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Distribution: Distribute internally and to external business partners

Inner and Southern Darling Downs Joint Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Date/Time 12 November 2025 6:00pm – 8:00pm		Location Pittsworth Bowling Club 4 Weale Street, Pittsworth Qld 4356 <i>And online via Microsoft Teams</i>
Facilitator Emily Loudon, Stakeholder Engagement Lead	Minute taker Rebecca Murphy, Stakeholder Engagement Advisor	Distribution All attendees and CCC members
Chair Mr Bill Armagnacq Southern Darling Downs Committee	Chair Mr Graham Clapham Inner Darling Downs Committee	

Attendees (Show organisation if not IR)

Inner Darling Downs Committee

- Mr Ken Murphy
- Mr Clinton Weber
- Mr Chris Joseph
- Mr Rob Loch
- Mr Gary Garland
- Mr Kev Loveday
- Ms Phoebe Mitchell
- Mr Lance McManus
- Ms Vicki Battaglia

Inland Rail

- Robert Smith
Area Director B2G
- Andrew Roberts
Engineering Manager
- Phoebe Moore
Principal Environmental Advisor
- Kirsten Elliott
Stakeholder Engagement Officer
- Wayne Window
Environmental Manager Approvals
- Mel Ryan
Senior Property Acquisition Manager
- Chris Rae,
Property Program Coordination Manager Inland Rail
- Zeb Dawson
Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager Qld

Southern Darling Downs Committee

- Mr Robert Barrett
- Mr Jeffrey Chandler
- Mr Andrew McCartney
- Ms Rosalie Millar
- Mr Robert Webb
- Ms Georgina Krieg
- Mr Lindsay Krieg

Audience

- Kevin Bond
- Ross Berghofer
- Robyn Nobbs
- Paul Clapham
- Tony Dever
- Ruvan Dissanayale
- Frank Goodall
- Imdad Jeddy
- Maree Klemm

Meeting minutes

- Debbie McNamara
Executive Director

Apologies (Show organisation if not IR)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Mr Brett Kelly (IDD)– Mr Justin Saunders– Ms Maria Oliver– Ms Myf Rigby | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Mr Rick McDougall– Ms Kylie Schultz– Mr Paul Hanlon |
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Guests (Show organisation if not IR)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Mr Gerard Coggan
Queensland Coordinator-General– Karen Oakley
Director, Transport Infrastructure & Projects
Industry and Infrastructure Development
Office of the Coordinator-General | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Paul Byrne
Project Manager
Industry and Infrastructure Development
Office of the Coordinator-General |
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Discussions

NO.	COMMENTS
1.	Welcome, introductions and acknowledgement Bill Armagnacq (BA) as Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Welcomed attendees and acknowledged Traditional Owners of the land.– Declared personal conflict of interest (fee from Inland Rail as independent chair).– Graham Clapham confirmed fee from Inland Rail as independent chair.– Confirmed no other conflicts disclosed.– Highlighted presence of three representatives from the Coordinator General's Office:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gerard Coggan (Coordinator-General)• Paul Byrne (Project Manager)• Karen Oakley (Director, Transport Infrastructure & Projects)– Outlined agenda structure: 5 minutes per section for questions, plus 10 minutes at end.– Explained joint meeting due to attendance of Coordinator-General and venue availability.
2.	Actions arising from previous meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">– BA confirmed previous responses circulated; invited further questions.– Vicki Battaglia (VB) queried engagement for rail SIS model and outputs, are outputs available, especially for West Moreton line joining Inland Rail at Gowrie?– Robert Smith (RS) responded Rail SIS model run by internal team; based on 2040 peak train numbers from original business case. Includes coal trains; tunnel section is most constrained, but model shows capacity achievable.– Kevin Loveday (KL) raised concerns about train frequency and removal of future-proofing for 3.6 km trains. Questioned business case validity given cost escalation and design changes.– RS clarified business case based on 1.8 km trains; 3.6 km was a long-term allowance beyond 2040; future-proofing removed but does not undermine current case.– Gary Garland (GG) asked if the groundwater bore monitoring network had been updated since 2010/2011.– Phoebe Moore (PM) confirmed assessments have been undertaken based on an updated comprehensive bore network inclusive of more recent drilling, with results presented in full in the revised draft EIS based on drilling and monitoring programs. PM noted action to provide location of relevant information in rdEIS.
3.	Program update Zeb Dawson (ZD) provided a program update <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Announced leadership changes:

NO.	COMMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Zambelli appointed interim CEO. • Debbie McNamara joined as Executive Director for Project Development. – Provided construction status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria: Beveridge to Albury section handed over, enhancements underway. • NSW: Enabling works and land acquisition progressing • Qld: Environmental approvals and design development ongoing. – Three design service contracts awarded for integrated design across multiple sections. – KL questioned the end points of IR and the capacity for the terminals. – RS responded the terminals are outsourced and not part of IR remit: the responsibility of suitable design is the owner of the intermodal facility.
4.	<p>Project approvals and next steps Presented by Gerard Coggan (GC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Explained that the Coordinator-General acts as an independent statutory decision-maker under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act, assessing the project as presented. Decisions regarding route alignment remain the responsibility of the Australian Government. – Outlined EIS process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions closed August; currently reviewing submissions and identifying all issues raised. • Issues provided to Inland Rail; Inland Rail to provide response. • Independent assessment if further information required. • OCG team of internal and external consultants that specialise in different disciplines. • Key themes: flooding, noise/vibration, ecology, traffic, land tenure. – Complete assessment and recommendations for Department of Environment and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW). – If satisfied have sufficient information for a final EIS, an evaluation report will include a recommendation if project should proceed or not and will set out a range of conditions and recommendations to mitigate. – Rare for projects to have detailed design in an EIS process. Mechanisms in EIS process for changes through detailed design progression. A change may be significant enough to require further public consultation. – Emphasized transparency and potential for community committees during detailed design. – Indicative timeline: EIS decision hoped by mid-2026, subject to any further information requirements. – Rob Loch (RL) raised need for oversight on erosion risk methodology, highlighted measurements taken in wrong place. – GC assured technical experts and possible conditioning for oversight. – Ken Murphy (KM) asked about timing and public release of evaluation report. – GC confirmed report public when issued; target mid-2026 but depends on info required. – VB queried weighting of submissions and adequacy of QLD terminals for economic benefits. – GC noted all submissions treated equally; terminals outside CG's remit. – Imdad Jeddy (IJ) highlighted alignment concerns near Pittsworth and housing growth. – GC responded, may require further work or project change; Inland Rail reviewing options. – Robyn Nobbs (RN) questioned fairness of early acquisition advice before project approval. – GC noted voluntary only; no compulsory acquisition until approval. – KL noted the submissions for the draft and revised draft EIS from Toowoomba Regional Council allude to not wanting IR to go through Pittsworth or Westbrook

NO.	COMMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RS responded both councils briefed prior to public notification (of rdEIS). Continue to engage with councils. GC added OCG has a regular engagement with councils.
5.	<p>Revised draft EIS consultation and submissions overview</p> <p>RS presented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 information sessions, including landowner and stakeholder meetings Targeted briefings with government departments, councils, organisations and businesses. Analysing and compiling information for submissions 119 submissions but will involve many more responses.
6.	<p>Field surveys and investigations</p> <p>RS provided an overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embankment Trial: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Condamine area (site confirmation pending). Purpose: Test black soil performance under wet/dry cycles; inform design and construction. Wayne Window (WW) explained trial approvals separate from revised draft EIS. Community updates will be provided. Rob Loch (RL) commented that flooding simulation is not incorporated into the trial. RL requested ETV results and information on embankment trial be shared in a meeting with Darling Downs Soil Conservation Group. Cultural Heritage Surveys: Pampas to Inglewood underway in The Gap area; Bigambul and Western Wakka Wakka regions next year. Cadastral Surveys: Supporting voluntary acquisitions; accurate boundary mapping.
7.	<p>Property update</p> <p>Melinda Ryan (MR) presented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary acquisition preferred and progressing, led by landowner. Compulsory process only post-approval, enabled through legislation to acquire for transport purposes. Compensation principles: market value, severance, and impact on remaining land. Corridor protection via planning overlays post-approval. RL raised weed management issues on acquired land. MR responded IR & TMR have property management teams. MR noted would look into the property management for the B2G properties.
8.	<p>General business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KL raised Fire Ants & Weed Spread concerns related to the Inland Rail project. KL highlighted concern regarding impacts to koala habitat and the location of proposed offset properties in relation to 'hot spot' zones identified in the EIS draft koala management plan. GC response clarified the determination of offsets in accordance with statutory requirements is a matter for regulatory bodies and is currently being worked through in detail with Inland Rail. Phoebe Mitchell (PMi) Requested, future CCC meetings revert to separate IDD and SDD meetings All members agreed BA requested members to submit agenda topics in advance. All members agreed with Chairs to provide a deadline for agenda items. PMi questioned current usage of constructed IR in southern projects; Inland Rail to provide data.
9.	Conclusion and confirmation of actions

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1.	Provide additional information on acquisition processes and options to Robyn Nobbs.	Inland Rail	31/12/2025
2.	Respond with information regarding the rail modelling data	Inland Rail	31/01/2026
3.	Provide location of information on groundwater assessments completed for the rdEIS	Inland Rail	31/12/2025
4.	Request for information of the utilisation of the constructed sections of Inland Rail.	Inland Rail	31/01/2026
5.	Next meeting agenda, request for input and feedback to have a deadline.	Chairs	30/06/2026
6.	Provide design and methodology for embankment trial	Inland Rail	31/12/2025
7.	Investigate meeting arrangements for IRPL and the Darling Downs Soil Conservation Group	Inland Rail	31/01/2026

Next meeting

TBC