

# Inland Rail - Community Update



Gilgandra Shire Council is a long term supporter of the Inland Rail project and recognise the need to keep the community informed of Council's activities in relation to Inland Rail.

This nation-building project has the potential to deliver significant economic benefits to regional communities in NSW. With the proposed alignment, Gilgandra Shire is one of the most impacted communities of the entire project.

Gilgandra Shire Council has formally advocated to ARTC and the Federal Government , that

where possible the Inland Rail alignment should use existing rail corridors to minimise impact on landowners

Council has two very important roles:

- Advocate for potentially impacted land owners, specifically to ARTC and the Federal Government.
- Explore opportunities and position our community to take advantage of opportunities that arise from both the construction and operation of the inland rail.

Council will continue to lobby for more engagement by the Federal Government and ARTC with impacted landowners, the wider community and Council.

Inland Rail is the largest infrastructure project ever to be undertaken in our community. Council is committed to supporting our community and will make every effort to communicate our activities and efforts on this project.

## Document Version Tracker

Version	Date published
2	29 June 2018
1	17 May 2018

*Please note – This document will be overwritten and updated as information changes, with only the most recent version available on Council website.*



Topic	Status	Action to Date/Committment
<b>Represent landholder concerns to ARTC and the Federal Government</b>	Ongoing	<p>Written Correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25 May 2018 - Letter detailing the resolutions of Council at the May Council meeting sent to The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. No reply has been received.</li><li>• 5 March 2018 – Letter to Dr Helen Nugent AO, Chairman of ARTC requesting senior staff and directors visit Gilgandra to address concerns that have been raised. Reply can be found on website.</li><li>• 1 August 2017 – Ministerial Briefing note sent to Hon Mark Coulton MP detailing the concerns raised by landowners, including ARTC to have an office front in Gilgandra. This document was required to be prepared and sent prior to Council lead delegation meeting with Minister for Infrastructure, Hon Darren Chester. No reply was received to this briefing, as per standard practice with Ministerial briefings.</li><li>• 26 June 2017 – Letter to ARTC providing feedback on alignment. This letter includes Council's desire to see the alignment follow the existing rail corridor where possible.</li><li>• These documents are available on Council's website on the Inland Rail page.</li></ul> <p>Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22 May 2018 - Meeting held with representatives of NSW Farmers to discuss opportunities to work together to represent potentially impacted landowners of the Gilgandra Shire.</li><li>• 22 May 2018 - Six Councillors and one staff member attended NSW Farmers public meeting held at Curban Hall</li><li>• 1 May 2018 - Council representatives met with the CEO and Chairman of ARTC and CEO of Inland Rail, discussing concerns on the community consultation process to date, impacts to the wider community and what opportunities may exist for Gilgandra Shire.</li><li>• 12 December 2017 - ARTC Gilgandra public meeting.</li><li>• 6 September 2017 – Deputy Mayor, General Manager and three impacted Gilgandra Shire landholders met Minister for Infrastructure of the time, Hon Darren Chester MP in Canberra.</li><li>• 17 November 2016 - ARTC drop in session at Curban.</li><li>• 1 June 2016 - ARTC stakeholder workshop.</li><li>• 27 May 2016 - Public consultation session with ARTC.</li></ul>



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<p><b>Represent landholder concerns to ARTC and the Federal Government</b></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Meetings continued...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council representatives attended 2 meetings convened by impacted landowners - one at Curban the other at Armatree.</li> <li>• Council representatives attended 3 meetings convened by NSW Farmers at Coonamble and Narromine, also meeting with the President of NSW Farmers on 28 February 2018 at Armatree.</li> </ul> <p>Council Resolutions from 19 June 2018 Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>That Council note the letter sent to the Deputy Prime Minister and the meeting scheduled for 22 June 2018.</i></li> <li>2. <i>That Council endorse the attendance of the Mayor, General Manager and the Economic Development Manager at the Inland Rail Conference in Parkes July 2018.</i></li> <li>3. <i>That Council endorse the actions of the General Manager in supporting the nominations of Cr Walker and the Economic Development Manager for the Inland Rail, Community Consultative Committee.</i></li> <li>4. <i>That Council note receipt of the letter from NSW Farmers and respond advising of Council's resolutions from the May 2018 meeting.</i></li> </ol> <p>Council Resolutions from 15 May 2018 Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>That Council acknowledge the letter provided by Mr and Mrs McBurnie and the concerns raised by not only Mr and Mrs Mc Burnie but other landholders impacted upon by the proposed inland rail study corridor.</i></li> <li>2. <i>That Council formally write to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Michael McCormack MP and our local Member for Parkes and Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Hon Mark Coulton notifying them of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The desire of many impacted landholders to have the inland rail route located on the existing rail corridors throughout Gilgandra Local Government Area; and</i></li> <li>• <i>The community engagement strategies applied by ARTC and the Australian Government to date have been inadequate and ARTC needs to have a greater presence in our community and be more accessible to the public.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>



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Represent landholder concerns to ARTC and the Federal Government	Ongoing	<p>Council Resolutions from 15 May 2018 Meeting continued...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>That, in the event that the Australian Government reaffirms its commitment to the current study corridor, there is a detailed written explanation provided to each individual landholder by the Australian Government outlining the justification for this decision.</i></li> <li>4. <i>That Council request the Australian Government to provide a written commitment that provisions will be made for efficient connectivity to the existing country rail network to support the region's rural industries.</i></li> <li>5. <i>That Council endorse the actions to meet with NSW Farmers to explore opportunities to work together on representing landowner issues and other topics where a co-ordinated effort proves beneficial.</i></li> </ol>
Visit by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport the Hon Michael McCormack MP	Completed	<p>22 June 2018 - Visit by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport the Hon Michael McCormack MP</p> <p>Attendees included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hon Mark Coulton MP Member for Parkes (and staff)</li> <li>• Staff from Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities – Inland Rail Division</li> <li>• ARTC Representatives</li> <li>• Representatives of Kevin Humphries MP, Member for Barwon</li> <li>• Staff from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet</li> </ul> <p>The meeting covered two aspects; landholder impacts and concerns and opportunities for the Shire.</p> <p><i>Landholder Impacts and Concerns</i></p> <p>Council reinforced the written correspondence and resolutions of the May 2018 meeting of Council. Significant emphasis was placed on directly communicating to the Deputy Prime Minister the issues around engagement, lack of a clear and defined project timeline that is creating uncertainty and the desire of many landowners to see an independent inquiry into the N2N route selection.</p>





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<p><b>Visit by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport the Hon Michael McCormack MP</b></p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p><i>Continued...</i></p> <p>Council also emphasised the lack of a visible presence by ARTC and ability for the impacted landowners to discuss their concerns with people located in the Gilgandra community as a problem, as well as staff flying in and flying out and the lack of continuity of ARTC staff. Council repeated the request for ARTC and others organisations involved in Inland Rail to have a shop front in Gilgandra.</p> <p><i>Opportunities for Gilgandra Shire</i></p> <p>Council presented information on opportunities for the Gilgandra community to benefit from the construction and operations of Inland Rail, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connectivity – Ensuring there is connectivity between the new Inland Rail and the existing CRN Dubbo to Coonamble line. Under the current study alignment, the point where these will connect is Curban.</li> <li>• Water – Emphasised concerns about the availability of water for construction and the need to conduct significant studies and investigations of the aquifers in the Gilgandra Shire with the aim of ensuring the water used for construction is not sourced in competition from aquifers used for stock and domestic use. It is also proposed the project would result in legacy infrastructure that can be utilised by the community post construction.</li> <li>• Workers Accommodation</li> <li>• Gilgandra as construction hub location</li> <li>• Training and local participation plans</li> </ul> <p><i>Outcomes of Meeting</i></p> <p>Deputy Prime Minister considering the possibility of a public meeting to discuss the project directly with landowners and the community.</p> <p>ARTC and Federal Government considering ways to assist Council to progress funding, research and development of the ideas Council has put forward.</p>



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<b>Connectivity to the Inland Rail for our Community</b>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council has strongly advocated that the ability for our community, existing industries and possible future industries to access the Inland Rail is key to community support for this project.</li> <li>• Although not confirmed, based on the Federal Government 2017 study alignment it is most likely that the connectivity point currently Curban.</li> <li>• Council has done some very preliminary investigations on what connectivity at Curban would entail. There have been no detailed designs, costings, consultation with landowners or any action that would constitute anything more than what would be classed as research. Council need to understand what possibilities and options exist.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Infrastructure</b>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In discussing the project with private industry and ARTC it became clear that a project of this scale requires significant volumes of water, regardless of the alignment.</li> <li>• Proposal put to ARTC for Council to work with an independent hydrogeologist, an expert in the field, to determine what, if any, water reserves are available and how the extraction of any such reserves would interact with or impact the existing bore fields within the locality of the proposed Inland Rail and what other options are available.</li> <li>• No formal response has been received. It is expected that options to be explored include strategically placed bore fields and extractions from rivers or creeks, this is yet to be determined.</li> <li>• Council would like to work closely with the community to reduce impacts and to encourage a positive legacy of new water infrastructure facilities that would have an ongoing benefit to local landholders in some form.</li> <li>• Given the community's value placed on water, its protection and use, Council and the community must play an active role in any process where water is concerned.</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement with Industry</b>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council has engaged with large construction companies and others in the rail industry to learn about the project and how rail is constructed, the impact of a projects of this scale and what opportunities and challenges may exist.</li> <li>• Council has joined the peak rail industry group in Australia – Australasian Railway Association (ARA) and the NSW Permanent Way Institute (Rail Industry Association). This has proved successful in learning more about opportunities that will exist during construction and also discussing what challenges the community might face on a project of this scale.</li> <li>• It is important to note that these opportunities exist regardless of the alignment.</li> </ul>



**GilgandraShireCouncil**  
meeting community needs

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Information to our Community from Council	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information is regularly updated on our website, both on the Inland Rail and News page.</li><li>• Media releases.</li><li>• Radio interviews.</li><li>• Social media.</li><li>• Meetings and discussions with landowners.</li><li>• Council meeting minutes.</li></ul>

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Version 2:

29 June 2018

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