

Meeting minutes

North Star to NSW/QLD Border

Community Consultative Committee

Date / Time

11 August 2020
2:05pm AEST

Location

Online [O/L] as noted
Video conference:
Moree Plains Shire Council, Moree, NSW [M]
Goondiwindi Regional Council, Goondiwindi, Queensland [G]

Facilitator

Michael Silver OAM

Minute taker

Michael Silver OAM

Distribution

NS2BCCC

Attendees (Show organisation if not ARTC)

- ▶ Michael Silver OAM (Independent Chair) [O/L]
- ▶ Robert Mackay (Community Member) [G]
- ▶ Richard Doyle (Community Member) [G]
- ▶ Richard Sudholz (Community Member) [G]
- ▶ Geoff Cruickshank (Community Member) [M]
- ▶ Ian Uebergang (Community Member) [O/L]
- ▶ Laura Colley (Moree Plains Shire Council) [M]
- ▶ Cr Jason Watts (Goondiwindi Regional Council) [G]
- ▶ Dion Jones (Goondiwindi Regional Council) [G]
- ▶ Alex Eddy (Gwydir Shire Council) [O/L]
- ▶ Amy Beutel (Gwydir Shire Council) [O/L]
- ▶ John Carr (ARTC) [G]
- ▶ Ben Lippett (ARTC)
- ▶ Naomi Tonscheck (ARTC) [G]

Apologies (Show organisation if not ARTC)

- ▶ Andrew Mackay (Community Member)
- ▶ Rex Weribone (Toomleah LALC)
- ▶ Cr Sue Price OAM (Moree Plains Shire Council)
- ▶ Angus Witherby (Moree Plains Shire Council)

Guests (Show organisation if not ARTC)

- ▶ Angela Doering (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities, and Regional Development) [M]
- ▶ Mick Fallon (NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment) [O/L]
- ▶ Andrew Skele (ARTC) [O/L]
- ▶ Sarah Delahunty (ARTC) [O/L]
- ▶ John Zannes (Transport for NSW)

Discussions

NO.	ACTIONS
1. Welcome	The Chair welcomed all to the video conference meeting. The Chair acknowledged the representatives of Commonwealth and State Government agencies on-line and the Inland Rail staff observers.
2. Acknowledgement of Country	The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land from which those joining the video conference come, and recognised the Traditional Owners continuing connection to land, water, and culture, paying respects to their Elders past, present and emerging
3. Declaration of Interest	The Chair noted the written declarations previously provided by Community Members of the NS2BCCC.

	Michael Silver – Pecuniary interest – expenses of Independent Chair borne by ARTC.
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting	It was noted that the minutes of the sixth meeting of the Committee, held on 12 June 2020 had been approved on 8 July 2020.
5. Business Arising	Mr Uebergang asked when the exhibition period of the Environmental Impact Statement would be confirmed. The Chair advised this was a matter for the DPIE but was unlikely to be known until it was clear when the document would be formally lodged.
6. Response to Actions	6.1 That the Chair advise DPIE that the NS2BCCC suggests that the EIS for the project should be publicly exhibited for a period of 42 days. The Chair advised that correspondence had been forwarded to the DPIE on 1 August 2020.
7. Correspondence	The following correspondence was noted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inland Rail – Responses to Stakeholder Group’s 52 questions – distributed to CCC members. ○ BMT – Independent Review
8. Proponent’s Presentation	<p><i>John Carr and Ben Lippett gave the proponent’s presentation. A copy of the presentation was distributed to members before the meeting and is attached to the minutes. The presentation dealt with the following matters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Overview • Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Status • Community Consultation • Fly Through (Deferred to end of meeting) • How to Make a Submission • Next Steps • Key Contacts <p>8.1 Project Overview</p> <p>Mr Carr reported on the Macintyre River Flood Model noting the BMT’s independent review found the updated model ‘fit for purpose’. He also advised the responses to stakeholder questions had been provided</p> <p>Mr Carr also noted that WRM are undertaking a further independent hydrology review on behalf of Goondiwindi Regional Council and the Inland Rail Working Group – NS2B. He advised any further information required as part of this review will be provided by Inland Rail.</p> <p>Mr Carr confirmed that the reference design for inclusion in the EIS remains the Alignment D1.</p> <p>8.2 Environmental Impact Statement Status</p> <p>Mr Carr advised that the EIS had been submitted for adequacy assess to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) with the proponent’s responses to the Departments comments provided on 30 July 2020. He anticipated that the EIS would be placed on public exhibition in late August or early September 2020.</p> <p>Mr Carr indicated further discussions and consultation will occur with affected landholders, stakeholders, local government, and other government agencies prior to exhibition.</p> <p>8.3 Community Consultation</p>

Mr Carr provided a review of community consultation work recently completed, noting the provision of the flood model and associated reports to Goondiwindi Regional Council and WRM and the appointment of a stakeholder engagement advisor to be based in Goondiwindi. He also advised that further geotechnical and survey work was currently being undertaken.

He highlighted that there would be continuing support for the Goondiwindi Regional Council flood model analysis and further consultation with stakeholders regarding the '52 questions'. Also, further geotechnical sampling will be undertaken as this program was demobilised due to recent rain. Meetings with landholders will continue to inform them of future activities.

8.4 How to Make a Submission

Ben Lippett stepped the CCC through the processes associated with making a submission to the EIS detailing relevant screen shots of the DPIE website. He highlighted that notwithstanding the online submission process, written submissions can be made to the DPIE provided the protocols outlined on the website are followed.

Mr Lippett explained the submission process and advised that establishing digital locations at Toomelah, Boggabilla and Goondiwindi were being examined. As the EIS cannot be provided in hard copy it has been proposed that the EIS be made available to the community on USB sticks as well as an abridge information version. These options are subject to the approval of the DPIE.

Richard Doyle asked how it will be publicly notified. In response Mr Lippett advised that formal notification is subject to a Ministerial order – it will be advertised in a national newspaper and local newspapers if they are still being published. He added that the Inland Rail Stakeholder Action Plan provided for ARTC to provide notice and advice to the community of the public exhibition of the EIS in a variety of forms as well as through the CCC.

Mr Doyle sought further clarification of the process noting that DPIE will place the advertisements in the newspapers. The Chair confirmed this process and indicated he will advise the CCC of the exhibition dates when available.

8.5 Next Steps

Mr Carr ran the CCC through the Project Schedule Timeline chart noting that Expressions of Interest from prospective contractors for Request for Tenders would be invited shortly. He anticipated design and approvals to be finalised during 2021 with activity of potential contractors likely in early 2021.

Mr Doyle questioned how this activity of potential contractors can occur having regard to gaining access to property. Mr Carr advised that when discussions occur with landholders regarding acquisition a conversation regarding preliminary access arrangements within the confines of the alignment will be held. If no access agreement can be reached – Inland Rail will respect that outcome.

The meeting noted that acquisition packs are being prepared inclusive of a land access pack. These packs will detail the land to be permanently acquired plus the construction area required and advise on any major impacts such as flooding, noise, and access. The packs require the approval of the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads that they are

suitable for negotiation purposes. The Inland Rail property team will then proceed with acquisition and access negotiations. Following these negotiations, the finalisation of acquisition is managed by Transport for NSW on behalf of the NSW Government. It was noted that the timeframe for the negotiation/acquisition process may be of the order of 12 to 18 months. It is expected the packages will go to the Minister in the next four to six weeks.

Mr Doyle expressed the view that landholders are looking for surety from the ARTC property acquisition team. Mr Carr responded that the acquisition agency is Transport for NSW.

Mr Doyle enquired whether landowners may finesse the proposed alignment and other localised matters. Mr Carr indicated that where there is agreement between ARTC and a landowner, localised adjustments may be made. He added that the property team is under his direction and it was likely that it will be accompanied by a design engineer during negotiations. This approach may happen with other discussions – not just associated with property negotiations. He confirmed that the intent is to be open and transparent with landowners regarding the design.

Mr Doyle questioned the compensation process noting it is dictated by NSW legislation and suggesting it is the least generous throughout Australia. He questioned who determines what is reasonable. Mr Carr suggested this was a matter for Transport for NSW. He added that ARTC want to support owners particularly where they require appropriate professional advice or request specific analysis of issues. The Chair drew the CCC attention to the presentation delivered by Mr James White of Transport for NSW to the June CCC meeting regarding the NSW Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 and the acquisition process generally. Mr Silver agreed to discuss the process further with Mr White and advise the CCC accordingly. **ACTION**

Ms Tonscheck outlined the next steps in the community consultation process and noting three skill development programs with the fencing project with Toomelah LALC having funding approved.

The Chair requested confirmation as to when the EIS will be lodged with DPIE. Mr Carr advised that the document is with ARTC's digital production team. He suggested that lodgement was likely towards the middle of August. Mr Lippett indicated that the EIS could be exhibited at the earliest on August 26. The Chair indicated he would notify the CCC the exhibition dates.

Mr Doyle passed comment on the statement in Slide 3 of the proponent's presentation that the BMT Independent Report described the extended and updated Flood Model as "Fit for Purpose". He drew the meeting's attention to the numerous qualifications made in the BMT report including that the report is based on a desk top study only, that the use of 1% AEP design flows are reasonable and acceptable at this investigation phase subject to undertaking joint probability analysis which would be subject to review. He also noted repeated reference to the need for a sensitivity analysis check against the 1976 scale event and that this consideration should be outlined in landholder negotiations.

Mr Uebegang highlighted the opportunity for improvements to the telecommunications network in the area because of the Inland Rail project and the opportunity for a cost sharing arrangement between ARTC and other agencies. The Chair responded that telecommunications upgrades are not the remit of Inland Rail project and that funding for any

	<p>upgrade would need to be source through the appropriate telecommunications agency.</p>
<p>9. Other Agenda Items</p>	<p>9.1 Goondiwindi Council – Hydrological Review of Macintyre River Floodplain Model and Reference Design</p> <p>On behalf of Goondiwindi Regional Council, Dion Jones provided an update on the review of the flood model advising that all electronic data has been received and forwarded to the consultant. It understood that the consultant has just commenced the review process. Mr Jones anticipates that a meeting of Council, ARTC, the consultant will occur in a couple of weeks with site meetings to be undertaken with landholders.</p> <p>Rob Mackay questioned what happens when the outcomes of his review becomes evident? What will be the relevance of what he brings forward? Mr Jones responded that if issues are raised, Goondiwindi Regional Council will utilise the information as part of a submission to the EIS. Mr Mackay questioned whether the consultant is aware of the imminent lodging of the EIS. Mr Jones advised this would be brought to his attention.</p> <p>Mr Jones added that he hoped to have a report back from the consultant in 3 to 4 weeks. Mr Doyle complimented Goondiwindi Regional Council on its involvement of the stakeholders in the working group.</p>
<p>10. General Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Development in Region <p>Naomi Tonscheck report on recent skills development sessions conducted at Goondiwindi. She noted that local contractors and personnel were starting to get ‘construction ready’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications <p>Ian Uebergang expressed concern that the impact on telecommunications from Inland Rail would not only impact on the North Star area, but also other areas associated with the NS2B project.</p> <p>The Chair noted the issue relating to the Narrabri to North Star project has been raised on two occasions with the local Federal member. Mr Silver noted that improvements to telecommunications were not the responsibility of Inland Rail although he understood a multi-agency working group has been established to assess options to improve telecommunications in concert with the Inland Rail project. Mr Silver advised he would approach Mr Coulton regarding the concerns raised by Mr Uebergang.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ACTION</p> <p>Mr Doyle questioned whether satellite phones will be utilised by the construction workforce associated with the NS2B project? Mr Carr indicated that ARTC is taking a proactive approach with the construction tender requiring contractors to provide a telecommunications program that clearly demonstrates that in the execution of the contract the contractor will not negatively impact local telecommunication services. Mr Lippett added that within the Socio-Economic section of the EIS there is a chapter relating to telecommunications where this issue is addressed.</p>

	The Chair sought the CCC thoughts on the exhibition period for the EIS, noting the statutory requirement for a minimum 28 day's exhibition. Mr Doyle commented that 28 days is not long enough given the complexity of the issues to be considered.
11. Fly Through	<p>12. The CCC viewed an animated 'fly through' of the proposed NS2B alignment. The Committee noted that the content of the animation should not be construed as confirming construction design detail or the final corridor.</p> <p>13. Mr Carr provided commentary during the 'fly through' highlighting specific localities, crossings, culverts, bridges, controls and road realignments and closures.</p> <p>14. Mr Carr advised that the 'fly through' would be made available for community viewing.</p> <p>Meeting Closed at 3.37 pm. AEST. The Chair thanked all for their contribution and involvement.</p>

Actions

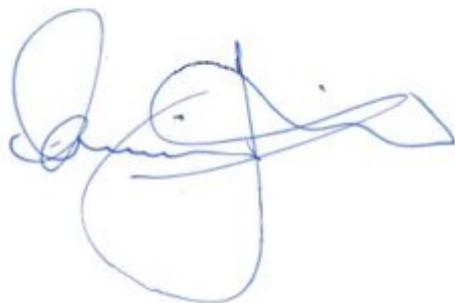
NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	That ARTC provide advice at the next CCC meeting on entry protocols to be implemented to mitigate potential conflict with crop spraying operations on properties	BL Completed	7/02/2020
2	That ARTC present the detailed cost comparison between Option A and Option D1, having regard to the independent review of the MCA, at the next CCC meeting.	JC Completed	07/02/2020
3	<p>That the following questions under "Other Agenda Items" at the September 2019 meeting be considered at the next CCC meeting as follows:</p> <p>Is not the MCA process flawed due to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can inland provide a detailed plan as to where the bridging is be located? • How can a review of the costings of Option A relative to Option D1, with the benefit of updated hydrology, be done without detailed engineering designs for Option A? • Will the MCA review and the review of costings for Option A vs Option D1 be seriously considered and could it change the determination of Inland rail to proceed with Option D1? <p>That ARTC provide copies of mapping of the flooding as part of the analysis of Option A to Option D1 comparison to a future meeting of the CCC.</p>	JC Completed	07/02/2020
4	That ARTC provide a map of the proposed crossing loop with dimensions and relationship to adjoining property to CC members.	BL Completed	07/02/2020
5	That ARTC advise the CCC at the next meeting of the outcome of further discussions with the North Star Sports Club regarding possible location of the proposed accommodation camp.	BL Completed	07/02/2020
6	That ARTC advise how it will address external road traffic noise at rail crossings (e.g. truck horns) at the next meeting.	BL Completed	07/02/2020
7	That the Chair make representations through the local Federal Member regarding opportunities for potential improvements to	MJS Completed	17/01/2020

	telecommunication services to communities along the NS2B Inland Rail alignment.		
8	That ARTC provide that an A3 map to CCC members that focusses on and clearly defines the extent of afflux and the changes in depth associated with the Option A and Option D1 relative to the 1% AEP event.	JC Completed	06/03/2020
9	That ARTC provide CCC members with clear digital images of the Option A and Option D1 designs	JC Completed	06/03/2020
10	That ARTC provide to the CCC higher resolution images, on a side by side basis, to more clearly understand impacts of increase in afflux (and total depth) that has been identified in the flood modelling around Whalan Creek and the rail line.	JC Completed	03/04/2020
11	That ARTC provide details on how private rail crossings for stock movement will be manage, particularly whether early warning systems will be installed and how this will relate to the operation of the rail network under the Advanced Train Management System.	JC Completed	12/05/2020
12	That ARTC meet with Gwydir Shire Council to discuss design and rail crossing issues in the brownfield section of the Inland Rail project.	JC Completed	03/04/2020
13	That the Chair make enquiries with the Member for Parkes regarding any action being taken to mitigate potential impacts on the existing telecommunications network in the vicinity of the Narrabri to North Star Inland Rail upgrade as a consequence of the possible establishment of a worker's camp in the area.	MJS Completed	01/07/2020
14	That the Chair advise DPIE that the NS2BCCC suggests that the EIS for the project should be publicly exhibited for a period of 42 days.	MJS Completed	01/08/2020
15	That the Chair discuss the acquisition process with Transport for NSW and advise the CCC accordingly.	MJS	01/09/2020
16	That the Chair contact the Member for Parkes regarding potential telecommunication issues in the area impacted by the NS2B Inland Rail project and advise the CCC accordingly.	MJS	11/10/2020

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at a date, time, and venue to be confirmed.

Meeting minutes approved.



MEETING MINUTES

North Star to NSW/QLD Border Community Consultative Committee



Michael J. Silver OAM
Independent Chair
2 September 2020