

19 September 2024



Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	19/09/2024	Time	5:30 - 7:30pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	6 of 2024
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Katy Sylvia

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Hesham Mobarek (HM)	Watsonia Pharmacy/ Watsonia Traders Association
Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical/Watsonia Traders Association	Amy Harris (AH) Economic Development Coordinator	Banyule City Council
Colin Brooks MP (CB)	Member of Parliament	Matt Guest (MG) General Manager	Watsonia RSL
Renato Marnich (RM) Trader Engagement Specialist	NEL	Alex Chan (AC) Senior Project Engineer	Spark
Leanne Farrell (LF) Senior Environment Specialist	NEL	Deanna Hadid (DH) Senior Advisor Communications and Stakeholder Relations	Spark
Nikita Trachevski (NT) Senior Environment Advisor	NEL	Steve Denton (SD) Interface Zone (Watsonia) Construction Manager	AMA
Emma Miller (EM) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL	Brett Kavanagh (BK) North Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA
Paul Raworth South Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA	Lexie Walter (LW) Communications and Stakeholder Relations Lead	AMA
Adrian Carter (ACa)	NEL	Sean Carroll Trader Advisor	AMA

Sign up for updates
northeastlink.vic.gov.au



Acting Senior Advisor,
Communications and Stakeholder
Relations, North

Katy Sylvia (KS) NEL
Senior Advisor, Communications
and Stakeholder Relations,
Tunnels

Apologies

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jim Needham	NEL	Nadine Wooldridge	Banyule City Council
Mark Minahan	Watsonia RSL	Yvette Stanfield	Macleod Traders Association
Tania Treasure	Nillumbik Shire Council		

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner

Jeni Coutts (JC)

Welcome and Introduction

- Acknowledgment of country
- Guest presenters introduced
- Update on project staff
- Acknowledged apologies
- All short-term actions were reviewed
 - Hesham Mobarek (HM) noted while action 5.8 was complete, it is important to continue keeping traders updated before disruptions occur

Renato Marnich (RM)

RM gave an overview of business engagement enquiries for M80 and North East Link (NEL)Tunnels and discussed themes across the project, including:

- Provision of Watsonia traders offset parking reflective of trader feedback
- Map of proposed car park
- HM asked how often the project is engaging with the Watsonia Road intersection businesses.
 - RM answered there is some communication most days and the engagement is very regular.
- HM asked if there will be signage
 - Steve Denton (SD) reviewed the map and discussed what measures have been put in place to separate the trader car park from the commuter car park, including 4-hour parking signage.
 - Jeremy Richards (JR) asked if Banyule City Council (BCC) can enforce parking restrictions in the trader offset car park.
 - SD advised he had been told it would not be possible but would be very open to that arrangement.
 - Colin Brooks (CB) added BCC monitors parking in a similar fashion at Greensborough Plaza.

Owner

- RM noted it would be our preferred outcome for BCC to enforce parking restrictions in the offset car park.
- Amy Harris (AH) noted she would follow up internally to determine what conversations have occurred already at BCC around parking enforcement
- JR asked when the car parks will be ready.
 - SD answered they are expected to be completed within the week.
- JR asked for a map diagram to be supplied showing where to get into the car park
 - **ACTION: AMA to create and drop an offset trader car park map to traders.**
- JR asked how long the car park will be available.
 - SD answered for as long as possible, with some impactful works and some disruption to the car park at times. Reviewed a table of upcoming works that will affect access or capacity.

Leanne Farrell (LF)
Nikita Trachevski
(NT)

- LF discussed the purpose of the Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) and how it works with NEL, including:
- The two different independent auditors for NEL tunnels and M80 Ring Road
 - The schedule of regular audits and quarterly audits
 - NEL's role and how feedback is given to the IEA while still acknowledging the independent nature of the audit
 - May-October 2023 IEA summary report overview was given:
 - Detailed the approval process and long timeline for publishing of the summary reports
 - Reviewed a summary of key quotes from the summary report
 - Reviewed audit outcomes and overall findings
 - Discussed the independent audit system
 - Noted that continuous improvement is a goal of the audit process.
 - JR noted the largest concern with the IEA summary report is with the realignment of Greensborough Road and loss of car parks in the south end of the Watsonia shops from 2022.
 - LF answered that the audit process uses a risk-based approach looking at the project as a whole and EPR B6 was assessed as compliant in all completed audits to date.
 - JR asked if the non-compliance he perceived from the parking EPR can be responded to in writing.
 - LF answered the written compliance is in the summary reports published on the NEL website.
 - HM asked if there is a way for NBLG to ask the IEA to address specific issues.
 - LF answered that some independence must be maintained for the auditing process to be effective and advised the best way for this group to raise specific issues is through the meetings themselves. Noted NBLG minutes are sampled and reviewed by the IEA.
 - Jeni Coutts (JC) asked if the actions are also reviewed when the IEA look at NBLG minutes.
 - LF answered the IEA take a sample of the minutes and review them.
 - CB asked who the independent auditor is.
 - Lexie Walter (LW) answered M80 auditor is KPMG.
 - LF answered NEL auditor is a consortium called AAAJV.
 - Matt Guest (MG) asked who makes sure the auditor is doing the job correctly.
 - LW answered ultimate responsibility lies with the Minister.
 - JR noted he feels like there has been an issue with the process and wants to ensure key topics important to NBLG are reviewed moving forward.

Owner	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: NEL to determine what further information, if any, can be provided on the assessment of the EPR discussed. • HM noted the priority is how to move forward and do better for the duration of construction.
<p>Deanna Hadid (DH) Alex Chan (AC)</p>	<p>DH gave an update on trader engagement and support in the tunnels area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of promotional flyers, completed building cleaning and regular project updates and six-month lookahead meetings with traders • Happy Valley Early Learning Centre incursion with project staff <p>AC gave an update on construction in the tunnels area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) progress and other tunnelling works • An aerial video of construction progress across the tunnels northern work areas • Images of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winsor Reserve acoustic shed ○ TBM launch area in Watsonia ○ Precast concrete segments ○ Northern ventilation structure building and surface works ○ Lower Plenty Road interchange works and the widening of Lower Plenty Road. • DH highlighted the partnership with Yurringa Energy, an aboriginal owned renewable electricity company, that is providing the energy for the TBMs and showed a video. • DH reviewed community engagement statistics from the last month and common questions received. • MG noted the challenge of traffic turning from Yallambie Road to Greensborough Road north and requested the project team determine if the lights can be timed to match the signalised intersection at Winsor Reserve where project trucks enter and exit the site. • ACTION: Spark & NEL to provide feedback to traffic teams and provide an update on the Yallambie Roads lights sequencing.
<p>Brett Kavanagh (BK) Paul Raworth (PR) Steve Denton (SD) Lexie Walter (LW) Sean Carroll (SC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BK reviewed a video of North Zone M80 construction updates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress on new ramps ○ Progress on the new westbound carriageway being constructed within the works area ○ Piling foundation work ○ Excavation works • BK reviewed the next 6 months of major activities. • PR reviewed a video of South Zone M80 construction updates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress on piling for retaining walls ○ Foundation works for rail works and utilities ○ Tunnel entrance works for rail corridor activities ○ Upcoming occupation of the rail network • PR reviewed the next 6 months of major activities, including impacts to Greensborough Road and the rail line. • MG asked how traffic lights at Grimshaw Street will keep traffic moving particularly at Watsonia Road. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LW answered it is being phased and evaluated over time. • SD reviewed a video of the Interface Zone M80 construction updates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Piling works at Watsonia Road ○ Commencement of Elder Street works • SD reviewed the next 6 months of major activities. • Emma Miller (EM) gave an overview of the marketing campaign associated with the Greensborough Road realignment works, including a follow up survey to the community.

Owner	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC gave an overview on trader engagement around the Greensborough Road realignment blitz and what support was provided for local businesses. LW gave an overview on what M80 has been hearing from the community and the main themes in engagement.
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HM Noted that the Interface Zone of the M80 works are most relevant to traders and would like to spend more time on this section in future meetings. ACTION: Interface Zone of the M80 works to be reviewed first in future NBLG meetings. MG asked if BCC will be feeding information back to BCC from NBLG meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AH affirmed. JR acknowledged Colin Brooks and thanked him for attending. JC added her thanks to Colin Brooks for attending.

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
6.1	AMA to create and drop an offset trader car park map to traders	Sean Carroll	31/10/24	Open	
6.2	NEL to determine what further information, if any, can be provided on the assessment of the EPR discussed.	Leanne Farrell	31/10/24	Open	
6.3	Spark & NEL to provide feedback to traffic teams and provide an update on the Yallambie Roads lights sequencing.	Deanna Hadid Katy Sylvia	31/10/24	Open	
6.4	Interface Zone of the M80 works to be reviewed first in future NBLG meetings.	Lexie Walter	31/10/24	Open	

Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
1.5	WTA	WTA to work with Banyule Council on the possibility of getting electronic message boards installed	BCC met with WTA 06.07.23. The Committee will investigate some options and provide options ASAP. 21.09.23: ON HOLD - Will revisit Q1 2024
7.5	JN	JN to advise when the details for any planned Watsonia Station car park upgrades will be known	

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2024	09.11.23	Timeline of works for M80 completion to be presented	JN	Will be presented once UDLP approved

Additional information

NA