

29 January 2020

Major Project Branch  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
PO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**Via web portal submission**

To Whom It May Concern,

**Inland Rail - Narrabri to North Star:  
Submissions Preferred Infrastructure Report (SPIR)**

Moree Plains Shire Council (MPSC) has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Inland Rail project for many years. As a founding member of the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail Alliance (MBIRA) and the most productive agricultural shire in Australia, our community recognises the benefits that Inland Rail will bring. MPSC are strong advocates for this transformational infrastructure, but we are well aware that it 'won't just happen'. We accept that we must work together to ensure this infrastructure drives growth and employment at this crucial time, and that it also facilitates long term prosperity for Moree, the Region and Australia.

MPSC acknowledges the ongoing efforts of the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) Inland Rail team to deliver this project and we have taken the time to thoroughly review the SPIR document suite relating to the Narrabri to North Star component of Inland Rail. In response, on 23 January 2020, MPSC formally endorsed the attached submission to NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), which is now adopted Council policy on the project.

We have made comment on a range of matters and for ease of review our submission is sectioned as follows:

- **Section 1:** Response to Jones Avenue Overbridge
- **Section 2:** Response to main SPIR document
- **Section 3:** Response to SPIR technical reports and appendices

One matter that warrants particular attention and is of paramount importance is MPSC's view to not support the construction of the Jones Avenue Overbridge identified within the design elements of the SPIR. MPSC requires this infrastructure to be relocated to an identified southern location, thereby providing a range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to current and future generations. The southern overbridge has been identified as the Moree Intermodal Overpass (MIO).

This view has been expressed to ARTC both formally and informally and in various iterations since August 2018. The attached submission provides further details and background information reinforcing our position and summarising the importance of the MIO. MPSC does acknowledge and appreciate the recent efforts of ARTC to resolve this matter and we confirm our ongoing engagement and consultation.

Notwithstanding our concerns with the Jones Avenue Overbridge, MPSC supports the expedient construction commencement of the Narrabri to North Star Inland Rail component and stands ready to help facilitate and support this nation building project.

Sincerely,



Angus Witherby  
**ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**