

My name is Catherine Lund. Senators, thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns. I am here today on behalf of my family and as an extremely concerned resident of the Brisbane suburb of Parkinson. In 2002 we built our home because we needed to live away from traffic and related pollution for health reasons.

The ARTC's proposed route through my suburb will heavily impact my family. My daughter and her husband (both aged 25), are going to be more significantly affected by the proposed Inland Rail line. They purchased their Algester home three years ago in November 2016. Their home is within 200 metres of the train line and as it is highset, they experience significant levels of noise and vibration with the current 5-8 trains passing each day. However, the small number of trains currently makes this bearable.

With the proposed Inland Rail running through these densely populated suburbs, according to the ARTC's publications, the number of trains will increase significantly – I would call a 700- 800% increase, significant. **If there was a 700% increase in our superannuation then we would hear cheers across the country, but in reality, a 700 % increase train traffic is only going to bring to the residents, tears.**

These trains will not only increase in number but also in length, size and speed. Children play in the bushland beside the line and one can only imagine the consequence when a long and fully loaded train travelling at 115 km an hour hits an adventurous or inquisitive child in a densely populated area. I am aware of the possibility of this as I walk where young families live in homes that must be within 10- 20 metres of the line. My heart breaks for them as many of them are unaware of what possibly lies ahead. A glossy brochure in the mailbox may be disregarded in a non-English speaking home. Additionally, I am greatly concerned about the wildlife that inhabits the bushland: caring for native animals by protecting their relatively quiet habitat should be a priority.

The thought of double storey freight trains, approximately 1.8 kms long and eventually 3.6kms in length, every half hour every day and every night, rightly burdens me. The ARTC confirms that there would not be a curfew – I did ask the question in the hope that they might consider this as a viable option, but reason and the practice of empathy seems to be out of reach of the ARTC employees and their management. Their lack of consultation and sound discussion is obvious to the residents in my neighbourhood and yes, I have attended the K2ARB Community Consultative Committee meetings, to see the Committee members treated with disrespect, disregard and lack of empathy by ARTC representatives. The meetings consist of the ARTC sounding their own horn whilst brushing over the concerns of others. Obviously, they do not want to hear our concerns. In my opinion, there has been no genuine consultation: they hold meetings to say they have consulted – a matter of ticking boxes. The residents of Parkinson, like many of the people living along the length of the railway, have been kept in the dark.

As an individual, it is a deprivation of my basic human rights to not be able to sleep soundly in my own home due to significantly increased noise and vibration, affecting our health and wellbeing. We are all too aware of the significant consequences of sleep deprivation and its influence on cardiovascular health, obesity, mental health and nervous system. When coupled with the distinct possibility of carcinogenic coal dust because a significant amount of the freight carried on this line is likely to be coal, I am particularly worried.

Because of my proximity to the proposed inland rail line, the recommendation from the ARTC that affected people should close their windows and use air conditioning to overcome the noise and pollution, is totally inappropriate. I have no need or desire for air conditioning. My respect for the environment meant that I intentionally never installed it. I can open my windows and let the fresh air cool my home. The sun warms my home during winter.

Currently I live in a peaceful, healthy, environmentally friendly haven, for which I have worked hard all my life, but if the Inland Rail line goes through Parkinson, I, like many others will be seriously impacted. There will be no compensation from the ARTC for any of the recommended adjustments for homeowners.

Why not continue the train line through Toowoomba and then head north to Gladstone? At least this makes some sense, by supporting an Australian owned Port, and stimulating employment where people need jobs. The Inland Rail corridor from Kagaru to Acacia Ridge does not make sense in environmental, political, lifestyle or economic terms. One proposal of finishing the rail line at Acacia Ridge is ridiculous as the acknowledged impact on Beaudesert Road will affect residents yet again. Those trucks will cause bottlenecks and further chaos in an already congested, densely populated area.

We are talking about people's homes and livelihoods and are in a position to bring good governance and sound, wise decision-making to bear. The people along the Inland Rail proposed route were promised by the Beattie government that development of this rail line would be minimised and based on that I, and other people in the area, purchased our homes in good faith. The Inland Rail line ***does not belong in densely populated suburbs***. Decreased property values mean that for many, moving is not possible. Please consider the needs of the people who will be negatively impacted by this proposal and leave our suburbs, our homes and lifestyles as they are now.

I urge this Senate Inquiry to recognise and acknowledge that the current route for the Inland Rail through densely populated Brisbane suburbs, is inappropriate and must be reconsidered.

An alternative must be determined that enables the positives of the Inland Rail not to be completely ruined by the negative of destroying families' hopes and plans.