

Media Release

18 January 2019

**APPROVAL GIVEN TO INLAND RAIL CONSULTANTS
TO ACCESS ROAD RESERVES**

For immediate release.

Gilgandra Shire Council has granted approval for Jacobs GHD to access road reserves in Gilgandra Shire for the purpose of geotechnical investigations, along with other non-invasive activities related the Environmental Impact Study for the Inland Rail project.

Gilgandra Shire Council had previously resolved not to grant permission until a number of issues were addressed, with such issues relating to community and landowner notification, vehicle and worker identification and visible contact details or personal to answer questions from the public.

Council requires ARTC, JacobsGHD or their appointed subcontractor to provide immediate neighbours to any geotechnical investigation site a minimum of two weeks' notice prior to undertaking any soil sample drilling or test pit excavation.

Council has also authorised ARTC, JacobsGHD or their appointed subcontractor to undertake what is termed non-invasive activities. An example of non-invasive activities includes, but is not limited to:

- Ecological studies
- Cultural heritage studies and investigations
- Environmental studies
- Flood data gathering
- General survey work
- Photographs and observations
- Traffic Counts

For these non-invasive activities, ARTC, JacobsGHD or their appointed subcontractors are not required to provide adjoining landowners with individual written notice. Council has conditioned the approval to require these types of works to be advertised through the Gilgandra Weekly, newsletters and other more generic community consultation information.

In negotiation between the parties, it was agreed it is not practical or standard practice to notify individuals of work on public land that does not cause disruption or impact normal business activities or activities of surrounding residents.

A copy of the approval letter is available Council's website.

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