

MEETING MINUTES

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

DATE / TIME

5 November 2025
2:00pm

LOCATION

ARTC Boardroom
20 Station Place, Wagga wagga

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)
- ▶ Cr Pam Halliburton (Junee Shire Council)
- ▶ Mr Lloyd Hart (Junee Shire Council)
- ▶ Mr David Carter (Community Representative)
- ▶ Cr Richard Foley (Wagga Wagga City Council Representative)
- ▶ Mr Austin Morris (Lockhart Shire Council)
- ▶ Scott Sanbrook (Committee 4 Wagga – Observer)
- ▶ Mr Malcolm Clark (Project Director – A2I / S2P) (MC)
- ▶ Ms Rachael Labruyere (Environment Manager) (RL)
- ▶ Ms Kate Hardy (Stakeholder Engagement Lead – A2I) (KH)
- ▶ Ms Bronwyn Jackson (Assistant Director, Inland Rail Program Assurance, Commonwealth Infrastructure Projects Division, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts)(CF)
- ▶ Mr John Zannes (Director, Inland Rail, Transport for NSW)

APOLOGIES (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT INLAND RAIL)

- ▶ Mr Gavin Rhodes (Lockhart Shire Council)
- ▶ Mr Martin Honner (NSW Farmers – Alternate)
- ▶ Mr Grant Johnson (Stakeholder Management and Communications Manager – A2P (Acting) (GJ)
- ▶ Mr James Kennedy (Delivery Director- A2P)

- ▶ Ms Sally Manning (Wagga Business Chamber)
- ▶ Ms Clarissa Farrington (Director, Inland Rail Program Assurance)

Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
1. Welcome & Introductions	The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Apologies	As Above
3. Declarations of Interest	No new declarations
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting	It was noted and agreed that the minutes of 6 August 2025 were approved and uploaded to the project website.
4. Actions from previous meeting	NIL
5. Proponent's Reports	<p>Mr Malcom Clark (Project Director – A2I/S2P) Program and Project Update</p> <p>Mr Clark provided an update on the adjacent projects:</p> <p>Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S)</p> <p>Fencing of the rail corridor commenced.</p> <p>Site compounds are being established along the alignment.</p> <p>Low impact works such as survey works, site investigations, cultural investigations and preparation of site laydowns and compound locations are nearing completion.</p> <p>The temporary workers accommodation is progressing well and has been operational since the September possession.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>Stockinbingal to Parkes (S2P)</p> <p>Overhead wires investigations are underway with relocations to commence in the new year. All civil works are now complete.</p> <p>A2I Program Update (A2I)</p> <p>Mr Clark provided an overview of the A2I program (see presentation). Main activity will commence later in 2025.</p> <p>Specific reference was made to Edmondson Street bridge in Wagga Wagga temporary closure commencing late November for an intended two-week traffic trial, including the implementation of new school and community bus timetables and routes. Another possession (35 hours) is scheduled for early December.</p> <p>Design Progress shows clearance site are at 99%, Junee to Illabo is 100%, Albury is 97%, Wagga sites are 97% and Junee sites are 96%. Overall design progress is 97% complete.</p> <p>Construction progress shows clearance sites are at 2%, Junee to Illabo is 20%, Albury and Wagga sites are 2%, and Junee sites are 11%. Overall construction progress is 30% complete. Main focus has been on the Junee to Illabo track work. Extra access has been negotiated on Sunday and Monday evenings when there have been no scheduled trains.</p> <p>Precinct Update – Lockhart Shire Council</p> <p>September Possession saw signalling works at The Rock carried out. November works planned at The Rock are site establishment and mobilisation ahead of the December possession when the gantry knee brace will be modified. Q1 2026 will see level crossing and track slew works at Yerong Creek.</p> <p>Ms Kate Hardy reported Community Engagement involved attending the Spirit of the Land Festival, The Rock Show, undertaking Council monthly monitoring meetings and a Councillor briefing. A report of the Inland Rail Skills Academy was tabled (see appendix to the minutes).</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>Precinct Update – Junee Shire</p> <p>The September Possession saw the removal of the Kemp St bridge. Road closures were in place from September 5. 230 workers were on site undertaking round the clock construction activities removing 6 spans and 5 trestles of the bridge as well as 100 tonnes of steel and 375 tonnes of concrete.</p> <p>Junee to Illabo – over 4km of track slewing was carried out, 2 culverts were replaced and approximately 5000 tonnes of ballast was used.</p> <p>Junee Lookahead</p> <p>Preparation works around the Kemp St Bridge are occurring to allow clearance for new works envelope and crane activities. Mid November will see further removal of bridge segments, the establishment of an ancillary facility at Wrights Oval and the establishment of a stockpile area near the Junee Rest House, subject to approvals. The December possession will see substructure works. In the Junee Yard geotechnical drilling and signalling works are planned. December will see the removal of the pedestrian footbridge. The demolition of this footbridge and the Edmondson bridge has been subcontracted to Arenco. Driver change platform works are also planned.</p> <p>At the Olympic Highway Bridge geotechnical drilling is underway and site establishment will commence late November.</p> <p>Slashing is being undertaken in the Junee to Illabo corridor to reduce fire risk. Out of hours work is continuing on track widening activities and traffic control will be in place at some locations to support works access.</p> <p>Major possessions in 2026 are planned for May and September.</p> <p>Q: Mr David Carter asked why trees that were close to the track haven't been removed as part of the works? MC advised such activity is the responsibility of the ARTC and they will undertake those works as part of their maintenance program.</p> <p>Comment: Mr David Carter noted the uneven surface on the main crossing in Junee is very noticeable. MC advised now that as it is main crossing with the bridges out of action it is not possible</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>to undertake works there at the moment. ARTC are aware of the issue and will attend to it when possible.</p> <p>Ms Rachael Labruyere advised the alternative driver change locations were detailed in the Environmental Approval Documents and are being carried out under separate approvals. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is being undertaken by the ARTC to undertake these works. Community engagement of immediately impacted residents has been undertaken together with community information sessions planned to be held on Saturday 8 November at the Junee Library and Wednesday 19 November at the Junee recreation Centre.</p> <p>Community Engagement has been ongoing with monthly council meetings and councillor briefing, door knocks and stakeholder meetings concerning Kemp St visualisations and traffic management, Rotary Club briefing, community information sessions as well as the Illabo and Junee shows. Councillor briefing is planned for November together with further community information sessions.</p> <p>Successful Community grants include Junee Jokers Bowling Club, Junee Swimming Club and Junee regenerative Lancare Inc.</p> <p>Comment: Mr David Carter observed the presence of IR, Martinus and John Holland at the shows was appreciated.</p> <p>A report of the Inland Rail Skills Academy was tabled (see appendix to the minutes).</p> <p>Q: Mr David Carter asked if the asbestos found at Kemp St causes any problems. MC noted it was anticipated. Shortly it will be segregated and removed to appropriate facilities and no delays will result.</p> <p>Q: Mr David Carter asked if any final design for LX605 is available? MC advised design is about 70% completed. A road safety audit is currently being undertaken and TfNSW and JSC both need to provide reviews. A planning modification is also being undertaken at the site which is expected to go to DPHI in the next month or two. (Note: DC has previously declared a conflict of interest in regard to this LX)</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>Precinct Update – Wagga Wagga</p> <p>Installation of temporary ramp scaffolding for temporary access to Mothers Bridge (Station side) commenced on 8 October. The bridge was closed at the beginning of November to remove station side ramp and attach the temporary ramp to the existing bridge deck. Pedestrian detours were in place for the closure period. The access lane to the Multicultural Council will be closed to traffic and pedestrians November 8-9.</p> <p>The trial closure of Edmondson St Bridge will commence on 22 November. Traffic barriers will be in place to restrict pedestrian and vehicle access on Edmondson St bridge during the trial period.</p> <p>A temporary traffic monitoring centre is being established to monitor road network performance throughout the trial period. It will be operated by representatives from Inland Rail, Martinus, Transport for NSW, Wagga Wagga City Council and emergency services. Integrated CCTV camera will be installed at key intersections and locations across Wagga Wagga to monitor traffic in real time. Trailer mounted integrated cameras will be positioned in prominent locations across the city road network. Baseline data across various routes and travel times has been progressively gathered in advance of the trial commencing and fed into the monitoring centre.</p> <p>Traffic mitigations planned during November include ‘No Stopping’ and ‘Bus Zone’ signage will be installed along Erin and Coleman Streets to support the new bus timetables; and, a temporary roundabout, with pedestrian refuges and new line marking will be installed at the Macleay and Coleman Street intersection.</p> <p>Communication of the trial and traffic changes will be extensive using community information pop-ups, social media campaigns, press ads to weekly, then daily media statements to project newsletters and VMS boards.</p> <p>Changes to bus services commence from Monday 27 October with new timetables available and the new timetables</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>commencing on Monday 10 November 2025. This will include adjusted pick-up and drop-off times for some Wagga Wagga schools.</p> <p>All affected schools were offered a meeting with Inland Rail to discuss the impacts on their school, focusing on changes to supervision in the morning and afternoon, and bus arrivals after the bell.</p> <p>All affected schools received a detailed document outlining the changes for each bus company. This document has been shared via existing school platforms to parents and families.</p> <p>Community engagement has focused on school briefings, Councillor briefing, hospital, fire & rescue briefings and the Wagga Wagga show. Community information sessions will be ongoing through November and December.</p> <p>Successful community grants were Erin Earth, Wagga City Rugby Male Choir and Wagga Wagga Basketball Association.</p> <p>A report of the Inland Rail Skills Academy was tabled (see appendix to the minutes).</p> <p>Q: Cr Richard Foley raised concern about the situation regarding the status of Mothers Bridge and what changes will be effected. MC advised there is a development agreement in place between Wagga Wagga City Council and Inland Rail which identifies the bridge as an asset of Council. A rail/road interface agreement also exists between TfNSW, ARTC and Council identifying the same ownership as council. Currently all planning has proceeded on the basis that the bridge is a Council asset. If this changes then appropriate consultation will need to occur with the deemed asset holder, but at the end of the day a bridge will be built.</p> <p>Cr Foley tabled questions. MC will prepare a detailed response, however it was resolved to rely on media statements from Inland Rail and Wagga Wagga City Council for the minutes (attached to minutes).</p> <p>Inland Rail statement: <i>“Inland Rail is committed to building Mothers Footbridge as part of the Albury to Illabo section of the project.”</i></p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>Q: Cr Richard Foley asked what is the budget for community grants if it possible to receive a copy of the grants for the year? KH advised that grants are determined quarterly with a maximum of \$4,000 per grant and asked for the budget to be an ACTION.</p> <p>Ms Rachael Labruyere (Environment Manager A2P)</p> <p><u>Operational Air Quality Monitoring</u></p> <p>Air Quality monitoring locations have been determined based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idling locations (sidings and loops) • Distance to receivers (within 150m) • Access to power <p>Rural and Urban monitoring locations have been identified. All locations are within the rail corridor on ARTC land. Weather stations will be installed at monitoring locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yerong Creek (Rural) • The Rock (Rural) • Junee (Urban) • Wagga Wagga (Urban) <p>Ambient Air Quality monitoring parameters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO2 (1 hour) • NO2 (Annual) • PM2.5 (24-hour) <p>Ms Kate Hardy (Stakeholder Engagement Lead A2I) - Community Update.</p> <p>IRPL First Nation Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of Interest (EOI) for First Nations Artists for the A2I project is now live, closing on 14 November 2025. • Clontarf and Stars Awards ceremonies Term 4 • Clontarf Training morning, John Holland, Martinus and Inland Rail attended. <p>Ms Hardy provided an overview of the community benefits flowing from the A2I and S2P projects July 2023 – September 2025. (see presentation).</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
6.General Business	<p>Mr David Carter questioned why the EOI is being limited to Indigenous art and not general art? KH advised it is part of the heritage interpretation. It is an electronic artwork that can be used by Martinus at various locations.</p> <p>Mr David Carter expressed concern regarding the extent of the distribution of the monthly Martinus information sheets. They are mainly targeted to the 'impacted zone' residents by way of letter box drops and mailing housing lists.</p>

Meeting Closed at 3.30 pm

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	Community Grants budget for Wagga Wagga	KH	Next meeting

Next Meeting

4 February 2026

Council looking to ensure the rebuilding of Mother's Bridge

The ownership of Mother's Bridge has become the latest source of disagreement in how the Inland Rail project is impacting Wagga Wagga.

Recent enquiries by involved parties have revealed that it is unclear who owns the bridge, which has acted as a vital link over the railway line for pedestrians for nearly 100 years.

There was an assumption that Wagga Wagga City Council owned the pedestrian bridge. It is equally possible it is owned by the NSW State Government, Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) or another NSW Government entity.

The reason this is an issue is that under the current development consent given to the project, Inland Rail must replace the bridge, and the owner becomes responsible for the new bridge.

If it is found that the bridge is not owned by Council, Inland Rail has recently indicated that it might seek to amend the project consent to remove the requirement to replace the bridge.

Wagga Wagga City Council General Manager Peter Thompson said "until relatively recently, the parties, including Council, were of the understanding that the bridge was owned by Council.

"However, looking at the evidence that goes back to the 1930s when the community raised money to partly fund the construction of the bridge, there is no evidence to indicate that Council became the owner of the bridge.

"Inland Rail indicating that it may seek to change the consent to remove the requirement to replace Mother's Bridge if it is not owned by Council is another case of this big project going through the center of our city and the community that live here ending up worse off as a result of this project."

At the request of Inland Rail, Council has reluctantly agreed on an informal basis that if it is the only way to ensure that Mother's Bridge is replaced, Council will accept ownership, even if it doesn't own it now.

This will come at a cost to Council as it will be required to maintain the bridge as one of the city's assets, which means further disadvantage for Wagga Wagga's ratepayers.

Council has cautioned that this outcome is a last resort to preserve the bridge and that Council will pursue every avenue available to ensure that whoever owns the bridge now continues to be the owner of the bridge after it is rebuilt.

Wagga Wagga City Council is looking to reach the best outcome for the community by looking to ensure the current development consent requiring the replacement of Mother's Bridge is not changed.

--- END ---

Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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