

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.

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.

Landholder & Community Concerns	Status	Action to Date/Committment
Represent landholder concerns to ARTC and the Federal Government	Ongoing	<p>Written Correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 1 August 2017 – Letter to the Hon Mark Coultion MP detailing the concerns raised by landowners, including ARTC to have an office front in Gilgandra.. • 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. • These documents are available on Council's website.

Landholder & Community Concerns	Status	Action to Date/Committment
Represent landholder concerns to ARTC and the Federal Government	Ongoing	<p>Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 May 2016 - Public consultation session with ARTC. • 1 June 2016 - ARTC stakeholder workshop. • 17 November 2016 - ARTC drop in session at Curban. • 12 December 2017 - ARTC Gilgandra public meeting. • 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. • 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. • Council representatives attended 2 meetings convened by impacted landowners - one at Curban the other at Armatree. • Council representatives attended 3 meetings convened by NSW Farmers at Coonamble and Narromine, also meeting separately with the President of NSW Farmers on 28 February 2018 at Armatree, with a further meeting planned for 22 May 2018 in Gilgandra. <p>Council Resolutions from 15 May 2018 Meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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> 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"> • <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> • <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>

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Represent landholder concerns to ARTC and the Federal Government		<p>3. 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.</p> <p>4. 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.</p> <p>5. 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.</p>
Gilgandra as a Construction Hub for the Narromine to Narrabri Project	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council believe Gilgandra is naturally positioned as a focus for construction-related activities such as worker accommodation, material staging point and various other opportunities. • 95km of the 307km N2N project is in the Gilgandra Shire. • Gilgandra is located within 1 hour of 180km of the proposed alignment. • There is 100HA of zoned industrial land located in Gilgandra that is privately owned. Council is working to see a development occur to improve the availability of serviced, large scale industrial land. • With an expected 400-600 workers involved in the N2N project, there is zoned residential land that can accommodate residential growth and temporary worker accommodation facilities. Gilgandra has 180 rooms in existing accommodation facilities available.
Connectivity to the Inland Rail for our Community	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Although not confirmed, based on the Federal Government 2017 study alignment it is most likely that the connectivity point currently Curban. • 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.

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Water Infrastructure	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • 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. • 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. • 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.
Engagement with Industry	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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 face on a project of this scale. • It is important to note that these opportunities exist regardless of the alignment.
Information to our Community from Council	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information is regularly updated on our website, both on the Inland Rail and News page. • Media releases. • Radio interviews. • Social media. • Meetings and discussions with landowners. • Council meeting minutes.

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