

SOUTHERN DARLING DOWNS COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S SUMMARY



The eighth meeting of the Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the Committee) was held face-to-face and online on 28 July 2020 at Yelarbon.

The meeting was chaired by Graham Clapham with 10 of the 11 Committee members in attendance. Representatives from federal, state and local government agencies, and seven community members observed the meeting.

The Committee welcomed new members: Andrew McCartney, representing Southern Queensland Landscapes, Robert Webb, representing Goondiwindi Chamber of Commerce; and Kev Loveday. New and returning members provided information about community groups they are representing, their acceptance of the Committee's charter and an overview of the information they would like shared at the meetings.

Representatives from the Coordinator-General provided the Committee with an overview of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process including the public notification period, how to make a submission to the Coordinator-General and the EIS decision-making process. It was an interactive session where Committee members were invited to ask questions relevant to the EIS process.

A representative from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications updated the Committee on the Independent Flood Panel. The panel will review the models for 21 Queensland catchments and provide advice on how they compare against national standards. The Committee was also informed that ARTC has been tasked with gathering data for the government in relation to the route via Cecil Plains. This data will be used to assess the route against the project's service offering. The Australian Government will appoint an independent

consultant to review the data and provide a report to the government for consideration and decision. The Australian Government is still determining when and how information is shared with the community about the independent flood review and the route review, however they are working on it as a matter of urgency. Several questions were taken on notice and Committee members will be provided with more information in coming weeks.

Inland Rail presented an update on the Border to Gowrie and North Star to NSW/QLD Border projects including the status of each EIS, upcoming field investigations and business training opportunities in the Goondiwindi region.

The date of the next meeting is yet to be determined and will be held in Goondiwindi.

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