

MEETING MINUTES

Inland Rail - Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S)
Community Consultative Committee

DATE / TIME

21 May 2026
10am

LOCATION

Cootamundra Library
Cootamundra 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 Michael Jackson (General Manager, Junee Shire Council)
- ▶ Cr Andrew Clinton (Junee Shire Council)
- ▶ Mr James Coleborne (Community representative)
- ▶ Ms Jenny Williams (Stakeholder Manager, John Holland)
- ▶ Ms Gordana Karachony (Senior Project Manager I2S) (GK)
- ▶ Ms Casey Wallace (Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager A2P) CW
- ▶ Mr Grant Johnson (Stakeholder Engagement Lead – I2S) (GJ)
- ▶ Ms Susan Kay (Principal Environmental Advisor) (SK)
- ▶ Mr Brent Fewkes (Social Performance Principal) (BF)
- ▶ Mr Trumaine Warcon (Senior First Nations Engagement Advisor) (TW)

APOLOGIES (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT INLAND RAIL)

- ▶ Mr Martin Honner (Community Representative)
- ▶ Lloyd Hart (Junee Shire Council)
- ▶ Ms Clarissa Farrington (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)

GUESTS (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT INLAND RAIL)

NIL

Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
1.Welcome	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.
2.Declarations of Interest	No new declarations
3.Minutes of Previous Meeting	It was noted and agreed that the minutes of 5 February 2026 were approved and uploaded to the project website.
5.Actions from previous meeting	1 How are sleepers to be delivered to the I2S project? GJ advised the sleepers being delivered to site are predominantly coming from Austrak's yard in Bomen. Bomen yard can facilitate road or rail deliveries to site. Our principal contractor, John Holland, has determined to have sleepers delivered to site via road deliveries. 2 Where is the wood chip to be stored from the felled trees? SK advised hollow sections of felled trees have been stockpiled across the alignment awaiting relocation to appropriate areas for use. IRPL arranged access into the proposed Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) area in April to enable placement of felled habitat trees. The eastern BSA area was completed in April with the western area trees scheduled to be placed in June. Prior to placement, felled hollows were cleared by the Project Ecologist. Wood chip is mainly being stored for erosion sediment control. 3 Rail speed of trains through realigned track west of Stockinbingal GJ provided an answer via a diagram showing the realigned track will have a radius of 235 metres with a design line speed of 40 km/h through the curves. 4 Confirm road speed approaching the bridge west of Stockinbingal. GJ advised the posted speed limit over the road bridge of Burley Griffin Way alignment is 100 km/h which then reduces to 60 km/h coming into the Stockinbingal town as it is currently. Specifically, over the bridge is 100 km/h.

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	GW advised any requests for different road speeds need to be referred to the local traffic committee of Cootamundra-Gundagai Council for consideration and determination as well as TfNSW. 5 Arrange meeting with RFS and ARTC to facilitate firefighting access to Bethungra Ranges and rail corridors generally. GJ advised a meeting was held on 9 April with relevant stakeholders. Confirmed CoA E122 has been met. Mr David Carter felt the response is still not satisfactory. Further discussion is required. 6 Future signalling program & use of copper (in reference to a Federal Government Program). GW explained the response is to be carried forward to the next meeting due to the Ms Farrington's apology to the meeting.
6.Proponent's Reports	Ms Casey Wallace – Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager Program Update Ms Wallace confirmed Inland Rail will deliver Beveridge (VIC) to Parkes (NSW) ready for double-stacked operations by the end of 2027 and all approved project works will continue as planned. The Government has confirmed that it is focused on working with the Queensland and New South Wales Governments to preserve the rail corridor north of Parkes. (See Minister's Media Release 6 May 2026 attached to these minutes). Dr Collette Burke has been announced as the Chair of the Inland Rail Board and the Appointment of Inland Rail's new CEO, Dr Sean Sweeney, has been confirmed, with planned start date in July 2026. Adjacent Project Update <u>Albury to Illabo (A2I)</u> • A successful 96 – hour possession was completed with works undertaken across Albury, Wagga Wagga and Junee. • The next major possession is scheduled for September 2026 • Project works are scheduled for completion in late 2027. <u>Stockinbingal to Parkes (S2P)</u> All major works are now completed. Cr Andrew Clinton asked, in light of the Government's announcement what happens in the situation where a passive level

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	crossing is required to change to an active level crossing. Who pays? CW advised if it is not in the existing scope of works it will be ARTC who responds. Ms Gordana Karachony (Senior Project Manager I2S) - Program Update. Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S) Update Ms Karachony provided an overview of the I2S program detailing that Design progress is at 93%, signalling at 76%, Track & Formation at 99%, Bridges at 98% and Roadworks at 92%. Project Progress overall is at 7%, Site Establishment at 55%, Waterway Bridges at 3%, Old Cootamundra bridge at 7%, Dirnaseer Bridge at 20% and Burley Griffin Way Bridge has not commenced. <u>I2S Construction Update</u> • Site clearing & bridge preparation works continue • General earthworks continuing along the alignment, and • Rail delivery at Illabo during the May 26 possession • A series of photos were provided showing the various project activities underway. • Some major construction activities have yet to be approved by DPHI. <u>Three Month Lookahead</u> • Continuation of construction works • Traffic management and detours planned during Q2 • Low level earthworks blasting planned for Q2 • Next planned possession is September 2026 Mr David Carter asked for detail of the works planned during the September possession. GK explained the detail was still being determined and the scope will be finalised soon. Ms Robyn Gray asked if blasting will be notified. GK answered Yes, blasting notification is part of the approvals. Mr David Carter asked if detours are implemented when blasting commences, that will impact on school bus routes. GK advised she

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	was not aware of the detail and will need to take the question on notice. [ACTION] Ms Susan Kay (Principal Environment Advisor A2P) - Environment Update 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. <u>Box Gum Woodland (see section Actions from previous minutes.)</u> <u>Flood Design Verification Report (FDVR)</u> In March 2026, permission was granted by DPHI to enable limited construction (including earthworks, cut and fill excavation and low risk culverts) to commence whilst the Flood Design Verification Report was finalised. Activities which were identified as higher risk due to impacts on flooding, will commence once further approval is received from DPHI. <u>Blast Management Strategy</u> • The Blast Management Strategy has been submitted to DPHI for approval prior to commencement of blasting. • The first blast of the program will be treated as a trial blast which will occur at Cut 19 where the closest receiver is located 1.67km from the alignment. • The geometry and rock type at this location will provide an appropriate baseline to inform the remaining blast locations. • The Blast Contractor will monitor the blast at 3 locations (200m, 300m and closest sensitive receiver) • Where applicable, any localised surrounding public roads will be placed under a hold/release type traffic control arrangement, and the VMS boards will be installed to inform road users of the blasting. Any reduced speed arrangements will be sign posted.

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	Cr Andrew Clinton asked why the blast monitoring locations are so close to the source? SK indicated monitoring will inform future blasts and needs to be conducted at the nearest receivers. Adjoining neighbours need to be notified so as to avoid any farm work near the blast locations. Mr Grant Johnson - (Stakeholder Engagement Lead I2S) <u>Stakeholder Engagement</u> Visual Landscape Impact Mitigation Plan (VLIMP) consultation as required by CoA E126 is now complete. Design engagement completed with Landowners. ARTC has developed draft procedures for safe movement of livestock and agricultural machinery across the corridor as required by CoA E99. Consultation will commence soon. John Holland and IRPL attended the Muttama 140-year Celebration of Rail event. Mr Brent Fewkes - (Social Performance Principal) <u>Social Performance</u> • Held a Rail Readiness training course in late January 2026 to assist one of the John Holland fencing contractors. ○ 8 participants, with 4 interviewed. 2 permanent jobs with casual jobs available ○ Fencing contractor has been supported through “Meet the Contractor” events, along with participating in the Business Capability workshops. • University of Newcastle – Science and Engineering Challenge events held in March 2026 ○ High and primary schools invited to compete with other schools in a number of STEM related challenges/activities • SMART Tours – Illabo Primary and Cootamundra Primary Schools participated in STEM science shows. • Community grants – Round 29 closed, with Round 20 closing on 31 July 2026

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	Mr Fewkes gave an overview of the IRPL investment programs and activities in the Junee and Cootamundra-Gundagai Shire LGA's from 2019 to March 2026. (See attachments to these minutes) Cr Andrew Clinton asked what is the size of the community grants and where are application forms? BF Maximum amount for grants is \$4,000 and application forms are on the project website. Mr Trumaine Warcon - (Senior First Nations Engagement Advisor) <u>First Nations Update</u> • A Smoking Ceremony took place to launch the start of construction • I2S Wiradjuri Naming on the camp building and the Cootamundra office has been implemented. • JHG and IRPL will participate in a Cultural Immersion Tour out of Cootamundra on 27 May 2026 • IR Reconciliation Week events occurring from 27/05/2026 to 03/06/2026
7. Community Feedback	Mr James Colbourne
8. General Business	
8. Conclusions	Meeting closed at 11am

Actions

NO	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	Future signalling programs & use of copper (Commonwealth program)	CF	Next Meeting
2	Will road diversions affecting school bus routes be required during blasting activity	SK/GK	12 June 2026

Meeting Closed 11am

Next Meeting

6 August 2026 in Illabo TBC.

