

14 March, 2018

## **ARTC pleased with progress on Inland Rail landowner talks in NSW**

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is one month into an intensive stage of important one-on-one meetings with landowners in the Narromine to Narrabri section of the Inland Rail project.

ARTC Inland Rail Division CEO, Peter Winder, said while still very early in the project, the ARTC project team had met with over 60 people since the launch of this phase of consultation in February.

“It’s a very early phase and our project team is dedicating a great deal of hard work to the Central West and North West NSW. We are building on the extensive work we did in 2017, taking a personal approach with small teams in these areas.

“We are moving through the Narromine area, and making our way towards Burroway. Our teams will continue to work northwards to Narrabri, which will take us up to June.

“It takes time to do this right. There are around 300 landowners in the study area and we will meet with each and every one-of them.

“Landowners are being contacted directly throughout this intensive, consultative process. There will, of course, be many more discussions with landowners over the course of the next year or more.”

Mr Winder said ARTC is very grateful for the feedback received during the meetings so far.

“People have been welcoming us into their homes and talking to us about a range of areas that are important to them including the design of Inland Rail in relation to individual properties and the upcoming studies such as geotechnical investigations, environmental surveys, social impact assessments and noise monitoring.

“We have started consultation early, working with landowners and communities as part of our commitment to building the best possible rail line for Australia’s future. We see input from landowners and communities as critical in shaping the design of Inland Rail.

“This means we are listening carefully and we are highly aware of the need to understand more about individual requirements, as well as community issues and local opportunities. This consultation process forms part of gaining that in-depth understanding which we take very seriously applying a unique, highly tailored approach.

ARTC’s approach includes land access agreements that are different from those used by other organisations. Landowners have no obligation to sign ARTC’s agreements and they can terminate or renegotiate at any time, if they change their mind, for any reason.

“We currently have around 640 land access agreements in place along the entire Inland Rail alignment. 97% of landowners so far have signed the agreements which are tailored to their specific needs.

The Narromine to Narrabri project is a 307km greenfield section of the 1700km Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail freight link. Mr Winder said the final rail corridor 40m-60m wide will be identified from the current study area over the next 18-months to two-years, in close consultation with stakeholders.

“I’ve travelled up and down the 1700km alignment of Inland Rail many times, and what I hear over and over again, is that people are excited about the potential of this project and the benefits that this vast infrastructure can bring to their towns and communities”, Mr Winder said.

ARTC is committed to ongoing consultation with landowners and local communities. For more information about the Narromine to Narrabri section of the project, please contact the team on 1800 732 761 (toll free), or visit [www.inlandrail.com.au/N2N](http://www.inlandrail.com.au/N2N).

To learn more on the wider Inland Rail Programme visit our website [www.inlandrail.com.au](http://www.inlandrail.com.au).

// ENDS //

Media contact: Leah Dymus 0405 160 459