



MEDIA RELEASE: FRIDAY, 29 MARCH, 2019

Council calls for collaboration on the Anderson Street Bridge Inland Rail Project

Strathbogie Shire Councillors have called on Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to form a Working Group responsible for the scope and design of a solution for the Anderson Street overpass, as part of their Inland Rail Freight Project.

Council endorsed a formal submission to ARTC at a recent Special Council Meeting, following community feedback and in the wake of their own concerns surrounding the community engagement process undertaken by ARTC to date, which Councillors believe hasn't involved key stakeholders enough along the way.

The recommendation from Council asks that ARTC start from the beginning with a process that includes the ability for all stakeholders, including the community, Council, Vline, VicTrack and VicRoads, to form a Working Group responsible for the scope and design of the project.

The recommendation also highlighted the need for the Working Group to explore a variety of opportunities and considerations for the project, including functionality, connectivity, visual amenity, accessibility, safety and location.

If this model is accepted by ARTC, the Working Group would be formed through a call for Expressions of Interest from members of the community who hold specialist qualifications and skills relevant to the project and the group would need to be approved by Council.

The process would also include broader community consultation and feedback from the Office of Victorian Government Architects once Working Group options for the project are drafted.

These recommendations were moved by Cr John Mason and seconded by Cr Mick Williams, the two Ward Councillors for the Seven Creeks Ward.

Cr John Mason has had conversations with many members of the local community and said he believes this is the best way forward.

"The ARTC's Inland Rail Project will have such a significant impact on Euroa and we have the opportunity to improve connectivity to bring the two sides of the town together, as well as improving pedestrian access," Cr Mason said.

"There are so many parts to this project and it all starts with the process."

Cr Mick Williams, along with the other five Councillors who voted in unanimous support of the recommendation, concurred with Cr Mason's sentiment.

“We have put forward this recommendation for our community and I sincerely hope that people get behind this and work with us to find a solution,” Cr Williams said.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren said she and her fellow Councillors felt it was time to step in and make these recommendations as representatives and advocates on behalf of the community.

“We really hope ARTC will be open to working with relevant stakeholders to find a mutually beneficial solution,” Mayor McClaren said.

Councillors will formally submit the recommendations endorsed at the recent meeting to ARTC and seek a formal response and commitment from them.

If you'd like to make a submission to ARTC, you can visit www.inlandrail.artc.com.au/T2A, call 1800 732 761 or email inlandrailvic@artc.com.au.

-ENDS-

Media contact: Clare Allen- 0418 336 078

Key Spokesperson: Mayor Amanda McClaren- 0409 700 958