

Narromine to Narrabri Inland Rail Community Consultative Committee NARROMINE SUB-COMMITTEE

DATE / TIME LOCATION

24 February 2020 Narromine United Services Memorial Club, Narromine

1.15 pm

FACILITATOR MINUTE TAKER DISTRIBUTION

Michael Silver OAM Narromine Sub-committee

ATTENDEES

Michael Silver (Independent Chair)

Andrew Knop (Community Member)

Alan Channell (Community Member)

Murray Feddersen (Community Member)

Lewis Lydon (Community Member)

Patricio Munoz

Tony Rymer

Kyle-James Giggacher

Matt Errington

APOLOGIES

Paul Brydon (Community Member)

Shelly Bayliss (Community Member)

Taje Fowler (Community Member)

GUESTS

- Jennifer Knop
- Tim Collins (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment)
- James White (Transport for NSW)
- John Zannes (Transport for NSW)
- Janet Scott (Transport for NSW)
- Anna Howard (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications)
- Elisha Bailey (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications)
- Louise Johnson (ARTC)

Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Mr Silver also acknowledged the conobserver, the representatives of Commonwealth and State Government agence ARTC staff in attendance.	
2. Acknowledgement of Country	The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is held and recognised their continuing connection to land, waters and culture, paying respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



NO.	DISCUSSIONS		
3. Declarations of Interest	 Michael Silver – Pecuniary interest – expenses of Independent Chair borne by ARTC. Andrew Knop – non-pecuniary interest. Property located within Study Area. Murray Feddersen – non-pecuniary interest. Property located within Study Area and Focus Area of Investigation. Alan Channell – non-pecuniary interest. Property located within Study Area. 		
4. Question and Answer Protocol	 The Chair provided an overview of the Question and Answer Protocol recently finalised by the Sub-committee. Mr Silver advised that the follow specific matters should be noted by Observers wishing to ask questions during the Question and Answer Session: Observers must register to ask a question. Only one question may be asked unless the chair approves a second question. Questions shall relate to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) preparation and not to historical matters prior to issue of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). Questions may only be directed to Inland Rail staff or consultants through the Chair. 		
5. Chair's Minute	The Chair detailed two matters: • Independent Chairs' Meeting – Mr Silver provided an overview of a meeting involving members of the Independent Chairs' Panel (ICP) and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) he attended in Sydney on 4 November 2019. He advised the meeting discussed the operation of Community Consultative Committees (CCC), the effectiveness of the CCC guidelines and the future functions of ICP. • Senate Enquiry – Mr Silver advised that he had reviewed the various submissions to the Senate enquiry and read the transcripts from the Millmerran and Brisbane hearings		
6. Minutes of Previous Meeting	It was noted that the minutes of the fourth meeting of the Sub-committee had been approved on 31 October 2019 and placed on the proponent's website. The Chair advised that responses to four outstanding 'Other Agenda Items' questions on 17 December 2019 had been subsequently incorporated into the minutes.		
7. Business Arising	• Nil		
8. Correspondence	 Hon. Mark Coulton MP – Advising that the potential to undertake telecommunications upgrades in rural areas because of the Inland Rail project is being investigated. 		
9. Proponent's Report	 Patricio Munoz, Kyle-James Giggacher and Tony Rymer and Matt Errington presented the proponent's report. Refer to the attached presentation. 9.1 Program Overview Patricio Munoz presented an overview of the Inland Rail project – via the Inland Rail Route History 2006-2019 document – highlighting that transit time was a critical consideration in route selection. He also provided a summary of the route option analysis of the 'East or West' around Narromine. Mr Munoz also noted the Senate enquiry currently being conducted, advising that ARTC had made a submission to the enquiry. He advised that ultimately the community must have confidence in the solutions to the project's engineering challenges – accordingly the focus of the project team is to get the modelling and engineering right. Andrew Knop responded that the report of flooding around Narromine in the Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) process had been underestimated. Mr Knop referred to the 2010 Inland Rail Alignment Study (IRAS) Report that suggested that flooding east of Narromine was more severe and as such there would be 		





NO.	DISCUSSIONS		
Focussed Area of Investigation but also the wider community neighbours" to anyone else in the community who might be various activities. He said Inland Rail must spread the information has been to this point to "avoid potential unpleasant surprict people will generally take to change much better if we particularly don't like to be "surprised" by change. • Mr Munoz provided an overview on various infrastructure elemproject including:			
	 Culvert construction Level crossing construction North West Connection – Parkes 		
	He also provided an update on progress of the Narrabri to North Star (N2NS) project. Mr Munoz then outlined the sponsorship and Donations program highlighting that Inland Rail is committed to supporting local communities. He noted that eligible organisations can apply for amounts of between \$1,000 and \$4,000. The next round of applications closes on 30 April 2020. Mr Munoz made special mention of funding opportunities for STEM based programs – Inland Rail is particularly interested in supporting education-based projects. Mr Knop advised that a local member of the community had questioned why Inland Rail was offering such a highly funded grants program – this program has people in the community concerned. Mr Lydon also sought clarification of the rationale behind the program. Mr Munoz responded that he understands the concerns of severely impacted people. He noted, however, Inland Rail's interest in providing educational scholarships and grants to permit community organisations fulfil their plans. Mr Munoz provided examples of the grant program, from Learn to Swim classes, to fixing water supply bores, to an excursion to Sydney for children from the Croppa Creek (North Star) area that had significant educational, social and life experience benefits for the children concerned. Mr Knop questioned whether this is an appropriate us of public funds, suggesting that this is a simplistic method of addressing impacts on communities. Mr Munoz disagreed that the program is simplistic, noting that the \$4,000 grant to the Baradine Show, which has struggled to obtain sponsorship support, was critical to the well-being of that community. He noted that Baradine is significantly impacted by the Inland Rail project. Mr Munoz advised that the primary consideration was the need of the community and that the proximity to the project was a secondary consideration. He also indicated that events within smaller communities are supported as much as		
	 those within larger centres. 9.2 Community Engagement Mr Munoz provided an outline of the processes involved since July 2019 in the refinement of the Study Area to a 150 to 400 metres wide Focused Area of 		
	 Investigation. He advised all directly impacted landowners have received updated property maps and have been offered face-to-face meetings. He advised that in the process of meeting with landowners, that Inland Rail is committed to respecting the privacy of landowners. Mr Feddersen commented that, from feedback, the project meetings had been well received by landholders. Mr Munoz advised that a consultant Agronomist had attended the one-on-one meetings with landholders. This had proved beneficial, particularly in analysing and discussing impacts on property operations. The agronomic information obtained will be fed into the EIS process. 		



NO.	DISCUSSIONS		
	It was noted that having regard to the Focused Area of Investigation, the one- on-one meetings discussed the following matters:		
	 Property Impacts Preliminary flood modelling Geotechnical Conditions Preliminary Level Crossing discussions 		
	 Mr Feddersen noted the recent rain and the implications for increased farming activity. He questioned how Inland Rail will respond to the probable increase in farming activity and the implications of the project on landholders' operations. Mr Giggacher responded that the current and future climatic conditions are constantly under review. He advised that affected landholders are aware of where the final corridor will likely go – interaction with affected landholders to ensure they are aware of future developments will be maintained. Mr Munoz cited the Narrabri to North Star project (N2NS) strategy which had been adjusted with little produce being moved due to localised flooding. Accordingly, the N2N strategy will need to be adjusted having regard to changes in farming activity and climatic conditions. Mr Munoz detailed upcoming Community Information Sessions following defining of the Focused Area of Investigation: 		
	 Narrabri Monday 9 March 2020 Baradine Tuesday 10 March 2020 Gilgandra Wednesday 11 March 2020 Curban Thursday 12 March 2020 Narromine Friday 13 March 2020 		
	 Matt Errington provided an update on progress of preparation of the EIS. Mr Errington advised that four (4) borrow pit sites will be included in the EIS. Construction Environmental Management Plans will be established for the operation of the borrow pits during the construction phase. Mr Feddersen sought clarification that the actual sites have been confirmed, to which Mr Giggacher responded that the four sites have been identified but no formal legal agreements have been established with the relevant landholders. He further advised that actual volumes of material will be determined by the construction contractor. Mr Feddersen noted that numerous landholders had registered sites for borrow pits but had not received communication advising if their property will be used as a borrow pit site. Mr Giggacher responded that 16 other pit sites had been identified – the inclusion of 4 identified sites in the EIS does not mean that the other locations will not be used, but additional borrow pit locations would require a modification to the approval. Mr Feddersen requested that landholders whose borrow pit sites will not be included in the EIS are duly notified as a matter of courtesy. Mr Errington commented on various EIS activities currently being undertaken: 		
	 Biodiversity – ecologists finalising mapping Social Impact Assessment – one-on-one meetings with 20 directly impacted landowners in March/April 2020. Mr Feddersen sought clarification on the selection criteria for the 20 directly impacted landholders. Mr Errington advised that the 20 would be a 		
	representative sample. Mr Munoz advised that 20 landholders would be selected from the 117 directly affected property owners. Mr Feddersen commented that the assessment should be representative of each individual landholder affected. In response Mr Errington advised that it is intended to pick		



NO.	DISCUSSIONS
NO.	up on common themes rather than individual circumstances. Mr Feddersen expressed his disappointment at this approach given the stress being felt by all affected landholders, suggesting a self-selection process may assist to understand individual impact. Mr Munoz said he understood the concern and consideration would be given to options that support and understand individual circumstances. Mr Feddersen said that the project team needs to talk to people "with skin in the game". • Mr Munoz advised that where landholders believe there are 'Intolerable Impacts', landholders may apply for early acquisition. Landholders however
	should ensure they understand the compulsory acquisition process in these circumstances. Mr Munoz added that where there is personal difficulty, landholders can write and request early acquisition, however there will need to be an unequivocal demonstrated need. He indicated in these circumstances the acquisition would be at market value prior to the rail line going through a property. • Mr Knop brought to the meeting's attention a purchase of land south of Narromine where the prospective purchaser was unaware of the future corridor for the Inland Rail project. Mr Knop suggested that a corridor reservation for the P2N project had changed in the south Narromine area in the vicinity of Eumungerie Road without due notification. Mr Knop affirmed that there was a
	designated reserve corridor across the subject property. The Chair suggested that Mr Knop's ascertains are issues that should be referred to the Senate Enquiry • Mr Knop also questioned the adequacy of notification to landholders of the proposed Study Area as required by the SEARs. The Chair indicated he would forward the link to the DPIE website of the SEARs document. https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSI-9487%2120190301T042801.425%20GMT Chair's note: The SEARs does not specify the requirements for
	notification processes for State Significant Infrastructure (SSI). Clause 193 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2000 outlines the notification and landowner consent requirements for SSI proposals. Refer to the following link to the DPIE Fact Sheet (FS01 2015) regarding SSI owner consent processes: https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/fact-sheet-land-owners-consent-for-state-significant-proposals-2015-11.pdf?la=en • Mr Errington advised that the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
	Report would be reviewed shortly by the Registered Aboriginal Participants (RAPs) and DPIE. • Mr Errington advised that the draft EIS (70% stage) would be presented to the N2N CCC in May/June 2020. He suggested that this could take the form of an all-day briefing session with a focus on specific themes. It was advised that the flood modelling will be presented to all three sub-committees, with each sub-committee to select a further 4 or 5 areas of interest. • Mr Feddersen asked whether a SIA report will be available. Mr Errington
	confirmed it will form part of the EIS, which will be publicly available for review and comment during EIS exhibition. Mr Feddersen also asked when action/responses on the SIA will be implemented. Mr Errington advised that a Social Impact Management Plan will be implemented during the construction and operation phases of the project. 9.4 Project Timeline
	 Tony Rymer took the Sub-committee through the project timeline. He also detailed the process to be undertaken to select the contractor. Mr Rymer advised that the EIS would be submitted to the DPIE in late Quarter 3 or Quarter 4, 2020 for adequacy review. Determination of the Project Application has been programmed for Quarter 4, 2021.



NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	 Mr Errington confirmed that DPIE will not permit lodgement and exhibition until it is satisfied the EIS meets the requirements of the SEARs. Subject to a confirmation of adequacy, it could be expected the EIS will go on exhibition in Quarter 1 2021. Mr Rymer indicated that the property acquisition process was likely to commence in Quarter 4, 2020, once there is certainty on design, viz the corridor is confirmed. He advised that acquisition may occur via 4 to 6 tranches with ARTC acting as the agent for Transport for NSW (TfNSW). Mr Feddersen questioned how farming operations, mortgages, banks and the general uncertainty of when acquisition will be finalised will be managed. Mr Rymer advised that information on these issues may be obtained from the Property Acquisition website:



NO.	DISCUSSIONS		
	9.6 Focused Area of Investigation • Mr Giggacher provided a detailed interactive presentation of the Focus Area of Investigation for the Narromine to Narrabri Inland Rail Project. It was agreed that the presentation would focus on the Focus Area refinement within the Narromine Shire Local Covernment Area (LGA). • Mr Giggacher stepped the Sub-committee through the Focus Area, zooming in on all areas of interest, particularly river and stream crossings, road crossings as well as detailing the location of the proposed passing loop within the Narromine LGA. • Mr Knop noted that the MCA indicated that the time constraints were a primary consideration in the alignment selection process. He noted that the proposed west alignment adds one kilometre (or 24 seconds) to the route, whilst the original east rout is 5 kilometres shorter. He also questioned the anticipated average train speed, noting that between Melbourne and Brisbane the 2010 IRAS Report suggests maximum speeds of between just 60 and 90 kilometres per hour not the 110 kilometres per hour more recently promoted. He added that the new eastern alignment adds 4 minutes to the transit time, which contradicts Inland Rail CEO Richard Wankmuller's statement to the Senate that 'a couple of minutes is a massive game changer'. Mr Knop went on to say that subtle little changes are occurring which increase the transit time – there being an irony of the development that the goalposts are changing all the time. Yet senior executives, such as Mr John Fullerton, talk about 30 seconds additional transit time being critical. • Mr Munoz responded that these are comments that Mr Knop should make to the Senate Inquiry. • In respect of the Focused Area map, Mr Knop indicated that in the 1955 flood 92;700 megalitres per day flooded through the Webb Siding outflow. He suggested that this took pressure off the Narromine Levee System. He expressed concern that a significant embankment was being considered within the Webb Siding outflow, suggesting that floodwater will inundate t		
	 Accommodation Camps 		



NO.	DISCUSSIONS					
	Mr Errington advised that locations are being finalised and would be detailed in the EIS. Evaluation of greenfield and existing accommodation facilities is being undertaken. • Mr Knop requested more advice on the release of the MCA reports.					
10. Other Agenda	Members' questions on matters specific to the project:					
Items	Narromine Sub-committee					
	• Nil					
	Gilgandra Sub-committee					
	Gligandra Sub-committee					
	Peter Bonnington					
	10.1 Can Inland Rail please provide an updated project timeline to the Committee at the 25 February meeting, covering timeframe from the current point in time through to the commencement of construction? A summarised Gantt Chart (or the like) should suffice so long as it provides stakeholders with a clear understanding of the significant steps and timeframes for the next 24 months period.					
	A: Timetable provided in the proponent's presentation.					
	10.2 Can Inland Rail please confirm the current proposed design for the crossing of the Castlereagh Highway at Curban e.g. overpass, at grade with boom gates etc. Why was this option chosen and does Inland Rail believe it will meet community expectations for safety and community impact? What views were sought from significant community stakeholders such as NSW Health, Local Councils, Road Freight businesses etc prior adopting this proposed design?					
A: ARTC are currently reviewing the treatment for this location with RMS with reference to the road traffic assumptions such as traffic and heavy vehicle usage. From a safety perspective interfaces will be designed to ensure the with the relevant Australian and ARTC standards. When assessing crossings ARTC also use a national system called ALCAM (Austra Crossing Assessment Model), which considers factors such as round numbers, vehicle type, train numbers, speeds and sighting distant it is forecasted that train volumes in this section would be approximated that train per hour. The impact on the broader transport network will be assessed as part of the Elmpact Statement.						
	10.3 What is Inland Rail's plan to restrict stock access to the rail corridor at the crossing points at Wyuna Rd and the Castlereagh Highway? i.e. what is the vision for the safe movement of stock on foot across these crossing points given my understanding is that the roads and rail will not be grade separated and that exclusion of the rail corridor is not practical to achieve under the current design?					
	A: ARTC do not require a permit for the movement of stock across public level crossings. However, as is the case today, members of the public moving stock on foot along public roads would be required to attain the necessary approvals from the relevant authorities such as council/local land services. Further, all level crossings are built to relevant Australian and ARTC standards, which are consistent across the VIC, NSW and QLD, and the 1,700km of proposed Inland Rail track.					
	10.4 Can Inland Rail provide any clarity on the proposed working relationships between affected landholders and appointed contractors prior to, and during,					



NO. DISCUSSIONS

construction? By that I mean if there are a variety of contractors in use to build the line, relocate power, provide road diversion etc will there be a single point of contact for the landholder in order to provide continuity, accountability and certainty for the management of landholder concerns? When can Inland Rail make a commitment to providing a governance structure to this question?

A: ARTC Inland Rail remains committed to open and ongoing community engagement throughout all phases of the project lifecycle. This includes during the construction phase, following the appointment of a Principal Contractor. If approved for construction, the Narromine to Narrabri project will be subject to Conditions of Approval (CoA), which cover community engagement, complaints management and dispute resolution. Importantly, the CoA also covers environmental, construction and operational matters that ARTC Inland Rail and the Principal Contractor must meet.

Independent Chair

10.5 What qualifications or experience (or sourcing external input) do those responsible for preparing rail crossing designs (specifically to rural areas such as the Curban area) or dealing with farmers have in animal husbandry or stock management/movement?

A: ARTC designs both public and private level crossings. All crossings are designed to comply with the relevant Australian and ARTC standards. During the design of crossings, ARTC liaises closely with landowners to discuss requirements (fencing, road surface treatment, etc.). Where possible, we look to incorporate this feedback into our designs.

There are more than 23,500 railway level crossings in Australia (approximately 2,900 are on the ARTC network). As one would appreciate, safety remains paramount. ARTC regularly undertakes safety campaigns focused on level crossing safety (e.g. N2NS delivery of steel and sleepers and P2N on new active rail).

Barbara Deans - outstanding from previous meeting

10.6 How does ARTC intend to restrict the spread by construction equipment of noxious weeds, such as Hudson Pear which exists on the proposed corridor?

A: ARTC Inland Rail takes this question on notice. ARTC Inland Rail will seek further advice on the matter and respond in due time.

 Mrs Deans commented on her question from the previous meeting regarding Hudson Pear management and asked what if the contractor makes a mistake and doesn't take necessary risk management precautions or actions.

A: Mr Errington responded that if an error occurs the contractor will be penalised – there will be processes set out in the contract to address such occurrences, which will meet regulatory requirements. Mr Rymer advised that in the tender assessment process the environmental management capability of the tenderer will be examined, together with the prospective contractor's experience in dealing with projects of this scale. Kookie Aitkens asked will there be an ongoing auditing process. Mr Rymer confirmed that regular monitoring and auditing of the contractor's performance will be undertaken by ARTC. Mr Errington added that consultation will occur with the regional weed authority regarding weed management and effective protocols will be implemented.

10.7 How many forced easements will ARTC be applying for in the EIS and can a map of these be provided?



NO.	DISCUSSIONS		
	A: ARTC Inland Rail requests further clarity on this question. Chairs note: In respect of Mrs Dean's questions regarding the property acquisition process, the Chair advised that this question had been responded to earlier in the meeting by Mr White of TfNSW and himself.		
	Narrabri Sub-committee		
	Cindy Neil		
	10.8 Does acquisition start when the EIS is presented or acquisition only starts after EIS is accepted by the government.		
	A: The acquisition process will commence after the Reference Design completed and the final alignment confirmed.		
	10.9 The CCC was previously going to organise an authority to speak on acquisition and compensation. If this has not been done could it be organised for next meeting?		
A: The property acquisition presentation was made to May 2019 me Chair's note: A copy of this presentation was provided to the comm			
11. General Business	 Mr Knop asked when the hydrological data will be available for review. Mr Errington advised that this would be after the flood modelling is finalised. 		
	Meeting Closed at 4.55 pm. The Chair thanked all for their attendance.		

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1.	That ARTC clarify the status/response to the request by the NSW Farmers Association for an independent review of the Multi Criteria Analysis process used to make a recommendation to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport on the preferred study area for the Narromine to Narrabri section of the Inland Rail project.	PM COMPLETED	Senate Enquiry
2.	That ARTC provide a report on relevant road maintenance guidelines and standards to be implemented on local roads to be used for haulage during the project to the next meeting of the CCC.	KJG COMPLETED	24/09/2019
3.	That the ARTC Inland Rail Social Performance team provide a presentation to the next meeting of the CCC.	JM COMPLETED	24/09/2019
4.	That ARTC provide an updated noise logger location map at the next meeting of the CCC.	KJG COMPLETED	13/03/2020
5.	That ARTC provide advice on future project timelines to the Chair when they are determined.	PM COMPLETED	24/02/2020
6.	That ARTC provide a response to the Chair regarding the number of landholdings in the Narromine-Burroway component of the study area. Chair's note: There are 23 directly impacted landholders in Focussed Area of Investigation from Narromine to Burroway. There are approximately 120-130 landowners within the Narromine to Burroway N2N Study Area footprint.	KJG COMPLETED	16/03/2020
7.	That ARTC provide a response to how much water and what source will used by ARTC for construction work?	TR ONGOING	ТВА



NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
	A: Currently the project is assessing the potential of the following water sources: 1. Any available water access licences identified near Narrabri and Narromine; 2. Treated water supply options; 3. Deep aquifer bores. A maximum travel distance of 25 kilometres from a water source to the construction site is desirable.		
8.	That ARTC advise what requirements it will have for dust suppression on its new quarry contractors?	KJG COMPLETED	24/02/2020

Next Meeting

The next meeting tentatively set for early May 2020.

Meeting minutes approved.

Michael J. Silver OAM Independent Chair

30 March 2020