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INLAND RAIL COMBINED MEETING OF THE INNER DARLING DOWNS AND SOUTHERN DARLING DOWNS COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES



Mr Graham Clapham

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

An extraordinary meeting of the Inner Darling Downs and Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committees was held on 10 April 2018 to discuss the draft methodology for developing a solution for crossing the Condamine floodplain as part of the NSW/QLD Border to Gowrie (B2G) project.

This summary provides an overview of the meeting in order to share information with the community at the earliest opportunity. The summary is a precursor to the formal meeting minutes, which will be published on the Inland Rail website following endorsement by the committee.

The meeting was attended by 22 members, with the Inner Darling Downs CCC Chair, Professor Steven Raine and six committee members having tendered their apologies.

ARTC and its consultants are progressing field investigations and engagement with landowners and the community across the study area between the NSW/QLD Border and Gowrie, with the Condamine floodplain area being the initial priority.

ARTC's technical consultant for the project, the Future Freight Joint Venture (FFJV), provided an overview of the methodology it will be implementing for developing a design solution for crossing the Condamine floodplain. This design solution will take into account many different elements including flooding, ground conditions, environment, and social and economic impacts.

The methodology for developing the design solution is:

- ▶ Gathering information through technical studies and consultation with landowners and other key stakeholders.
- ▶ Developing a hydrology model in specialised flood modelling software and validating the model by measuring historic flood levels and gaining first hand accounts from landowners and other key stakeholders.
- ▶ Developing preliminary design solutions and consulting with landowners and other key stakeholders about the designs, potential impacts and mitigation measures. This is expected in mid 2018.
- ▶ Finalising the design solution. This is expected in late 2018.

ARTC provided an overview of the draft EIS consultation program, which is dependent in part on the timing of the project's Terms of Reference (ToR) being finalised and the finalisation of FFJV's program. A draft alignment for the project is expected to be released around September 2018.

ARTC is running community consultation sessions on 19 and 21 April 2018 in Millmerran and Brookstead to share the methodology for developing a solution for crossing the Condamine floodplain and to gather local knowledge on flooding and other conditions.

A Southern Darling Downs committee member representing a number of floodplain landowners asked ARTC to build a bridge/viaduct structure across the Condamine floodplain. ARTC advised that it will consider a broad range of design options for crossing the floodplain, of which a bridge/viaduct structure is one. The committee agreed that ARTC should investigate a range of options and evaluate potential impacts before committing to a solution.

An Inner Darling Downs committee member highlighted the importance of local industry participation in all elements of the Inland Rail project. ARTC undertook to provide more information about when the local industry would be engaged.

The next meetings for both committees will be scheduled to allow the timely consideration of the draft ToR for the project and will be advertised in advance.

Mr Graham Clapham

Chair – Inland Rail Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee

16 April 2018

Interested community members are welcome to attend committee meetings as observers. For more information please contact the Inland Rail Community Engagement team.

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