

CHAIRS' SUMMARY

Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee and Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee

A joint meeting of the Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee and Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee (the Committees) was held online and in person on 13 April 2021 at Millmerran.

This summary provides an overview of the meeting and ensures information is shared with the community at the earliest opportunity. It is a precursor to the formal meeting record, the meeting minutes, which will be published on the Inland Rail website following preparation and endorsement by the Committees and Chairs. The meeting was co-chaired by Bill Armagnacq and Graham Clapham, and 17 of 27 Committee members attended in person and online. Representatives from federal and local government agencies, and 15 community members observed the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Border to Gowrie draft flood report released by the Independent International Panel of Experts for Flood Studies in Queensland (the Panel), which can be found here: tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/inland-rail/independent-panel-of-experts-for-flood-studies-in-queensland

Panel Chair Mark Babister and Panel member Martin Giles presented an overview of the Panel's Terms of Reference, models included in the review, the project's design criteria, and flood management and impact objectives, and key findings.

Mr Babister said the review of the Macintyre River floodplain model had not been included in the draft Border to Gowrie report at this stage pending the review of further modelling work the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has undertaken, and that a supplementary report would be released once the additional work had been considered.

Mr Giles said while the majority of work reviewed is in accordance with national guidelines and industry best practice, the Panel has identified a number of issues for which it has requested additional information be provided.

Mr Giles said it is quite normal for such issues to be identified at this stage for large projects, and for such issues to be iteratively addressed during environmental approvals and detailed design stages of a project.

Mr Giles also advised there is no set date for submission of a final report to the Australian and Queensland governments. The timing of the report will depend on the Panel's consideration of ARTC's response to the draft report, written submissions to the Panel and EIS submissions referred to the Panel by the Coordinator-General.

The Committees discussed the actions of previous meetings and raised community concerns about ARTC's contractor behaviour including vehicles not being branded while working in local communities, and biosecurity and property safety issues. The Committees also raised concerns relating to the upkeep of properties acquired by ARTC. ARTC has taken these actions on notice and will report back to the Committees.

The dates of the next Committee meetings are yet to be determined.

Mr Bill Armagnacq and Mr Graham Clapham, Chairs, Inner Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee and Southern Darling Downs Community Consultative Committee