

The impact that this railway line is going to have on my life and those of my family is going to be dramatic.

I have always lived on the land; my parents were farmers and when I was married in 1980 my husband and I continued our lives as farmers.

I find the lifestyle that we have very peaceful but busy at the same time, as running a farm, raising 6 children, office work, keeping the house and a substantial garden has kept me busy all my life.

My husband and I enjoy our garden and its tranquillity after extremely hectic times of the year.

The garden is my escape from busy times, I spend many hours in my garden tending to the plants. I have an extensive vegetable garden and a lot of beautiful established trees and an abundance of birds and wildlife in my garden which I enjoy with my family.

Ferndale homestead was built in 1892 and is situated in a tranquil valley with hills on the eastern, western, and northern sides of the valley which gives us a noise free environment all year except at harvest and sowing which is only about 2 weeks of the year. The train line running on the eastern side of the valley will echo and magnify the sound of the freight trains. I am also worried about the impact the trains will have on the foundations of the house and our cement pool which was built in the 60's. We also have many outbuildings such as shearers quarters and workmen's cottages which we were planning to renovate to provide accommodation for other people to enjoy our peaceful environment.

At my stage of life, the peacefulness and tranquillity of my garden is very important to me and my children and grandchildren. I sit down by the pool in the warmer months, and I can hear the noise of birds singing in the trees feel the gentle breezes and the warmth of the sun, it is beautiful. I cannot imagine this being taken away from me by regular freight trains transiting our property.

I feel the railway is going to have a significant impact on my life as I know it, because of the noise, the proximity of the line and the impact it is going to have on our business. The whole process has caused extra stress on my husband, myself, and my family which we don't need.

I have included some photos of my garden so that you can understand the environment I enjoy now.

## IR & DA Friend

“Ferndale”

Bethungra NSW 2590

In response to the EIS I would like to introduce to you myself and my family.

My name is Ian Friend and I run a mixed farming enterprise together with my wife Deborah and two sons who also have an interest in the business. We have 6 children and have been farming in the district for over 35 years.

Our property is 13,500 acres plus 3,500 acres of lease country. The proposed railway line is severing 2,200 acres of prime, high rainfall cropping and grazing country which is going to cause a huge disruption to our business. We have put in a lot of work over the years to establish a productive family-owned farming business.

We are extremely concerned about the following points.

- The route chosen should have been through less productive land. It appears that the route has been chosen entirely because of the time factor (24 hours Brisbane to Melbourne).
- The environmental impacts on the land during the construction stage might not be reversible in our lifetime.
- After the construction the impact of numerous daily trains and ARTC maintenance vehicles will continue to impact the flora and fauna.
- The biosecurity is something that has not been addressed. The possibility of a wide range of insects and weeds travelling from port to port could introduce a wide range of new management issues.
- The challenges our business will have to face having a railway line cutting off a percentage of our property regarding stock and machinery movements and time and labour factors. (Need to employ extra employees)
- Water supply will be an issue as we have applied twice to Goldenfields Water to connect to their line that services this area, on both occasions they have advised us that they would allow no more connections to the line as the line is fully committed. We believe if the railway is allowed to connect to the water line it will cause a shortage of available water in high demand periods for our livestock.
- We have had no definite information on fencing standards and responsibility for maintenance.
- The quality and design of crossings and underpasses has not been addressed.

- Noise and vibration are of major concern not only to the livestock but the impact on the Homestead which is only approx. 600 metres from the railway line. The home was built in 1892 a substantial solid double brick home and we are concerned that vibration from the railway line will cause cracking in the home. Certainly, the noise will disrupt the tranquillity of the surrounding garden and outdoor areas.
- Flooding and drainage. How are they going to direct flood waters and what impact is that going to have on our land?
- The ARTC engage with us regularly but have been unable to answer our questions relative to the effects on our business, land, and lives.