

MEETING MINUTES



Inland Rail - Albury to Illabo (A2I) Community Consultative Committee Wagga Wagga Sub-Committee

DATE / TIME

6 November 2024
2:00pm

LOCATION

Wagga Wagga City Council

FACILITATOR

Mr Garry West

MINUTE TAKER

Mr Garry West

DISTRIBUTION

Albury to Illabo CCC

ATTENDEES (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT INLAND RAIL)

- ▶ Mr Garry West (Independent Chair)(GW)
- ▶ Mr David Carter (Community Representative)
- ▶ Cr Pam Halliburton (Junee Shire Council)
- ▶ Mr Lloyd Hart (Junee Shire Council)
- ▶ Mr Gavin Rhodes (Lockhart Shire Council)
- ▶ Mr James Kennedy (Delivery Director- A2P)(JK)
- ▶ Mr Malcolm Clark (Project Director – A2I / S2P)(MC)
- ▶ Ms Casey Bootsma (Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager – A2P)
- ▶ Mr Wayne Window (Environment Manager NSW & Victoria)(WW)
- ▶ Ms Jessica Jackson (Stakeholder Engagement Lead)

APOLOGIES (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT INLAND RAIL)

- ▶ Mr John Zannes (Project Manager, Inland Rail, Transport for NSW)
- ▶ Ms Roslyn Prangnell (Urban Landcare)
- ▶ Ms Rachael Labruyere (Environment Manager – A2P)

GUESTS (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT INLAND RAIL)

- ▶ Ms Clarissa Farrington (Director, Inland Rail Program Assurance, Commonwealth Infrastructure Projects Division, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts)
- ▶ Mr Scott Sanbrook (Committe4Wagga)
- ▶ Ms Sally Manning (Wagga Business Chamber)

- ▶ Ms Kathy Wallace (Erin Earth)
- ▶ Ms Kirsty Cole (Erin Earth)
- ▶ Ms Kate Hardy (Guest of IRPL)

Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
1. Welcome & Introductions	<p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all to the meeting. The Chair sought agreement for him to record the meeting for the purpose of preparing minutes. No objections.</p> <p>Mr West advised Wagga Wagga City Council has nominated Cr Foley to represent Council and welcomed several observers to the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Kennedy introduced the IRPL team present at the meeting and announced that Ms Labruyere (apology for this meeting) has started with IRPL in the capacity of Environment Manager for Albury to Parkes.</p>
2. Apologies	<p>As Above</p>
3. Declarations of Interest	<p>No new declarations</p>
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting	<p>It was noted and agreed that the minutes of 7 August 2024 were approved and uploaded to the project website.</p>
4. Actions from previous meeting	<p>NIL</p>
5. Proponent's Reports	<p>Mr James Kennedy (Delivery Director – A2P) Program Update.</p> <p>Mr Kennedy provided a summary of the project milestones from the Concept Assessment in 2020 up to the Project Approval in 2024.</p> <p>Mr Kennedy explained the project relationships with the different entities. The Federal Government (Finance and Infrastructure departments) provide the scope of the project and the funding. Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is the owner of the rail asset in NSW,</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>that is the corridor and the rail line. Typically, Councils and/or TfNSW own the adjoining infrastructure such as roads and bridges. ARTC is the Asset operator. That is, ARTC leases the rail line and sells train paths to above rail operators to run their trains on the network.</p> <p>Inland Rail Pty Ltd (IRPL) is a subsidiary of ARTC and has been established post the Schott Review to deliver the project and then hand it back to ARTC. Martinus is the contractor appointed to deliver the Design & Construct contract. The NSW Government through the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure provides the planning approval for the A2I project.</p> <p>Mr Kennedy provided an overview the Albury to Illabo rail corridor where enhancements or modifications to 12 major project sites along the existing 185km rail corridor to develop a capacity to accommodate 1.8 km double-stacked freight trains. The project includes lowering track to provide clearance under some road bridges, moving tracks sideways to provide clearances between tracks, modifications to footbridges, road bridges, level crossings, signal structures, aerial cables and removing rundown and out-of-use structures that clash with the double-stack train outline.</p> <p>Mr Kennedy addressed some frequently asked question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be an increase of trains on the A2I alignment? Currently up to 12 freight trains pass through daily and that is forecast to increase up to 18 freight trains by 2040 once fully operational. • Will level crossing wait times at Docker Street in Wagga Wagga be increased? Upon completion of A2I in 2027, train numbers are not forecast to increase, however, by 2040 when Inland Rail is fully operational, average travel times may increase by up to 15 seconds, up from the current 2 minutes. Modelling is constantly being updated to ensure the original assumptions are correct. • Are noise walls being built? Noise walls are only one of several noise mitigation strategies. Other treatments include locomotive treatments, and at-property treatments. All options will be subject to community consultation.

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the North Wagga viaduct suitable to carry freight? Yes, the existing viaduct is rated for the design axle load for double stacked trains. This is 25 tonne axle load. There are 4 axles per wagon so each wagon can carry up to 100 tonne. A normal 40ft container only weighs approximately 23 tonnes. • Will the trains be longer and heavier? No, the current rail network is rated for 1,800m long trains with 25 tonne axle loads. Longer trains than 1,800 km are not in scope for Inland Rail. <p>Mr Kennedy played videos of work currently undertaken from possessions in the S2P Project. Mr Kennedy noted the ARTC possession calendar is available on the ARTC website.</p> <p>Mr Malcolm Clark (Project Director – A2I/S2P) A2I Project Update.</p> <p>Mr Clark provided an update on the staging of phases, that is, design & pre-construction and construction for each of the enhancements and modifications forward to the planned Q2 2027 completion. This included the Albury Station Yard & footbridge, Billy Hughes Bridge Track lowering, Pearson Street track lowering, Edmondson Street, Kemp Street bridge, Mothers footbridge, Cassidy footbridge and other works. Mr Clark listed the proposed works to be undertaken during several possessions up to March 2025. In Wagga there are conditions that mandate pedestrian access at two of the three pedestrian access bridge locations during construction.</p> <p>Mr Carter asked if that also applies to Kemp Street in Junee? Mr Clark explained there are different requirements that allow pedestrians to move around the works. Buses are planned to be used in some circumstances to move people around the site, for example train crews.</p> <p>Mr Carter expressed concern that Martinus workers were parking vehicles in the rail corridor where there is long dry grass and questioned whether they had adequate current bushfire management plans in place? Mr Clark explained the nature of the works being undertaken is survey validation. IRPL emphasised</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>that hazards such as long grass and the potential for bushfires were taken most seriously. The Principal Contractor (Martinus) has an obligation under WHS law to manage such hazards. Mr Clark & Mr Kennedy agreed to take the concern back to their contractors to ensure suitable and appropriate controls were in place.</p> <p>Ms Wallace sought clarification about access when the Wagga bridges are under construction. Mr Clark & Mr Kennedy explained 2 of the 3 bridges need to be kept available for pedestrian traffic over the construction period.</p> <p>The A2I construction contractor, Martinus, will now work through Secondary Environmental Approvals and detailed design. The NSW State Design Review Panel (SDRP) has been established for the project. The SDRP has been provided with Stage 1 (all sites except bridges) of the urban Design Landscape Plan (UDLP) for review and comment. The detailed design phase is progressing with 20 design and 13 signalling packages across the A2I alignment. The SDRP advised the Project was to explore Connecting with Country in the design. As part of this process there has been recent engagement with the First Nations community along the alignment including Elders, LALCs.</p> <p>Mr Hart sought clarification regarding the arrangements around Kemp Street bridge. Mr Clark advised the engineering agreements were made with Council early in the year through the Master Inland Rail Development Agreements (MIRDAs).</p> <p>Mr Wayne Window (Environmental Manager)</p> <p>Mr Window provided an overview of the Approval Pathway for A2I and advised the assessment by the NSW Department of Planning (DPHI) is now complete and the Minister for Planning has provided conditions of consent. Secondary approvals now need to be undertaken before construction can commence. These will include Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). The conditions of approval address both construction and operation phases requiring specific outcomes and processes and were summarised.</p> <p>Mr Kennedy indicated some of the conditions will be place for many years after Inland Rail is in operation. There will be a period</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>of validation of assumptions across the range of environmental impacts and these will be handed over to ARTC who will continue the monitoring frameworks.</p> <p>An Environmental Representative, Acoustic Advisor and a Social Advisor are to be appointed who will be the interface between the contractor and the various government regulators.</p> <p>All post approval documents will be published on the project website and CCC members notified as these occur.</p> <p>Action: Provide link to the relevant project websites so members can see project updates.</p> <p>Ms Wallace sought clarification where noise walls are likely to be erected? Mr Window explained there will be extensive consultation with the communities that have been identified as sensitive noise receivers to determine which type of treatment they wish. That is a noise wall or individual property treatment.</p> <p>Future meetings will include topics such as the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP), noise (next steps) during construction and operation as well as traffic and transport connectivity.</p> <p>Action: IRPL to include visuals of the project designs in the presentations for future meetings.</p> <p>Ms Casey Bootsma (Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager A2P) Community Update.</p> <p>The engagement team continue to work with Councils and Key stakeholders on Secondary Management Plans. The SIMP consultation has been ongoing and will cover workforce management, industry participation, housing and accommodation, community health and wellbeing. We will discuss the outcomes at the next CCC meeting.</p> <p>The Community Grants program continues to operate. Application timeframes are advertised on the Project website.</p> <p>The conditions of approval required a community communications strategy. A draft has been submitted to the department. They also require a Public Liaison Officer within the Contractor team. A complaints management system is set</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>through the conditions and if complaints cannot be resolved they will be escalated to an independent mediator.</p> <p>Community events include attendance with the construction contractor the Waluwin AWAHS Festival and the Junee show.</p> <p>Early in 2025 Martinus will set up a major site office in Wagga Wagga, smaller site offices will be established along the alignment. Mark out of construction sites, compounds will also commence will. All sites will be co-branded with Inland Rail and Martinus.</p> <p>Engagement with impacted residents will continue.</p>
6. General Business	<p>What is the situation regarding accommodation for the crews during the possession periods? Mr Clark explained the A2I Project does not involve a camp and Martinus have been in negotiations with accommodation providers in Wagga Wagga.</p>
7. Conclusion	<p>The CCC will be holding meetings on a quarterly basis.</p>

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	IRPL to include visuals of the project designs in the presentations for future meetings.	JK/MC	Next CCC Meeting
2	Provide link to the relevant project websites so members can see project updates.	GW/WW	29 Nov 24

Next Meeting

2025 – 12 February 2025 TBC