholder Engagement B2G & K2ARB (MD)
- Mr Adam Barber – Delivery Director Central (AB)
- Ms Naomi Tonscheck – Stakeholder Engagement Manager Central (NT)
- Ms Jacqui Neill - Senior Government Affairs Advisor (JN)
- Ms Amy Stewart - Social Performance Advisor (AS)
- Mr Scott Cobine - Stakeholder Engagement Lead (SC)
- Ms Katie Unipan - Stakeholder Engagement Lead (KU)
- Ms Mieke Koorts – Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (MK)

Members of the public

Three members of the public were in attendance.

Discussions

NO.	ACTIONS
1	<p>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ SC delivered an acknowledgement of Country. ▶ Inland Rail acknowledges the Traditional custodians of the land on which we work and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. ▶ GC welcomed the committee and thanked committee members, guests, and observers for their attendance. ▶ GC explained that during the meeting, committee members can ask questions throughout the proceedings whilst observers can ask questions at the end of the meeting. ▶ GC stated that the minutes from the previous meeting had been circulated to the Committee and were available on the Inland Rail website. ▶ GC asked if there were any conflict of interests that need to be declared to the Committee. ▶ GC introduced himself and declared a conflict of interest with regards to a current land access agreement. ▶ GC acknowledged the renewal of the CCC members term and asked the members to introduce themselves and their reasons for being on the committee. ▶ GC introduced himself and acknowledged his support for the Inland Rail project, and said he was an advocate for is local community and those people impacted by the project. ▶ AMc introduced himself and explained he is from a Company called Southern Queensland Landscapes a not-for-profit community group. The group does not have a position on the project, but a role in ensuring decision making by the Project is evidence based on the best science available. AMc declared no conflict of interests. ▶ RMc introduced himself as a local resident, and former Councillor on the Goondiwindi Regional Council. He saw Inland Rail as an important project benefitting the nation for decades to come, however it brought with it positives and negatives for communities. RMc sees his role on the committee was to maximise the positives and minimise the negatives. RMc declared no conflict of interest. ▶ RW introduced himself as the representative of the Goondiwindi Chamber of Commerce. The chamber has approximately 130 member businesses. The members want to be involved in the project and are mostly in favour of it. Generally members are beginning to get disheartened as they continually hear the project is coming, but there is nothing happening on the ground. RW declared no conflict of interest. ▶ RB introduced himself as a resident of Yelarbon, a former employee of Queensland Rail, and representative of the Yelarbon Community Consultative Committee. RB reports back to the Yelarbon CCC on the outcomes of the SDD CCC meetings. RB declared no conflict of interest. ▶ JC introduced himself and explained they previously owned the property at Canning Creek which has been sold the ARTC as an environmental offset property. JC sees his role as passing on information to local stakeholders and refering them to information sources about the Inland Rail project. JC declared no conflict of interest. ▶ RM introduced herself as a property owner at Bringalily for the past three generations. RM has been on the committee since its inception and sees her role as providing information to local landowners whether they are affected by the project or not. RM is also participating in the committee to ensure transparency in the process and presents to local meetings on the positives and negatives of the project. RM declared no conflict of interest. ▶ GK introduced herself and explained her family's history in farming four kilometres north of Brookstead. GK has a background in Agronomy and has an interest in ensuring people can continue farming operations and business they have without the hinderance of Inland Rail. GK sees her role on the committee as ensuring the values of her community are upheld and heard. She noted that she did have a concern that the committee is a tick-the-box committee as she has had a lot of instances where landowners are provided with more information than what is shared with the committee. GK declared no conflict of interest.

<p>2</p>	<p>ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Chair noted the actions from the previous minutes and provided the following responses: <table border="1" data-bbox="304 443 1422 719"> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 443 395 533">1</td> <td data-bbox="395 443 1177 533">Invitation to be extended to Jason Manttan to present on the ICN (Industry Capability Network) Gateway and business opportunities on Inland Rail.</td> <td data-bbox="1177 443 1422 533">Closed</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 533 395 622">2</td> <td data-bbox="395 533 1177 622">Phoebe to provide additional information about regional groundwater data in response to a question from KL about potential impacts to boreholes.</td> <td data-bbox="1177 533 1422 622">Closed</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 622 395 719">3</td> <td data-bbox="395 622 1177 719">Question on notice for Hydrology about Turallin Road/Pine Creek area. (Does the modelling undertaken include the areas of Turallin Road, down towards the Pine Creek area.</td> <td data-bbox="1177 622 1422 719">Closed</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ GC noted in response to Action Item 1, a team member from the Social Performance team will present on this item today. ▶ GC noted in response to Action Item 2, State databases have been searched (the DRDMW (Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water) Groundwater Database) for all registered bores within the project region to give representative long-term groundwater level records dating back 25-30 years. This regional database information has been supplemented with data from groundwater bores drilled at the project site. This information will be presented in the revised draft EIS Groundwater Chapter. ▶ GC noted in response to Action Item 3, yes, the flood modelling includes Turallin Road and Pine Creek. This will be presented in the updated EIS reporting – it includes information on the catchment hydrology, hydraulic modelling, flood mapping, and discussion of the modelling findings. ▶ GC confirmed that concludes the outstanding action items from the previous meeting. ▶ GC suggested CCC's introduce themselves. ▶ All CCC members introduced themselves. ▶ GC asked all attendees to keep questions concise and to the point. 	1	Invitation to be extended to Jason Manttan to present on the ICN (Industry Capability Network) Gateway and business opportunities on Inland Rail.	Closed	2	Phoebe to provide additional information about regional groundwater data in response to a question from KL about potential impacts to boreholes.	Closed	3	Question on notice for Hydrology about Turallin Road/Pine Creek area. (Does the modelling undertaken include the areas of Turallin Road, down towards the Pine Creek area.	Closed
1	Invitation to be extended to Jason Manttan to present on the ICN (Industry Capability Network) Gateway and business opportunities on Inland Rail.	Closed								
2	Phoebe to provide additional information about regional groundwater data in response to a question from KL about potential impacts to boreholes.	Closed								
3	Question on notice for Hydrology about Turallin Road/Pine Creek area. (Does the modelling undertaken include the areas of Turallin Road, down towards the Pine Creek area.	Closed								
<p>3</p>	<p>THE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS <i>Dianne Loughnan (DL), Senior Project Manager</i> <i>Presentation slides 7 – 8</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ DL introduced herself and explained that she is the Liaison Officer between Inland Rail and the Department. ▶ DL advised the Independent Review of Inland Rail by Dr Kerry Schott has been completed and the Australian Government is currently considering its recommendations. ▶ DL further advised the Review has assessed the governance and program delivery approaches of the Inland Rail Program. ▶ DL noted the Review findings and recommendations will help inform the future delivery of Inland Rail. ▶ DL advised the Government intends to release Dr Schott's report and the Government's response as soon as it has been fully considered. ▶ DL explained the Review has considered the scope, schedule, and cost of the program. It has also looked at options for the new Inland Rail intermodal terminals to be built in Melbourne and Brisbane, improved links to the ports of these cities and the Toowoomba to Gladstone Inland Rail Extension Business Case. <p>Questions from the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ GC asked where precisely the report is sitting currently. 									

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ DL advised the report is currently sitting with the Minister, Catherine King and Minister, Katy Gallagher (Finance Minister) and their office.▶ RMc asked if there has been any indication from the Minister about the progress of the report.▶ DI replied there is no update currently; however, we are currently working towards late March.
4	<p>PROGRAM UPDATE <i>David Isbister (DI), Senior Project Manager</i> <i>Presentation slides 10 – 16</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ DI introduced himself and greeted the Chair and the Committee. <p><i>Slide 10</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ The 2022 ARTC Inland Rail highlight video was shown. <p><i>Slide 11</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ DI explained the status of projects.▶ DI noted that Parkes to Narromine is in operation. In NSW and in Victoria from Narrabri to North Star, projects are close to completing their primary approvals, Narromine to Narrabri and North Star to the border have recently been approved by the Minister for Planning in New South Wales.▶ DI noted the remaining projects are waiting to obtain approvals this year and early next year.▶ DI noted QLD projects are currently going through the revised EIS process. <p><i>Slide 12</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ DI advised major construction works commenced in Glenrowan, Victoria. This forms part of a \$200 million project to upgrade some existing rail infrastructure across 12 sites.▶ DI advised ARTC marked the occasion with a community event in Glenrowan.▶ DI noted to enable double stacked trains, ARTC must upgrade existing infrastructure at 12 sites.▶ DI also noted McConnell Dowell, the appointed contractor on the first four projects at Seymour, Barnawartha North, Glenrowan, and Wangaratta, have commenced preliminary site works and will move into major construction in the coming weeks. <p><i>Slide 13</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ DI provided an update on the Gowrie to Helidon (G2H) project.▶ DI noted that the G2H project is continuing to update its revised EIS chapters in response to the request for information they received from the OCG. Part of this includes undertaking additional investigations and surveys to inform those updated chapters.▶ DI advised G2H project team will continue their engagement with the local councils and communities. <p><i>Slide 14</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ DI provided an update on G2H upcoming events. The community will have the opportunity provide input and we will have subject matter experts on hand to provide updates and get information on each of these.▶ DI advised there will be a Social and Sustainability Workshop on Thursday 16 March 2023 at the Gowrie Junction Hall and online. The Gowrie to Calvert CCC Meeting will be held

Tuesday 18 April 2023 at the Laidley Cultural Centre. A Flora, Fauna and Offsets Workshop will be held Wednesday 19 April 2023 at the Murphy's Creek Community Hall and online.

- ▶ DI noted all are welcome to attend.

Slide 15

- ▶ DI explained the B2G project timeline.
- ▶ DI noted the B2G project is still in the approvals phase and aiming to resubmit the revised EIS later this year, to obtain an approval early next year. And after that, and subject to the approvals, the B2G project will progress to construction works.

Slide 16

- ▶ DI advised ARTC Inland Rail have a collaborative framework agreement (CFA) with BHQ Joint Venture (JV), who are the preferred proponent for the North Civil Works Program between Whetstone and Gowrie. and Laing O'Rourke (LOR), who are the preferred proponent for the Central Civil Works Program, south of Whetstone down to the Border.
- ▶ DI noted bringing the detailed designers and constructors onboard early allows us to support the Civil constructor with their preliminary design and early investigations in a collaborative manner in readiness for approval.
- ▶ DI explained while appointing preferred contractors prior to receiving planning approvals is common practice, major construction will not start until we have received the statutory approval.
- ▶ DI advised Warren Crowther from the BHQ JV is here tonight to provide details around their initial investigation activities.

Questions from the Committee

- ▶ No questions.

5 PROGRAM UPDATE - NORTH STAR TO BORDER (NS2B)

*Adam Barber, Delivery Director Central
Presentation slides 18*

- ▶ AB introduced himself and explained he is the Delivery Director for the central part of the project that includes the North Star to Border (NS2B) and a section of B2G.

Slide 18

- ▶ AB noted the NS2B Conditions of Approval were accepted by ARTC early February 2023.
- ▶ AB advised ARTC has received environmental approval from the NSW Minister for Planning to progress the NS2B project, subject to conditions and Australian Government approvals.
- ▶ AB noted the project will be assessed by the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. A decision is expected in the coming months.
- ▶ AB reiterated this approval is for the NSW section only and does not include the section in Queensland.
- ▶ AB advised there are some ongoing ancillary works or early works associated with the NSW and NS2B project, which includes geotechnical work in and around North Star up to the border and some geotechnical work for the C3 section, which is a greenfield section from the border to the Southwest Line.
- ▶ AB also advised a remarkably high priority for us now is the property acquisition process, most properties are going through voluntary acquisition and some compulsory.

- ▶ AB noted in terms of other early works, one of the key items is in Goondiwindi where we are working on a development application for the Goondiwindi Workers camp, which will be based at the showgrounds.

Questions from the Committee

- ▶ RMc raised a question about fencing.
- ▶ RMc noted he is aware that negotiations are underway with Goondiwindi Regional Council about the Whetstone to Millmerran Road area and relocating the dingo barrier fence along the rail corridor.
- ▶ RMc enquired whether this is still an option and if it is, how will ARTC propose, where there are culverts and cut and fill, to make the barrier fence dog proof.
- ▶ AB passed the question over to Ed Matthews (EM) for answer.
- ▶ EM introduced himself and noted he is the Delivery Director for the Northern section.
- ▶ EM explained putting up barrier fences will be challenging due to the culverts and the potential for debris build up.
- ▶ EM noted the intent is to, where we can, include the barrier fence into the perimeter alignment and we will need to step those away at the culvert sections to allow the flow.
- ▶ EM reiterated fencing is recognised as a challenge; however, ARTC will work through the most efficient options during the detailed design phase.
- ▶ GK requested clarification on the location of early works in the Queensland section of the project.
- ▶ AB explained a challenge the project has with the border section, is that we have an EIS approval within NSW from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). However, the flood model is in both NSW and Queensland. So, for us to design the section in NSW, we also need to investigate what is happening in Queensland.
- ▶ AB noted we have approval to do minor geotechnical work and expand the flood model to take in the whole of the Macintyre River catchment.
- ▶ RW enquired if the section between Narrabri and Moree is fully operational.
- ▶ AB confirmed it is currently operational to Moree; however, the last eight kilometres of track from Moree to the south was taken out because of flooding issues around the October 2022 severe flooding event in Moree, which did delay the project completion.
- ▶ AB confirmed the section north of Moree from Moree to North Star is still under construction and should be operational in April. However, now there is no operational requirement as there are no trains really required at the moment.
- ▶ RW wanted to clarify around activity at the Goondiwindi showground area.
- ▶ AB noted that is the location of the workers camps and we are currently going through the preliminary design, and we will be submitting a development application (DA) to the Goondiwindi Regional Council in May 2023.
- ▶ AB confirmed the camp referred to is related to the NS2B project in New South Wales.
- ▶ RMc enquired if the other camp location is located on Millmerran Road.
- ▶ EM advised, yes, that location is as per the revised Draft EIS and is still in planning.
- ▶ AB further noted we also have identified areas in Yelarbon and Inglewood for workers camps and the studies of the suitability of these locations are still underway.
- ▶ JC requested to make a note in the minutes regarding the dingo fence. JC has a dingo barrier fence adjoining their property and it has had a couple of substantial water flows through it. The first one knocked it down and they came back and rebuilt it, so it had to allow the water flow to go through it, but it is not on a floodplain, it is only on a gully. But, it has had a major water flow through it and end of last year and I expected to see it down. The fence was put up properly the second time and it allowed the water to go under and then it came down behind it.

<p>6</p>	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE <i>Majella Doyle (MD), Manager Stakeholder Engagement B2G & K2ARB</i> <i>Presentation slides 20 – 25</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ MD introduced herself to the Committee and attendees. <p><i>Slide 20</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ MD advised the SE (Stakeholder Engagement) team have been engaging with various affected landholders along the alignment. The team has also attended community events such as the Pittsworth Postle Gift event on 10 December 2022, which was sponsored by ARTC. The team also held an Ecology Workshop on 18 January 2023.▶ MD noted that the CCC tour on 4 and 5 January 2023 was insightful and informative, and that the Chair would share the experience of the members who attended the tour later in the session.▶ MD continued that drop-in engagement sessions were continuing for Pittsworth, Brookstead, Inglewood and Millmerran communities throughout the year. <p><i>Slide 21</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ MD advised the team are committed to sponsoring meaningful events in local communities along the alignments.▶ MD listed upcoming shows and events ARTC will be involved in. <p><i>Slide 22</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ MD explained where drop-in sessions will be held along the alignment in Biddeston, Pittsworth, Pampas, Inglewood, Millmerran and Brookstead. <p><i>Slide 24</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ MD encouraged all to come along and noted that relevant information can be found on the Inland Rail website or via contacting the engagement team. <p><i>Slide 25</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ MD noted Mr Mike Kaiser, who is also the Director-General for the Department of State Development has been appointed in the interim as the Coordinator-General. This appointment is for three months until May (6 May 2023) while the recruitment for the permanent role is undertaken.▶ In closing, MD thanked CCC members for their continued support, especially during the recent CCC tour. MD reiterated that this would their CCC and to put forward any topics to their Chair about what they would like to hear about at the next CCC.▶ MD also thanked the CCC members for renewing their memberships. <p>Questions from the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ No questions.
<p>7</p>	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE <i>Naomi Tonscheck, Manager Stakeholder Engagement W2B, NS2B, N2NS P1 & P2</i> <i>Presentation slide 26</i></p> <p><i>Slide 26</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ NT introduced herself to the Committee.▶ NT reminded the committee that the Goondiwindi office at 116 Marshall Street is open from Monday to Friday.

- ▶ NT noted the listed community meetings the team regularly attend.
- ▶ NT advised design conversations are progressing with the landowners between Whetstone and Kurumbul and the final stages of acquiring an offset property near Yelarbon is occurring now.
- ▶ NT noted with the approval of the NS2B project there is a need to set up an accommodation camp to service the build.
- ▶ NT clarified that the camp is only for the NSW project and there will be more information provided on this later in the presentation.
- ▶ NT advised the Whetstone temporary facility is anticipated to commence construction in Q2/Q3 2023 to take delivery of concrete sleepers from Rockhampton.
- ▶ NT noted the team will host a series of meet the contractor events later this year – Martinus Rail for Whetstone and LOR for Goondiwindi Camp and NS2B project works.

Questions from the Committee

- ▶ RB asked if a turning lane will be constructed into Whetstone.
- ▶ NT advised that another traffic impact assessment has been undertaken and ARTC is in conversations with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Goondiwindi Regional Council regarding outcomes.
- ▶ NT advised a decision is yet to be made, but it is highly expected that there is a need to construct some slip lanes in this area to allow for trucks to turn off the road and go into the Whetstone Access Road.
- ▶ NT noted whatever gets built on that Whetstone Access Road, consultation will be undertaken with the involved landholder and the Goondiwindi Regional Council as a key stakeholder.

8

CCC TOUR INSIGHTS

Graham Clapham, Chair SDD CCC

Slide 27

- ▶ GC provided an update on the recent CCC tour to Moree.
- ▶ GC noted one aspect that stood out was if anyone has any issues or concerns, it is strongly encouraged they talk to the project team directly as they can negotiate with landholders.
- ▶ GC spoke to the various images on the slide.
- ▶ GC invited JC to provide any comments or insights.
- ▶ JC noted he found the tour highly informative and interesting.
- ▶ JC added a particular point of interest was the Whetstone Materials Distribution Centre and noted it may be a concern when construction starts.
- ▶ JC noted several other highlights from the tour.

Questions from the Committee

- ▶ GK noted that the way items were explained on the CCC tour were thorough and valuable, whereas sometimes the detail gets skipped over or lost during CCC meetings. GK feels she has not been provided with the same level of detail in a CCC meeting as compared to the community feel of a bus tour.
- ▶ GC reiterated to the members that this is their CCC meeting and if there is any area of interest or any specific concerns, to raise it in the meeting and ask the question, and it will be dealt with.
- ▶ RMc enquired: ever since the corridor was announced, Goondiwindi Regional Council (GRC) has been lobbying individual landholders, where the corridor crosses the Millmerran Road just out of Inglewood, to be a proposed active level crossing.

- ▶ RMc added that Millmerran Road is a conduit for a high volume of freight, which is increasing. There is a new quarry that has been established on the other side of the alignment and all material from this site is being transported to Toowoomba.
- ▶ RMc acknowledges that a grade separation or overpass is expensive to construct; however, the impact of a level crossing over 50 years will be much greater and have a negative impact. RMc added that a level crossing will have a great noise impact on the area and on the efficiency of the road transport system.
- ▶ RMc would like to understand the reasoning behind this decision and why it was not considered by Inland Rail.
- ▶ EM explained an initial assessment was undertaken around traffic counts, traffic volumes and the consideration for a grade separation or an active level crossing, and those assessments have been done and indicated an active level crossing as the most suitable treatment.
- ▶ EM noted Inland Rail will continue to work with DTMR (Department of Transport and Main Roads) to discuss this specific active level crossing.
- ▶ EM added the alignment crosses the Millmerran Inglewood Road three times with only one active level crossing. The other two have been changed to grade separations based on the consideration of the way in which the alignment runs through the topography.
- ▶ EM confirmed we are currently investigating this element, and although the revised draft EIS shows the design as an active level crossing, we will continue to work with DTMR, BHQ JV and our designers and engineers to optimise the design in that area.
- ▶ EM reiterated we are working with key stakeholders to agree on the best solution.
- ▶ RB enquired if there will be an overpass at Yelarbon.
- ▶ AB advised that is correct. The revised draft EIS will include a road over rail grade separation overpass that will deviate the Cunningham Highway about 500-600 metres to the west of its current level crossing, coming around and then back through Yelarbon onto the Cunningham Highway near the service station.
- ▶ GK asked if there are any rail crossings or any road treatments available to look at.
- ▶ Katie Unipan (KU) advised that all information is currently available on Inland Rail's B2G Social Pinpoint interactive map on the website and the information has been updated as per the revised draft EIS.
- ▶ JC added the rail crossing at Woodspring is unsuitable due to the heavy amount of traffic.

GC closed this section by reiterating the value experienced on the recent tour.

9 SOCIAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE AND ICN BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Amy Stewart, Social Performance Advisor

Presentation slides 31 – 39

- ▶ AS introduced herself to the Committee.

Slide 31

- ▶ AS explained a question was asked at the last CCC meeting around local businesses and how to get involved in the ICN.
- ▶ AS explained today, as requested, will focus on one element of Social Performance - Local and Indigenous Industry Participation.
- ▶ AS provided an update on the local and Indigenous industry participation objectives summary, which includes minimising impacts on farming, agribusiness, tourism, and businesses in town. Our objective is to create local business awareness about supply opportunities and registration and contracting processes for the project and build

relationships with local businesses to support their involvement in the project. We will also be looking to provide the framework for full, fair, and reasonable opportunity for local, regional, and Indigenous businesses to participate in the supply chain and integrate this framework in construction tender requirements and contracts.

- ▶ AS noted Jason Manttan, Supply Chain and Social Compliance Manager, is happy to come along to any of the Chambers of Commerce organisations along the alignment to provide that one-on-one deep dive into ICN.

Slide 32

- ▶ AS explained Inland Rail's commitments in this space.
- ▶ AS advised that Inland Rail has a Sustainable Procurement Policy that focuses on elements like how to use local suppliers, skills, and labour where possible and how to ensure that environment, social and economic considerations are embedded within that procurement process.
- ▶ AS advised Inland Rail also has a Social Performance Strategy, which is about the responsible delivery and operation of Inland Rail and minimising negative social impacts and enhancing the benefits of Inland Rail at a local and national level.
- ▶ AS noted there are lots of ways local businesses can get involved with Inland Rail, even if it is not directly with Inland Rail but rather with a contractor or subcontractor (for example).

Slide 33

- ▶ AS explained a snapshot of opportunities and community benefits provided during the Narrabri to North Star (N2NS) project from September 2020 to November 2022.
- ▶ AS noted the highlights include 36 local businesses, which have supplied to the project - \$218.5 Million total spend, and 12 indigenous businesses with \$18.5 million total spend.

Slide 34

- ▶ AS explained key advice on how to ensure your business is visible.

Slide 35

- ▶ AS explained the ICN Gateway.

Slide 36

- ▶ AS provided an overview of the work done in this space in 2022.
- ▶ As explained as part of the Inland Rail Skills Academy commitment to business and workforce capability development, we have also recently run a series of local area workshops for businesses that focused on Workforce capability development and Business capability development.

Slide 37 - 38

- ▶ AS explained, there are a few avenues for additional support or information.

Slide 39

AS explained the 2022 year in review for the Sponsorship and Donations program.

Questions from the Committee

- ▶ RW mentioned his earlier comment about the Housing trust and the ICN.
- ▶ AS advised there are a few ways you can have a free registration and then there are options if you wish to upgrade your membership.
- ▶ AS mentioned, we cannot comment on the individual cases and we are happy to have a conversation about that separately; however, the registration on the ICN does not

guarantee work. What it does do is allow you to see what packages are available for registration and gives the contractors visibility of their capability and interests.

- ▶ KU on behalf of Maria Oliver (MO). MO has a comment on the increased traffic on Inglewood Road regarding the previously mentioned level crossing proposed in that area and supports RMc and JC's comments about this concern.
- ▶ MO also wants to support GK on the comment made about hearing information from the community from the CCC meetings first.
- ▶ MO wants to enquire if the location of the workers accommodation camp in Millmerran has been decided.
- ▶ EM advised the revised draft EIS indicates a workers accommodation camp in the vicinity of Millmerran; however, an exact location has not yet been decided on.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) UPDATE

David Isbister (DI), Senior Project Manager

Presentation slides 41 – 44

- ▶ DI thanked the Chair and Committee for the opportunity to update on the status of the EIS and approvals.

Slide 41

- ▶ DI provided a snapshot of the EIS approval process. The aim is to have the revised draft EIS submitted for formal adequacy review by the Office of Coordinator-General by mid-2023. Subject to the OCG deeming it adequate for notification, they will then allow it to go out to a second round of notification. If there are any updates required on the back of that, it must be closed out with the OCG. And then, at that point, they accept the EIS final successful.
- ▶ DI noted EIS and Federal Approval is expected early 2024. Project conditions of approval (CG's Evaluation Report). The recommendations and conditions that form the legal basis for the project required to start construction activities.

Slide 42

- ▶ DI provided an update on key areas of the EIS – the Land resources chapter is being updated. There will be a soils workshop in March 2023 with Darling Downs Soils Conservation group where we will be relooking at assessments and methodologies.
- ▶ DI noted the Ecology Chapter was being updated with information from additional work surveying flora and fauna, in particular updating aquatic survey information.
- ▶ DI outlined details of the Ecology Workshop held in January and the valuable information provided at that event.
- ▶ DI advised all hydrological and hydrogeological aspects of the revised draft EIS are now being finalised and that those chapters are in for review.
- ▶ DI advised in accordance with recommendations of the Flood Panel to engage independent hydrologists to review our work moving forward, we have two independent hydrologists in place to do that work moving forward.

Slide 43

- ▶ DI provided an ecology update.
- ▶ DI noted an Ecology information session was held in Pittsworth on 18 January 2023. Approximately 50 people attended the session. It was an opportunity for community input and feedback about information sheets, mapping resources, and technical specialists.

Biodiversity Update

	<p><i>Slide 44</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ DI advised Canning Creek was the first biodiversity offset property in Queensland - 2,800 hectares. The property contains a range of offset values and matters of state and national significance. It is home to a range of threatened species including Koalas. <p>Questions from the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ GK wants to clarify what fauna and flora was found on a Canning Creek property.▶ DI explained there was an ecological survey undertaken that indicated threatened flora and fauna was found on the property, and we can take this question on notice and provide GK with the specific information in relation to the question. <p>ACTION 1: Provide GK with information on fauna and flora found on the Canning Creek property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ RMc asked about fauna connectivity: When an exclusion fence is installed as a barrier fence to exclude wild dogs and dingoes, how do you allow for the passage of native fauna?▶ EM advised fauna connectivity across the alignment is an ongoing challenge for the project. EM noted there is a piece of work occurring around this issue currently. It was also brought up and discussed in detail at the Ecology Workshop in Pittsworth in January 2023.▶ EM advised monitoring and modelling fauna movement across the alignment is ongoing and we are investigating ways in which we can ensure safe fauna connectivity.▶ EM noted we could make some informational material available on this challenge.▶ Jon Roberts (JR) further advised we are currently looking at installing glider posts for gliders to get across the dingo fence, and for koalas we are planning to install simple one pole up with a string and one pole down to transverse the dingo fence.▶ JR advised we can take this question on notice and provide RMc with more specific information around fauna connectivity solutions. <p>ACTION 2: Provide RMc with specific information around fauna connectivity solutions.</p>
11	<p>LANG O'ROURKE (LOR) UPDATE <i>Yvonne Bowles, Project Leader</i> <i>Presentation slides 46 – 48</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Yvonne Bowles introduced herself. <p><i>Slide 46</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ YB advised her main update is about the proposed North Star to Border (NS2B) Goondiwindi workers camp accommodation. LOR was awarded an early works contract to develop a DA for our proposed Goondiwindi Accommodation Camp.▶ YB noted they now have a contract with ARTC to develop that DA, which will include a concept design. There will be some preliminary site investigations and we have been working very closely with the Agricultural and Pastoral Society, as we work through a lease arrangement with them for that land.▶ YB noted they are working very closely with the local Council and emergency services, and the process here is that over the coming months, we are proposing a submission by 16 May 2023 and the Council have informed us it will be a four-month assessment process for that camp. <p><i>Slide 47</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ YB showed a concept design for the layout plan for the workers accommodation camp. <p><i>Slide 48</i></p>

- ▶ YB explained early works occurring currently.
- ▶ YB advised site survey, geotechnical and cultural heritage investigations are expected from April 2023 through to end of the year.
- ▶ YB noted design optioneering will occur between March and June 2023.
- ▶ YB noted site survey, utility and geotechnical investigations are expected between June and December 2023.

Questions from the Committee:

- ▶ JC enquired about the size of the camps.
- ▶ EM explained we are still working through the details of camp sizing.

12 **BHQJV UPDATE**

Warren Crowther, Program Manager (BHQ)
Presentation slides 50 – 55

- ▶ *WC introduced himself and explained he is the Program Manager for BHQ JV.*

Slide 50

- ▶ WC explained site investigations commenced in November 2022. WC provided an update on site investigations along the alignment and noted the work started in November 2022 and has continued in 2023.

Slide 51

- ▶ WC referred to a map that represents the sites that BHQ planned to do, overlaid with the sites they have now done.
- ▶ WC noted crews started work at the Toowoomba end of the alignment (Northern) and are working their way towards Whetstone (Southern). He said they are currently in the Millmerran area.
- ▶ WC referred to the map to highlight that we have done a lot less work in the Whetstone area at this stage.
- ▶ WC advised properties where they have not done the work was for a combination of reasons. It could be that they have not gotten to that location yet, or that they have not been given access to the location and they are no longer planning to do the work there.
- ▶ WC reminded the group that the purpose of the investigations is to progress and optimise the design and verify assumptions made in the design.

Slide 52

- ▶ WC provided a summary of the original plan, what is currently planned and what has already been done. The original plan of 231 geotechnical investigations on 50 separate properties and 335 survey investigations has been revised.
- ▶ WC advised there is a reduction in the planned investigations. There are now 155 Geotech investigations on 39 properties and 315 survey investigations.
- ▶ WC noted this is a significant reduction in the Geotech scope and a small reduction in the survey scope.

Weed and Seed/Biodiversity Management

Slide 53

- ▶ WC advised as this type of work posed significant risks to weed and seed management, BHQ are required to comply with ARTC's biosecurity management strategy.

- ▶ WC noted the Biosecurity Management Strategy is complimented by BHQ's own management systems.

Slide 54 - 55

- ▶ WC noted Land Access Agreement (LAA) were used that documents requirements imposed on contactors to access the land.
- ▶ WC noted aside from the standard requirements, landowners sometimes have additional requirements, which we can accommodate, and these additional requirements are communicated to us effectively as conditions of access.
- ▶ WC advised prior to commencing work, an environmental scientist does a desktop assessment of the site looking at flora, fauna, weeds, and waterways.
- ▶ This results in a risk assessment being completed for access to that site. At a minimum, the risk assessment will require BHQ to do a washdown of all plant and vehicles upon leaving each property if they have left the road.
- ▶ The clean is done by a trained and accredited person and recorded by Statutory Declaration; like a process called Come Clean, Go Clean.

Questions from the Committee

- ▶ GK asked for a clarification around the lack of allowed property access.
- ▶ WC explained that the lack of access can be due to various reasons e.g., the landholder has rejected access, or sometimes due to the presence of flora and fauna or cultural heritage issues on the property, so we avoid these areas to minimise disturbance, and sometimes there is no LAA for a property, so we need to go through a process to obtain those first.
- ▶ GK further asked how you join the dots, or how you deem the body of work to be completed if there are some locations you cannot visit.
- ▶ WC advised that we will not be able to fully complete the work as we already anticipated not all landholders would grant access. We just need to get all the data we can from the properties that we can visit.
- ▶ EM explained where there is a lack of information, we will not be able to fully optimise the design.
- ▶ GK provided feedback about personal experience regarding the LAA process. GK noted a member of the team visited their property to obtain a signed LAA for access to a certain area of the property. GK advised the member that the location they needed to access was in another property; however, the team member did not seem to take on board the feedback.
- ▶ EM noted we will take that feedback on board.
- ▶ RM asked how washdown process and facilities were managed.
- ▶ WC advised washdowns normally occur at the property when entering and exiting; however, some landholders require a third-party washdown certificate, and we do accommodate these requests.
- ▶ KU asked on behalf of MO where the closest wash down facility is between Millmerran and Inglewood.
- ▶ WC advised the closest third-party facility is in Toowoomba.
- ▶ RM asked who certifies the washdown if a landholder requests a third-party clean.
- ▶ WC noted it is certified by an independent credited person who completes a *Statutory Declaration form* to indicate it has been completed.
- ▶ KU asked on behalf of MO if ARTC has a biosecurity strategy to cover compensation to a landowner should there be a new weed outbreak on the landowner's property because of survey works.
- ▶ KU advised this will be taken as a question on notice.

	ACTION 3: Provide MO with information around ARTC’s compensation policy should a landowner be affected by a weed outbreak as result of survey works.
13	<p>GENERAL BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ GC opened general business. ▶ GC noted a technical issue previously with getting the slide deck online with the minutes, and noted that from here on, the slides will appear with minutes. ▶ GC opened a conversation about the location of the next CCC meeting. The committee agreed on Millmerran as the next location for the CCC meeting.
14	<p>CONCLUSION AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ SC reiterated the Action Items.

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY
1	Provide GK with information on fauna and flora found on the Canning Creek property.	
2	Provide RMc with specific information around fauna connectivity solutions.	
3	Provide MO with information around ARTC’s process or compensation policy should a landowner be affected by a weed outbreak as result of survey works.	

Next meeting

Millmerran Cultural Centre with date to be confirmed.