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Cr Chris Raeburn
Mayor
Strathbogie Shire Council
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Email: info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Dear Cr Raeburn

Community consultation in Euroa

Thank you for your letters dated 3 February and 11 March 2021 and for taking the time to meet with myself, Ed Walker and David Donnelly on Wednesday 24 February 2021. We appreciated your sharing the views of Council in relation to community sentiment in Euroa.

As discussed, ARTC is aware of the significance of the Inland Rail project in Euroa and appreciates the high level of interest in upgrades the project is bringing to the local Railway Precinct. We also acknowledge the concerns and diverse opinions held by community groups.

Significant engagement has occurred with the broader community and we genuinely want all interested groups to feel like their views are heard, acknowledged, responded to, and valued.

The Euroa Working Group (EWG), developed and endorsed on Council's recommendation (March 2019) with diverse community representation (including three Council members), has been instrumental in shaping the vision for Inland Rail's journey through, and impact on Euroa. It was collaboration with this group that saw ARTC incorporate the working group's Creating a Civic Presence requirements for an overpass solution combined with a station precinct upgrade.

In 2019 six options were identified and communicated in detail to the Euroa community, Council, and at Council's request the EWG. The EWG were presented with the options and technical considerations for their feedback, noting that the technical constraints ARTC are required to work within are determined by the Department of Transport. These requirements resulted in the bridge option being their solution.

Having said that ARTC acknowledges that the community has ongoing concerns about safety, connectivity, and functionality of any proposed solution. To this end ARTC will not progress any further development of a bridge solution and are committed to undertake further engagement with the community on a range of different solutions including an underpass. Noting that the Anderson Street bridge and connecting road infrastructure are assets owned by the Department of Transport who have their own requirements for any solutions proposed. It is important that the requirements of the Department of Transport are also well understood by Strathbogie Shire and the broader community.

ARTC are proposing the immediate implementation of the following:

1. Formation of a Euroa Stakeholder Group (ESG) comprising representatives of Strathbogie Shire Council, Department of Transport and ARTC to discuss the technical requirements for any potential solutions.
2. The Euroa Working Group (EWG) to be reformed with the following:
 - a. New Independent Chair;
 - b. Expression of Interest to be opened for new members including representation of Euroa Connect;
 - c. Creation of a new Charter following reformation of the EWG; and
 - d. Standing invitation for attendance by representative(s) of the Department of Transport.
3. Ongoing broader community consultation on a range of potential solutions including a bridge and an underpass. This will include weekly pop-up shops, publishing of information about the range of solutions and production of visual material of concepts to help community illustrate the opportunity this project presents to the station precinct

ARTC would welcome any feedback regarding the proposed actions as outlined above.

Regarding the Euroa Community Sessions held on 9-10 March, ARTC is committed to reaching as many of the community as possible. To this end further sessions will be held over the coming weeks to enable people to attend and have their say.

Please be assured we will use the feedback we're hearing from Council and the community to ensure the wider community continues to be involved in the decision-making to come.

Thank you again for working with ARTC to reach what I know will be an exciting outcome for Euroa. My team is always open to meeting and discussing community concerns.

Yours sincerely



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