

The seventh meeting of the Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the committee) was held at the Inglewood Civic Centre on 19 September 2019.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Graham Clapham and attended by 11 of the 14 Southern Darling Downs committee members. Two members tendered their apologies. The meeting was observed by 12 community members.

ARTC advised it has been in contact with directly affected landowners and provided them with maps showing their property in relation to the proposed alignment and project footprint. Now that landowners have been contacted, the project reference design will be released publicly.

ARTC provided detail of the project reference design, including the proposed horizontal rail alignment, project footprint, provisional crossing loop locations and public road rail crossing design. The details of private crossings are not available as part of this release. For further details of the proposed alignment, please visit the interactive map at maps.inlandrail.com.au/b2g

CCC members requested ARTC consider minor realignments of the proposed horizontal alignment that may go outside the study area, where it would reduce impacts on private property.

ARTC provided an update on how it had improved the Condamine flood model to incorporate additional flows from Back Creek and more historic flood data. It showed the proposed Condamine floodplain crossing, which includes 6.1km of bridge structure across six bridges (in four locations) and around 500 culverts (900mm–2.1m in diameter). The updates to the flood model and crossing solution have resulted in fewer houses and other farm buildings (sheds and silos) predicted to be impacted by increased water levels than the preliminary solution shared in late 2018. ARTC undertook to continuing to work with these landowners to develop measures to mitigate impacts.

ARTC advised it would be undertaking broad public consultation on the reference design in October, through its website, a printed newsletter, and community information sessions in key towns within the study area. More information can be found at inlandrail.com.au/b2g

ARTC advised the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was ongoing and it expects to submit the draft EIS to the Queensland Coordinator-General in December 2019.

ARTC provided an overview of the methodology used in the noise and vibration studies that have been undertaken. Assessment results will be available to directly affected landowners in the coming months.

CCC members asked questions about the implications of the senate inquiry into Inland Rail on the project timeframes. ARTC responded that it would cooperate fully with the inquiry and continue progressing the EIS and other project components in accordance with its scope of works from the Federal Government.

The representative from the Central Irrigators Group shared a presentation on behalf of the Condamine floodplain community. The presentation questioned the accuracy of the flood model and requested that further independent hydrology reviews of the Condamine and Macintyre floodplains. ARTC committed to continuing to engage with these communities.

The Chair welcomed questions from observers. The observer's questions focused on seeking further engagement with ARTC.

The next meeting of the CCC will be held in December, in Millmerran.

Mr Graham Clapham

Chair
Inland Rail Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee