

# PLATFORM REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN WORKING GROUP



**The latest Benalla Working Group meeting was held on Monday 12 July 2021. It was attended by eight of the 12 local community representatives, including Benalla Rural City Councillors Cr. Justin King and Cr. Gail O'Brien.**

Attendees heard from the Department of Transport Project Coordination Manager Emma Bamford and learnt more about the State's requirements for the two options being considered in Benalla, either a new bridge or track realignment as part of the Inland Rail Project.

The Working Group also learnt more about the relationship between the Department of Transport (DOT) and ARTC. The Group asked several questions of Emma. Themes included:

- ▶ Exploring the scope of the Inland Rail Project in Benalla
- ▶ Recognition that the Inland Rail Project involves an external agency responsible for delivering key infrastructure assets on behalf of the State
- ▶ Platform requirements
- ▶ Flooding considerations
- ▶ Safety concerns, and
- ▶ The timing of any potential level crossing removals.

Attendees discussed the Urban Design Framework developed as part of ARTC's planning for Inland Rail, which is also a requirement of the State and will inform how the Project is assessed by both ARTC and the Department. The meeting clarified that universal access and compliance with the *Disabilities Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)* was a non-negotiable of the Project. ARTC and DOT are forward planning as part of Inland Rail, and this includes considering growth aspirations for the North East rail line.

- ▶ **Station accessibility a key focus**
- ▶ **State and ARTC aligned on urban design needs**
- ▶ **Considering growth aspirations for North East.**

Marisa Feher, ARTC Environment Manager, provided an update on the progress of the Project's next steps and timeline, including the Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA). Marisa outlined the project timeline, including:

- ▶ Concept design for vehicle overbridge – completed
- ▶ Concept design for track re-alignment – currently underway
- ▶ Both draft concepts presented to the Working Group – late 2021
- ▶ Reference design – proposed completion late 2021
- ▶ Primary Planning and Environmental Approvals – early 2022
- ▶ Detailed design – by mid-2023
- ▶ Construction – mid-2023 to early 2024.

The next Benalla Working Group meeting is scheduled for August 23 where we will share draft visualisations of both options. The Working Group, Council and Benalla community will have multiple opportunities to provide feedback on both options. To learn more about Inland Rail in Benalla, the Benalla Working Group and to read the minutes of previous meetings, visit [inlandrail.artc.com.au/bwg](http://inlandrail.artc.com.au/bwg)

**Independent Chair Cath Botta**  
[Benalla Working Group](#)

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