

Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee Chair's summary

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The eleventh meeting of the Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the Committee) was held face-to-face and online on 25 August 2020 in Pittsworth.

The first face-to-face meeting of the new Committee was chaired by Bill Armagnacq with 10 of the 14 Committee members in attendance, and two online. Representatives from federal, state and local government agencies, and two elected representatives observed the meeting.

Unfortunately, due to evolving COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting was for members only.

A representative from the Coordinator-General (CG) provided the Committee with an overview of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. The representative encouraged the community to submit concerns and comments on the Border to Gowrie project's EIS through the CG's submission process. Formal submissions will be considered during the project's assessment phase. Timing for the Border to Gowrie project's EIS public notification period is yet to be confirmed.

A representative from the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development, Transport and Communications updated the Committee on the route review. The Committee was informed that ARTC was tasked with gathering data for the Government in relation to the alternative route via Cecil Plains. This data will be used to assess the route against the project's service offering. The Committee was also informed that an independent consultant has been appointed by the Government to assist in conducting the review. The community can provide information regarding the assessment of the service offering via Cecil Plains and Border to Gowrie reference design route by emailing inlandrail@infrastructure.gov.au. Please refer to the meeting minutes for more detail.

The Chair of the Independent International Panel of Experts for flood studies in Queensland advised the Committee that five people have been appointed to the panel, each highly experienced experts in their field. The panel's role is to look at Inland Rail's flood modelling and provide advice on how the models compare against national standards. The panel will produce a detailed report that will assist the CG and government to decide about the project.

It will also be made public. The community can provide information and raise concerns via inlandrailfloodpanel@tmr.qld.gov.au

Inland Rail gave an update on the Border to Gowrie project, noting the preliminary draft EIS was submitted to the CG in December 2019. Feedback provided by the CG and government agencies has now been incorporated into the draft EIS and resubmitted. Inland Rail is awaiting advice on timing for the public notification period.

The Gowrie to Helidon project submitted their preliminary draft EIS to the CG for adequacy review on 30 June 2020. The project team also noted there were five successful Inland Rail sponsorships and donations program recipients from the Toowoomba region.

The Committee requested ARTC present on noise impacts at the next meeting which is likely to be in November 2020.

Meeting minutes will be uploaded to inlandrail.artc.com.au/IDD-CCC

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The Australian Government is delivering Inland Rail through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), in partnership with the private sector.

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