

EUROA WORKING GROUP – MEETING #6

Minutes

DATE / TIME

18 November 2019
6:00pm to 8:00pm

LOCATION

Temple Kitchen
10-12 Tarcombe St, Euroa

FACILITATOR

Michelle Croker

SECRETARY

Marc Botoulas

ATTENDEES

- ▶ Justine Collins
- ▶ Nola Dudley
- ▶ Tom Maher
- ▶ Ann Mahon
- ▶ Des Ryan
- ▶ Shirley Saywell
- ▶ Michael Tehan
- ▶ Edwina Thompson, DESIGN Euroa
- ▶ Cr. Alistair Thomson, Strathbogie Shire Council
- ▶ Bernard Walker
- ▶ Cr. Mick Williams, Strathbogie Shire Council
- ▶ Dinesh Batra, Acting Project Director T2A, Inland Rail
- ▶ Todd Beavis, Stakeholder Lead, North East Victoria, Inland Rail
- ▶ Marc Botoulas, Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Inland Rail
- ▶ Michelle Croker, Chair. Euroa Working Group
- ▶ Hani Nahlawi, Relationship Manager Inland Rail Project, VicRoads
- ▶ Rebecca Steer, Manager Planning North East Region, VicRoads
- ▶ Shane Sykes, Inland Rail Regional Liaison Officer, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development
- ▶ Ed Walker, ARTC, General Manager, Victoria Projects

APOLOGIES

- ▶ Sarah Treloar

Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
1	Open meeting, welcome
	<p>Michelle opened the meeting, ran through the agenda and welcomed Ed and Dinesh. It was agreed that speakers would go through the Chair to ensure everyone had the opportunity to have their say.</p> <p>The Group was informed that ARTC and VicRoads' representatives had met with Tom Maher prior to the Working Group meeting to discuss his proposal to re-route the arterial road from travelling through Euroa and relocating the railway overpass.</p> <p>Following input from Working Group members to develop the agenda, Todd framed the meeting as an opportunity to address outstanding issues and round-out the discussion and input over the last six months.</p>
2	Actions from last meeting (#5)

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>Todd ran through the actions from Meeting #5.</p> <p>Expected noise levels of double-stacked freight trains, compared to single-stacked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group was advised that field work and monitoring surveys were undertaken in January 2019 with the intent of investigating the influence of single and double stacked containers (axle-loads) on noise and vibration emissions. The assessments found the difference is insignificant (less than 2dB). This is consistent with guidance from ISO 3095:2013 Acoustics – Railway application – Measurement of noise emitted by railbound vehicles. Ed explained the noise levels are similar because the trains are the same length and travel at the same speed, both being key factors in determining how much noise a train generates. It was acknowledged that noise and vibration are key concerns for the Group and the community more broadly and that ARTC would continue to provide information as the project moves into detailed design. <p>Clarify commitment on impacts to local community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commitment from Inland Rail on how the project will impact the local community was discussed, with some members of the Group repeating their recollection that Ed had provided a commitment that “no-one will be worse off”. Ed advised that he could not recall making that statement and that we had always been up front that, as with all infrastructure projects, the construction of the new bridge may impact some residents. He advised that we will avoid impacts to the community wherever we can and work with stakeholders to minimise impacts if necessary. The Group was advised further clarification would be provided at the next meeting. <p>Advise timing for urban design contract awards and if brief will be made public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice was provided that more detailed planning for construction and design would be undertaken prior to detailed design commencing mid-2020. An update will be provided at the next meeting. <p>Identify external funding sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following potential funding sources were provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth Grants: https://www.grants.gov.au/. Regional Development Australia https://www.rda.gov.au/ Victorian Government: https://www.vic.gov.au/grants. Shane advised that the drought had been a focus for the Regional Development Australia grants and stressed the importance of assessing the requirements closely. Ed advised that ARTC would be happy to support the Group with relevant grant applications. Emma advised the Group to visit council website for information on grants, noting that it may be too early for grant applications as a final design would likely be needed.
3	Adoption of minutes
	The minutes were adopted with no changes.
4	VicRoads response to Work Group questions
	<p>Todd introduced Hani and Rebecca from VicRoads. He advised they had been invited to the meeting, on the request of the Working Group, to answer questions from the Group. In particular, in relation to a level crossing, road under rail solution and re-routing of the arterial route.</p> <p>Level crossing</p> <p>VicRoads advised that level crossings are actively being removed from the road and rail network in Victoria and any new level crossings will not be approved. It was also noted that the with the Anderson Street bridge provides important connectivity on the arterial network since it is the primary North / South connection between Euroa and Shepparton. Removing it and replacing it with a level crossing would be a major safety issue and significantly impact connectivity, a key requirement for the project.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>Road under rail VicRoads explained that a road underpass was not acceptable due to major flooding issues in the area. If an underpass was built this would be prone to flooding and likely to result in ongoing road closures.</p> <p>Re-routing of the arterial road VicRoads provided an overview of the planning process required for the development of a by-pass, advising that there are currently no plans in place, at a local or state level, to consider a by-pass of Euroa. Planning of such a major change to the arterial network would need to be made many years in advance and would have significant impacts beyond Euroa. As such there is no prospect of the arterial route being changed for the foreseeable future (at least fifteen years).</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, it was noted that the highway bypass had had a significant impact on Euroa and an arterial bypass may not be in the best interests of the town.</p>
5	Conversations with the community
	<p>The Group agreed to strike this item from the agenda in the interests of time.</p> <p>A question was raised about how the Group's efforts to engage the community would be recognised. ARTC advised that the Group would continue to be acknowledged as playing a key role in the development of the project in Euroa.</p>
6	Community requirements: Creating a Civic Presence
	<p>Des Ryan presented the requirements document developed by the Group in the context of their consideration of the Euroa Township Strategy.</p> <p>He noted the document is the result of the working group process and the Group talking to the community and capturing their views over the last six months.</p> <p>Ed and Dinesh thanked the Group for their work and advised that it would be of significant value as an input into detailed design.</p> <p>Michelle asked what response the Group is looking for from ARTC. The Group advised they would like further input into the design of the new bridge as soon as possible and that the design reflects the requirements.</p>
7	Euroa Township Strategy
	<p>Emma thanked the group for their input into the Township Strategy and advised their contribution would assist Council to develop their requirements for the project. She advised that Council will collate all submissions from the community and they would be presented at a council meeting early next year, most likely in February.</p>
8	Next steps
	<p>It was agreed that the Working Group meetings would be put on hold for three months while the design process is underway. The group will reconvene in March 2020.</p>

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	Approve publishing 'Creating Civic Presence' document in Euroa Gazette as call to the community for feedback on Working Group approach.	ARTC	6 Dec
2	Provide further clarity around ARTC commitments on community impacts.	ARTC	March 2020
3	Provide update on timing for urban design contract award.	ARTC	March 2020

Next Meeting

Group to reconvene in early March.