

Friday 1 June 2018

More time to nominate for Inland Rail Community Consultative Committees in NSW

- Regional committees to be established for NSW Inland Rail projects
- Community Consultative Committee nominations now close 15 June 2018
- Community feedback integral in designing the project

The nomination period for four Inland Rail Community Consultative Committees in New South Wales has been extended to give the community more time to participate in contributing vital feedback to the Inland Rail project.

Inland Rail Chief Executive Officer, Richard Wankmuller said ARTC had listened to community feedback and look forward to more community input and ideas as vital to helping shape the project.

“The input from the committees will be an integral part in designing and refining the project and will be considered as part of this formal assessment process,” he said.

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is establishing three committees for the 307km greenfield Narromine to Narrabri section of the Inland Rail project and there will be a committee for the 37km greenfield North Star to NSW/Queensland border section.

“It’s a very early phase on the project and we have received many nominations already but the community told us they wanted more time to get their nominations in and we have listened.

ARTC have started consultation early citing input from landowners and communities as critical in shaping the design of Inland Rail.

“Ultimately our goal is to design and build the best possible rail line within the approved project study areas and we are consulting early as we want as much input from local residents as possible,” Mr Wankmuller said.

“The point of early input is to help us identify and begin to address those issues that most concern landowners and communities within their relevant Inland Rail study area.

“We want also to identify where there may be opportunities to begin realising the regional and broader economic benefits of Inland Rail so that the areas where there will be impacts are also areas where there can be significant broader benefits. In this way the Community Consultative Committees can help bring real value to the Inland Rail programme.”

The Committees will be in Narromine, Gilgandra, Narrabri and the North Star to Border section, as part of ARTC’s ongoing work with landowners and communities.

“This is an invaluable platform for communities to inform us about what works for them and is a key area where the Committees can be of real value. It’s another important and constructive way in which ARTC is sharing information between landholders, local businesses, residents and supporting our ongoing one-on-one consultations and our engineering and design processes.”

Mr Wankmuller said that each of these Inland Rail projects will be assessed through the NSW Government’s formal project assessment and approvals process requiring the preparation and exhibition of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). **Continues...**

“Regular and ongoing community and stakeholder input is vital as we move through the commencement of extensive field studies and engineering work, which will take 18 months to two years across all NSW projects covered by the committees.

“Inland Rail will boost the NSW economy by \$2.6 billion and these committees are a great way to help shape how your community makes the most of this opportunity.”

Interested community members are encouraged to nominate for the Community Consultative Committees. More information about the committees is available at Inlandrail.com.au or by calling 1800 732 761 or emailing inlandrailnsw@artc.com.au.

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