



# SOUTHERN DARLING DOWNS COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S SUMMARY

## CHAIR'S SUMMARY



Mr Graham Clapham

The sixth meeting of the Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the committee) was held at the Millmerran Community and Cultural Centre on 13 June 2019.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Graham Clapham and attended by 11 of the 15 Southern Darling Downs committee members. Three members tendered their apologies, two of whom appointed proxies to represent the interests of the community organisations they represent. The meeting was observed by seven community members.

The committee ratified the committee Charter, which was updated to contain additions as agreed at the March meeting in Inglewood, specifically:

- ▶ If a member representing an organisation is unable to attend a Committee meeting, they are able to appoint a proxy as notified to the Chair prior to the meeting.
- ▶ On conclusion of the business of the Committee, and time permitting, the Chair will provide the opportunity for observers to ask questions of ARTC.

ARTC advised it had been reviewing the project design and would be releasing the proposed alignment publicly in the coming months. Information released will include the horizontal rail alignment, provisional crossing loop locations and public road rail crossing design. The details of private crossings will not be available as part of this release.

ARTC apologised for the delay in the release of the design, noting that the design shared may change as a result of further investigations, government approvals or during the detailed design phase.

ARTC shared its plans for consultation around the release of the proposed alignment. The design will be released progressively. Following a briefing to government agencies and elected representatives, the design as it relates to specific properties will be released to the directly affected landowners in the first instance. After the landowners have been consulted, ARTC will release the design to the broader community, through its website, a printed newsletter and community consultation sessions in key towns within the study area.

ARTC advised the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was ongoing and ARTC would be submitting the draft to the Coordinator-General before the end of the year.

The Chair stressed the importance of communicating the outcomes of technical studies, such as noise and vibration in layman's terms so they can be easily understood by landowners. ARTC confirmed that it would do this.

ARTC provided an update on the findings of the social impact assessment. There was particular interest from members in potential benefits of the project and one committee member requested more information be shared on how local businesses can become involved in the project. ARTC undertook to prepare some written material to share with the committee and invite the ARTC Business Development Manager (Queensland) to present on her work with local industry and councils at the next committee meeting.

The Chair gave an update on the independent hydrology review of the Condamine floodplain work being conducted by Dr John Macintosh. A workshop was held in March in Brookstead and Dr Macintosh is now working with individual landowners on the floodplain to respond to their queries. Dr Macintosh will prepare a report on the findings of his review for release in the coming months.

The proxy representing the Central Irrigators Group shared a statement on behalf of the Condamine floodplain community. The statement questioned the accuracy of the flood model, declared that the impacts of the proposed floodplain solution were unacceptable to the floodplain community, and requested the design be modified to include a bridge extending between Millmerran and Brookstead. ARTC undertook to review this and provide a response at the next CCC meeting in August.

A committee member asked whether questions or actions arising from meetings could be addressed between meetings. ARTC responded that it would endeavour to do this, where possible.

The Chair welcomed questions from observers. The observers' questions focused on seeking independent advice on erosion and a request for community consultation sessions in Pittsworth.

**Mr Graham Clapham**  
**Chair, Inland Rail Southern Darling Downs**  
**Community Consultative Committee**

**14 June 2019**