

3 February 2021

Mark Campbell
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Rail Track Corporation
E: VHutchinson@artc.com.au

Dear Mr Campbell,

Thank you to David Donnelly and Andrew Cole for taking the time to meet with Council on January 28, 2021.

We appreciate their time, the extensive information provided, and we look forward to continuing positive discussions.

We're writing today because we wanted to raise Council, and our community's concerns, about the process being used to decide the solution to the Euroa Railway Precinct.

To put it really simply - our community does not feel it has been part of the decision-making.

The Euroa community is loud and passionate. When it comes to the Euroa Railway Precinct it believes – and we agree – that the community must be involved in the solution.

We understand the community engagement has been significant, and we welcome the work you have done with the Euroa Working Group and through the pop-up shops in our main street.

However, as a Council we cannot ignore our community's concerns.

There is no doubt the future design of the Anderson St Bridge, the Euroa Railway Precinct and the movement of vehicles (rail and road) has a significant impact on our town's future.

Our vision for Euroa is a united community. One that is not divided by a railway line.

Good design creates inspired and connected communities.

To reiterate, the design of this project has significant impact.

We believe best practice engagement can ally Council and our community's fears.

What we are urging the ARTC to do is put our community at the heart of the decision-making process.

At our recent meeting the ARTC committed to broad community engagement to inform the development of the Urban Design Framework for the precinct. We thank you for this commitment.

We are now seeking a deliberate engagement process that will allow our community to reach a group decision on the future design of the Euroa Railway Precinct.

It will ensure our community is involved in a meaningful way.

When implemented well, deliberative engagement has huge benefits for all involved. Just a few of these are:

- It increases participants knowledge, resulting in more informed and considered views;
- It builds trust between authorities and communities through greater transparency;
- It ensures open and honest discussion; and,
- It ensures the community is involved in the decision making.

As a Council we know the thought of deliberative engagement is daunting.

To promise to implement what the community decides, or to incorporate the community's advice and recommendations to the maximum extent possible, can feel difficult or risky.

We believe people make good decisions when they are given the time, information and authority to decide.

We also know that we're asking you to take a step back in the process, which has already identified an overpass as the preferred solution.



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However, our community has been clear about the need to again explore the design options.

More than this, we believe our community has the right to be involved in decisions that affect them.

Cr Chris Raeburn
Mayor
Strathbogie Shire Council

Please note CC to:

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