

## MEETING MINUTES

Inland Rail - Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S)  
Community Consultative Committee**DATE / TIME**5 February 2026  
10am**LOCATION**Junee Ex-Services Memorial Club  
Junee, NSW**FACILITATOR**

Mr Garry West

**MINUTE TAKER**

Mr Garry West

**DISTRIBUTION**

Illabo to Stockinbingal CCC

**ATTENDEES (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT INLAND RAIL)**

- ▶ Mr Garry West (Independent Chair)
- ▶ Ms Robyn Gray (Community Representative)
- ▶ Mr David Carter (NSW Farmers)
- ▶ Mr Russell Vincent (Community representative)
- ▶ Mr John Zannes (Director, Inland Rail, Transport for NSW)
- ▶ Mr James Davis (General Manager, Junee Shire Council)
- ▶ Cr Andrew Clinton (Junee Shire Council)
- ▶ Ms Jenny Williams (Community, Stakeholder and Government Relations Manager, John Holland)
- ▶ Mr Martin Honner (Community Representative)
- ▶ Mr Harry Mercer (Acting Project Director - I2S) (HM)
- ▶ Mr Grant Johnson (Stakeholder Engagement Lead – I2S) (GJ)
- ▶ Ms Eleanor Falkiner (Stakeholder Engagement Lead) (EF)
- ▶ Ms Rachael Labruyere (RL) (Environment Manager)
- ▶ Ms Clarissa Farrington (Director, Inland Rail Program Assurance, Commonwealth Infrastructure Projects Division; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts) (CF)
- ▶ Ms Holly Gray (Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Inland Rail)

**APOLOGIES (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT INLAND RAIL)**

- ▶ Mr James Kennedy (Delivery Director - A2P) (JK)
- ▶ Ms Lauren Dawes (Senior Building Surveyor, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council)
- ▶ Mr David Brodie (Acting Manager Engineering, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council)

**GUESTS (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT INLAND RAIL)**

Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
<p><b>1.Welcome</b></p>	<p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair sought agreement for him to record the meeting for the purpose of preparing minutes. No objections.</p>
<p><b>2.Declarations of Interest</b></p>	<p>No new declarations</p>
<p><b>3.Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p>	<p>It was noted and agreed that the minutes of 6 November 2025 were approved and uploaded to the project website.</p>
<p><b>5.Actions from previous meeting</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> IRPL to confirm consultation with RFS regarding operational access to the Bethungra Ranges (E122) GJ &amp; EF: JHG have met and consulted with the representatives from RFS throughout 2025 regarding the design, construction and operation of the Inland Rail. Scope of consultation included access to Bethungra ranges, level crossings, design vehicle, fencing &amp; security, hazard reduction burns and fire hazards. Consultation was with RFS South West Slopes Operational Officer, RFS Operational Manager and local Group Fire Captains.</p> <p><b>2</b> Can Stockinbingal residents inspect the workers camp? EL: Due to workplace safety and privacy considerations community visits to the accommodation facility cannot be facilitated. However, comprehensive information including photos is being prepared for inclusion within the I2S website.</p> <p><b>3</b> What happened to heritage items salvaged? RL: Test excavations undertaken as part of the EIS process found a number of Aboriginal stone artefacts within the southern part of the I2S Project (Billabong Creek and Ulandra Creek) and recommended further investigation and salvage. Salvage excavations were carried out from November 2025 to February 2026 using hand tools. Works were undertaken by archaeologists with representatives of the Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>Preliminary results suggest that test pits contained up to 81 stone artefacts with further analysis underway to confirm. The results also suggest Aboriginal people may have been manufacturing micro blades on site with other stone tools including an anvil which was recovered. Next steps include production of a post-excavation report that analyses the findings of the excavations and salvaged artefacts will be repatriated on site, near to where they were found, for them to remain on Country.</p>
<p><b>6.Proponent’s Reports</b></p>	<p><b>Mr Harry Mercer (Acting Project Director I2S) - Program Update.</b></p> <p><b>Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S) Update</b></p> <p>Mr Mercer provided an overview of the I2S program detailing that property acquisitions have been completed; and design is 91% complete, signalling about 66%, track &amp; formation is 99%, bridges are 98% and roadworks design is 81% complete.</p> <p><u>Three month lookahead</u></p> <p>Fencing along the rail corridor is continuing along with clearing and grubbing of the alignment. Temporary pipeline and storage tanks for temporary construction water supply. Utilities adjustment is almost complete. Installation of a Combined Services Route (CSR) for rail systems continues. Major construction is due to commence in March 2026 including bridgeworks, drainage culverts and earthworks. Another possession is planned for 28 February to 2 March, major focus to be on the Illabo junction trackwork and turnout installation.</p> <p><b>Q Mr David Carter: How are the sleepers going to be delivered? HM expect them to be delivered by train, however, will confirm.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p><b>Q: Mr David Carter: A number of landowners have raised concerns about the amount of ‘bulldust’ on the rail corridor from John Holland Vehicles which is causing dust issues and you are drawing water from Stockinbingal via shire roads for dust suppression. Will that change when construction commences? RL: The access tracks within the corridor are currently under</b></p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>construction and once completed the majority of traffic will progress along them and not on local roads.</p> <p><b>Q: Mr David Carter: Are all the trees that have been felled along the corridor going to be chipped? RL: Some will be chipped but a number of trees need to be maintained as habitat. Currently working with the Conservation Program Heritage &amp; Regulation (CPHR) division of DECCWW to establish which trees will be kept. Therefore, some felled trees will be kept within the corridor, for example around waterways. DC raised concern that also causes fire hazards. Where is the wood chip going? RL will take that as an ACTION.</b></p> <p><b>Q: Cr Andrew Clinton: Will these processes cause a delay in the proposed construction timeframes? RL: Do not anticipate any delays as the work is being undertaken concurrently.</b></p> <p>Latest I2S Fly through (focusing on Stockinbingal) shown to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Q: Mr Martin Honner: The video shows a sharp turn of the line west out of Stockinbingal. What is the speed? ACTION: GJ &amp; HM to clarify radius and train speed through realigned track sections.</b></p> <p><b>Q: Mr Russell Vincent: Raised concern of speed of vehicles on west side of the village. GJ advised that all traffic speeds had been reviewed by relevant authorities. ACTION: Confirm speeds approaching the bridge. Ms Robyn Gray noted all other villages on Burley Griffin Way the speed is 50km why not Stockinbingal? EF advised she would provide the feedback to Council.</b></p> <p>Mr James Davis and Mr John Zannes provided advice regarding Council procedures for changing speed limits via Local Traffic Committees and TfNSW.</p> <p><b>NSW Program Update: Mr Grant Johnson – Stakeholder Engagement Lead I2S</b></p> <p><b>Albury to Illabo</b></p> <p>Following a successful trial closure of Edmondson St bridge approval was received for permanent closure to commence works.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>The December possession saw the removal of the Albury Station footbridge, the Culcairn footbridge and 2 sites (Table Top and The Rock) had all works completed.</p> <p>Operational Noise and Vibration Review (ONVR) consultation commenced early in 2026.</p> <p>The February/March possession will see the demolition of the Edmondson St bridge deck.</p> <p><b>Stockinbingal to Parkes</b></p> <p>The Stockinbingal to Parkes project has completed all works including track lowering under Wyndham Avenue bridge, crossing loop at Daroobalgie, track slews at various locations and modification of the Lachlan River bridge.</p> <p><b>Q: Cr Andrew Clinton asked who is the noise consultant? RL advised it is SLR.</b></p> <p><b>Ms Rachael Labruyere (Environment Manager A2P) - Environment Update</b></p> <p>Stage 2 Construction has commenced along with the Flood design verification report Development, fauna connectivity strategy development which are out for consultation with relevant agencies and monitoring.</p> <p><u>Cultural Heritage (see section Actions from previous minutes.)</u></p> <p><u>Vegetation and Clearing</u></p> <p>To date 70% of the I2S alignment has been cleared with clearing due to be completed by end of February/start March 2026. A line wide pre-clearing survey of the I2S alignment undertaken in August 2025 identified: 166 habitat trees and 155 hollow bearing trees. Additional pre-clearing inspections are carried out within 48 hours of planned clearing activities.</p> <p>During the clearing works in December, three Superb Parrot fledglings were located by the Project ecologist in a felled tree. The birds were transported to a local veterinarian in Cootamundra and later released. The event was reported to DPHI/Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR) and DCCEEW as per</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>the project approval requirements. CPHR has since contacted the project to review the hollow to further understand Superb Parrot habitats.</p> <p><u>Flood Design Verification Report (FDVR)</u></p> <p>Revision B of the Flood Design Verification Report (FDVR) has been issued for consultation to agencies and Council. Locations of predicted Quantitative Design Limit (QDL) exceedances have been identified, and discussions are ongoing regrading relevant affected Landowners and Roads Authority Agreements.</p> <p>Next step of the FDVR involves consultation input and submission to the Planning Secretary for approval. Construction of permanent works that may impact on flooding will commence following approval by the Planning Secretary.</p> <p><b>Ms Eleanor Falkiner (Stakeholder Engagement Lead I2S)</b></p> <p><u>Engagement Overview – 2025 in Review</u> 77 face-to-face contacts; 48 community information centre sessions; 19 door knocking activities; 17 bulk mailouts; 9 public information sessions and 22 other various events.</p> <p><u>Consultation Q1 2026</u> Activities include closing out design with private landowners, commence utility relocations, continue hydrology and flooding consultation with key stakeholders and private landowners, visual landscape and amenity consultation, construction awareness and liaison, community info stand on monthly basis and JHG volunteering for local Meals on Wheels. DC suggested visits to the local hotel and mens’ health night to provide project updates.</p> <p><u>Consultation with NSW RFS (see Actions from previous meeting)</u> RFS provided a map where access can be gained. DC &amp; MH both requested a copy for their brigades. DC commented that access along the corridor is restricted without ARTC approval to access. DC indicated that there is only one access to the Bethungra Range and that access needs upgrading. EF reported that she had been</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>advised that as it is outside the Project boundary that is an issue for Crown Lands.</p> <p><b>It was resolved to arrange a further meeting with RFS and ARTC. EF, GJ to arrange. ACTION</b></p> <p><u>Social Performance</u>            Conducted Rail Readiness Training in December 2025 for two First Nations groups aimed at getting more First Nations workers onto both the A2i and I2S projects. 15 people were interviewed for jobs, with 7 securing employment with suppliers on the I2S project. Four other Rail Readiness courses were conducted in Cootamundra and Young. A total of 25 went for interviews, with 14 people being offered jobs on the I2S project. Another course held in late January 2026 to assist one of the John Holland fencing contractors. IRPL and JHG attended “Meet the Contractor” sessions along with participating in the “Supplier Capability program workshops”.</p> <p>EF tabled the Inland Rail Skills Academy for the Junee and Cootamundra-Gundagai LGA’s. (see copies attached to the minutes)</p> <p><u>First Nations Update</u>            I2S Wiradjuri Naming on the camp building and the Cootamundra office. JHG and Inland Rail will participate in a Cultural immersion Tour out of Cootamundra in March/April 2026.</p>
<p><b>7. Community Feedback</b></p>	<p>Martin Honner asked if the bus in Junee was being used? RL advised there has been good use of the bus and the feedback is positive.</p> <p>Martin Honner indicated the relationship with ARTC needs to be resolved for firefighting on the rail corridor. See earlier action.</p> <p><b>Martin Honner asked if the new signalling is to be copper? ACTION CF to follow up with the Department to see what is being done at a national level</b></p>
<p><b>8. General Business</b></p>	<p>Grant Johnson provided details of the recently completed Telstra mobile upgrade adding extra 4G capacity in the Stockinbingal area and readiness for a future upgrade to 5G..</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
<b>8. Conclusions</b>	Meeting closed at 11.30am

Actions

NO	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	How are sleepers to be delivered to the I2S project?	HM	Next Meeting
2	Where is the wood chip to be stored from the felled trees?	RL	Next meeting
3	Rail speed of trains through realigned track west of Stockinbingal	HM & GJ	Next Meeting
4	Confirm road speed approaching the bridge west of Stockinbingal.	GJ	Next Meeting
5	Arrange meeting with RFS and ARTC to facilitate firefighting access to Bethungra Ranges and rail corridors generally.	EF, GJ	ASAP
6	Future signalling program & use of copper	CF	Next Meeting

Meeting Closed 11.30pm

Next Meeting

**21 May 2026 in Cootamundra TBC. Future meeting for 2026 to be in Illabo and Stockinbingal**

# Inland Rail Skills Academy

2019 – December 2025 Junee LGA



## INLAND RAIL

We invest in Inland Rail alignment communities by partnering with experts to grow a local supply of businesses and future workers equipped for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



### STEM PARTNERSHIPS

**5** Events held

**7** Schools involved

**> 306**

Students engaged in STEM activities

**13%** of whom are First Nations People

**53%** of whom are Female

**42** Teachers attended



### UPSKILLING LOCAL BUSINESSES

**2** Supplier Capability Workshops held

**0** Mentoring sessions held

**16** Businesses upskilled to work on a major project

**2%** First Nations businesses

**1** "Meet the Contractor" events held

**44** Businesses attending



### SKILLS TRAINING

**0** Work ready individuals



**0** Completed Training Competencies

**0** of whom are First Nations People

**0** of whom are Female

**4** Workers received training on project

**0** Apprentices/ Trainees engaged



### COMMUNITY GRANTS

**17** Local community grants approved

**\$59K**

Cash contributions



### PROJECT WORKFORCE

**16** Total workforce from LGA

**2** Sustainable Jobs

**1** Workers in trades

**0** First Nations workers

**0** Female workers

**1** Young Workers (Under 25)



### PROJECT PROCUREMENT

**6**

Businesses who have worked on the project

**0** First Nations Businesses

**230 K**

Total spend on local businesses

# Inland Rail Skills Academy

2019 – December 2025 Cootamundra – Gundagai Shire LGA



We invest in Inland Rail alignment communities by partnering with experts to grow a local supply of businesses and future workers equipped for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## STEM PARTNERSHIPS

**3** Events held

**3** Schools involved

**274**

Students engaged in STEM activities

**15%** of whom are First Nations People

**47%** of whom are Female

**23** Teachers attended



## UPSKILLING LOCAL BUSINESSES

**2** Supplier Capability Workshops held

**0** Mentoring sessions held

**26** Businesses upskilled to work on a major project

**7%** First Nations businesses

**3** "Meet the Contractor" events held

**134** Businesses attending



## SKILLS TRAINING

**41** Work ready individuals

**3** Completed Training Competencies

**12** of whom are First Nations People

of whom are Female **8**

**1** Workers received training on project

**0** Apprentices/ Trainees engaged



## COMMUNITY GRANTS

**14** Local community grants approved

**\$39 K**

Cash contributions



## PROJECT WORKFORCE

**29** Total workforce from LGA

**4** Sustainable Jobs

**0** Workers in trades

**3** First Nations workers

**7** Female workers

**3** Young Workers (Under 25)



## PROJECT PROCUREMENT

**14**

Businesses who have worked on the project

**0** First Nations Businesses

**\$ 1.1m**

Total spend on local businesses