

# 1 Executive Summary

## Background

The Australian Rail and Track Corporation (ARTC) is a wholly owned Federal Government corporation, with the responsibility of delivering competitive rail freight services throughout Australia. A key initiative by ARTC is the introduction of a dedicated freight line into the Sydney area. It is known as the Southern Sydney Freight Line (SSFL). This project has been planned for construction for many years previously by NSW RailCorp, and since the handing over of freight operations from the State to Federal Government, ARTC has become the champion for this project. Approval for this project has been granted by both the NSW State Government and Federal Government through an Environmental Assessment process.

As one of the Conditions of Approval for the Southern Sydney Freight Line (SSFL) by the NSW State government, this Urban Design and Landscape Plan (UDLP) has been developed to guide and direct the design of important and visual elements that are located along the entire rail corridor.

The SSFL extends from Macarthur in the south, through Liverpool, Cabramatta and Sefton to Regents Park. The dedicated freight line will enable freight trains entering and exiting Sydney from the south to not conflict with peak hour suburban passenger trains. In turn this will contribute to the reduction of heavy transport vehicles on the main roads and highways, resulting in improved traffic flows for other road users.

The following elements have been included for design development in this document:

- Bridge abutments;
- Large walls (including retaining and noise);
- Landscaped areas;
- Fences;
- Station Precincts;
- Public Domain initiatives;
- Parking provisions; and
- Public Art.

## Content and Format

This document is structured for easy reading, review and application through the arrangement of the design strategy into four broad areas for consideration:

- Scope of works and major design themes;
- Built works - including station precincts, walls, bridges and other civil structures;

- Landscaping works - including the general themes and species; and
- Maintenance of the works.

Each design element is dealt with independently and when necessary described in greater detail in regards to its position and local application.

## Liaison

There has been extensive liaison with staff at each of the four Local Government Areas (LGAs) that are effected by the works:

- Bankstown City Council;
- Fairfield City Council;
- Liverpool City Council; and
- Campbelltown City Council.

There has also been ongoing liaison with other key stakeholders as identified by the councils and ARTC, including:

- RailCorp;
- Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDC);
- Station Precinct manager;
- Casula Arts Centre management; and
- Other design consultants that have been engaged and working on other infrastructure projects adjacent to the works.

These discussions over many months have led to numerous modifications and improvements to the UDLP as it has been developed. The table in Schedule 1 (Section 7) outlines the extensive public consultation process.

The public consultation process will continue beyond the completion of this document, to ensure that the design and construction of the SSFL complies with the initiatives and spirit of the design directions established within this document.

## Application of the UDLP

This document has been a useful tool during the process of engagement with communities and local governments in the development of strategies for design, and the establishment of the way forward for design development and construction.

In the future, this document will guide further design development and construction processes. It will provide a measurable standard for the successful completion of the public domain works and art works, ensuring high quality public amenities and facilities.