

28 August 2025



Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	28/08/2025	Time	5:30 - 7:30pm
Chair	Leah Waymark	Meeting no.	6 of 2025
Location	Online Zoom meeting	Minute taker	Emma Miller

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Leah Waymark (LW)	Independent Chair	Katy Sylvia (KS) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Tunnels North	NEL
Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical/Watsonia Traders Association	Esmond Angeles (EA) Industry Development Officer	Nillumbik Shire Council
Paul Raworth (PR)	M80RRA Construction Manager Greensborough	Hesham Mobarek (HM)	Watsonia Pharmacy/ Watsonia Traders Association
Renato Marnich (RM) Trader Engagement Specialist	NEL	Rania Fayad (RF)	Watsonia Traders Association
Emma Miller (EM) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL	Georgie Meyer (GM) Manager Inclusive and Creative Communities	Banyule Council
Selena Jensen (SJ) Trader Engagement Manager	M80RRA	Donna Mongan (DM) Community Relations Manager	M80RRA
Yucel Adas (YA) Traffic Planning Manager	M80RRA	Ivan Zarezkij (IZ) Senior Communications Advisor	Tunnels

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Sean Carroll (SC) Trader Advisor	M80RRA	Nicole Anderson	Tunnels
Alison Williams (AW) Marketing Manager	Greensborough Plaza	Tamlyn Kirk (TK)	Greensborough Plaza
Mark Manahan (MM)	Watsonia RSL		

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Emma Joyce (EJ) Inclusive Enterprise & Local Economy Coordinator	Banyule City Council	Michael Cannatelli (MC)	Greensborough Chamber of Commerce
Matt Guest (MG)	Watsonia RSL	Anne Warner (AW)	Greensborough Chamber of Commerce

Agenda

Agenda		Lead
1	Welcome and Outstanding Business	Leah Waymark, Chair
2	M80 Ring Road Completion Construction Update Traffic Management for upcoming major works Trader Engagement Update Milestones and highlights	Donna Mongan Yucel Adas Sean Carroll Donna Mongan
3	North East Link Tunnels Construction Update Upcoming road works Trader Update	Ivan Zarezkij
4	Other Business	Leah Waymark, Chair
5	Open Forum	Leah Waymark, Chair

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner

Leah Waymark (LW)

Welcome and Introduction

LW led Acknowledgement of Country.

LW went through apologies and confirmed previous meeting Minutes.

Meeting Minutes reviewed:

4.5 – Closed and met with WTA on 11/08/2025

4.6 – SJ provided an update on trader impact assessments and noted these assessments are undertaken with businesses directly. RF noted advance notification could have been provided to WTA. JR suggested the project provide samples of impact assessments if WTA are unable to be involved with assessments directly.

SJ noted collaboration is important, however businesses impacted personally will have private appointments.

4.7 – RM noted a written response was provided to WTA and Greensborough Plaza.

AW acknowledged they have received communications and have met up with the project regarding upcoming works. JR noted the response from the project was delayed and not timely prior to the NBLG meeting. RM noted there's been much consultation undertaken with stakeholders over the past 8 weeks regarding works, however, acknowledge their frustration of response delay, timeliness and prompt discussions.

Additional action Item added 4.8 – M80 Project team and WTA to discuss high level insights for trader impact assessments at next WTA/M80 meeting.

Donna Mongan (DM)

M80 Ring Road – Agenda

Discussed agenda items.

Spoke high-level to different works occurring across the project:

Watsonia Road landscaped bridge – Excavation under the bridge is progressing well.

Upcoming Elder Street and Watsonia Road works, and that the project is working closely with traders to minimise impacts. Working at nighttime to reduce impacts.

Hurstbridge Line rain tunnel extension – tunnel and bridge extension are taking shape with the new bridge deck. Buses replacing trains on 12-15 September

Kempston Street bridge – works are progressing to widen the bridge to create space for Greensborough Bypass traffic lanes

New noise walls and retaining walls – continue to go up in the north area and have been designed to achieve strict decibel limits.

Yucel Adas (YA)

M80 Ring Road – Traffic Management for upcoming major works

Reviewed upcoming traffic impacts and disruptions across the M80 Ring Road Completion project.

Discussed major changes to the M80 Ring Road from 19-22 September to complete a traffic switch. Noted extensive communication materials in market such as radio, TV ads, press ads, social media etc, to notify the community of the disruption. Following the switch the traffic arrangements will be in place for up to 18 months.

Grimshaw Street Interchange

The project works with various parties to coordinate works and investigate any detours across the community holistically. Traffic and project teams works to reduce impact to the community and traffic as much as possible.

GM: Noted Banyule City Council had met with WTA and raised concerns about the Grimshaw Street closures.

Main concerns raised by Banyule City Council are:

- The level of information and engagement with the WTA by the project regarding the upcoming closures.

- The timing of the closures coinciding with the traders' peak business season.
- Transparency around the Traders Impact Assessment being developed by the project.
- Need for a back-up traffic impact mitigation plan to manage impacts on Watsonia Road.

In addition, council request Grimshaw Street VMS and detour routes.

Action: M80RRA to share VMS strategy for Grimshaw Street west closure

YA: Noted Banyule City Council has received the Grimshaw Street east closure VMS strategy as part of the WTMP, and that we can provide the VMS plan for Grimshaw Street west closure to Council. Advised that the WTMP would be shared with Council and DTP shortly.

Action: M80RR to share VMS strategy for Grimshaw Street westbound disruptions and to respond to letter from Banyule City Council.

YA advised Grimshaw Street West Closure WTMP (including the VMS plan) has been submitted to Council on 29 August for review.

JR: Requested some additional VMS for Watsonia Road shops open for business.

YA: Advised it is possible and will be included in the VMS plan to council and can be worked through with the project communications team, however wanted to note to be mindful that VMS boards may encouraged to use Watsonia Road as a detour.

JR: Suggested the project has discussed VMS would be handy for open for business for Watsonia Road, however thought it was off the table.

Action: SJ Noted VMS is an open discussion, and the project will investigate and get back to WTA.

MM: Queried how long the traffic arrangements will be in place for at the M80 Interchange.

YA: Advised this arrangement will be in place for up to 18 months.

JR: Asked about the timing for Grimshaw Street westbound closure and if we're reducing the impact to disruptions.

YA: Noted there are certain weekends we are unable to work including the AFL grand final and Melbourne Cup Weekend. Taking this into consideration it limits timing for works.

PR: Advised that while the timing is from November to December, we're investigating to shorten the program by a few days if possible, noting equipment delivery delays and other construction variables to be taken into consideration when programming.

MM: Requested the slide pack with disruption slide as important for RSL for the rest of the year.

Action: SJ to share slide pack with Watsonia RSL.

YA: Watsonia Station car park changes

Upcoming changes to access to the station car park via a one-way road further south on Greensborough Highway.

DM: The project will work to keep the trader car park open during trading hours to limit disruption, the bus stop will move, and pedestrian access will be maintained. Additional trader parking signage has been installed in the car park.

JR: Questioned if the car park is being enforced and monitored?

DM: Noted that the 4HP signage is installed.

RM: Advised there is a long process to enforce parking, including internal stakeholders including DTP, MTM, local council and other stakeholders to agree on the parking enforcements.

JR: How long will this be in place for? And will the parking enforcement be active soon?

DM: Noted the trader car park may be in place for up to one year – subject to construction program needs – and long-term needs will be managed

Action: RM advised the project is well advanced to get the agreement in place and will keep the group updated on progress.

MM: Noted traffic queuing is banking up at Greensborough Bypass to turn right onto Grimshaw Street and noted he has raised in previous forums but hasn't seen any changes at the intersection.

Action: YA advised project has had recent works at the intersection and noted we'll take it on as an action to request DTP to review signals.

Sean Carroll (SC)

M80 Ring Road – Trader Update

Supporting traders through construction with various communication materials, doorknocks, and other means to get into contact regularly with directly impacted businesses.

Trader directory displayed in crib rooms, site offices.

Community spend initiatives for car ashes and Cards4All scheme for community members impacted by works.

TK: Asked what the reaction was when community pop ups were completed and if any Plaza trader representatives attended the pop up at the centre.

RM: Suggested pop ups at the Plaza have broader community feedback about the project in general.

EM: Noted recent community pop ups have been positive, and the project gets asked a lot of questions about the final design of certain project areas such as parks and underpasses, artist impressions, and disruptions information for detouring around upcoming works, i.e. which is the best road to take to get to their destination.

DM: Reiterated the above, and that community pop ups are a great way to speak directly with the wider community about the project.

RF: How many businesses have been spoken to about trader impact assessments?

SC: Noted the project has begun assessments with approx. 20 complete. Appointment based businesses and others that can't be completed via doorknock will be undertaken next after making an appointment to speak to relevant business contact.

Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)

Tunnels – Construction Update

TBM Tracker: Considering what the tunnelling completion looks like for traders and the community next year.

Upcoming road works and campaigns until late 2025

Discussed upcoming works on Lower Plenty Road and Blamey Road to complete various construction activities.

Watsonia Road – Works to take into consideration next year to begin building the tunnel portal. This will occur behind barriers and details will be shared a later date.

Yallambie Road and Oban Way – Construction activities occurring behind barriers including the ventilation structure.

Supporting local businesses before traffic disruptions – working to support the businesses via various initiatives including purchasing of equipment, alongside existing trader support.

How we support businesses through and after disruptions – Happy Valley banners images as examples of signage provided by the project in support of the early learning centre.

First Transport – Benalla Precast Tunnel Segments – Video about the Aboriginal-owned and operated company playing a vital role in transporting precast tunnel segments from Benalla to the tunnel entrance in Watsonia, creating long-term employment opportunities for First Nations people. Video to be shared following the meeting.

North East Link Construction – Engagement related mainly around dust impacts on Greensborough Road. The Project is working to reduce and limit dust impacts via various methods.

LW: Asked if there were any feedback or questions for IZ. No further feedback.

Leah Waymark (LW)

Other business

Leah Waymark (LW)

Open forum

RF: Raised that WTA had a meeting with the project team and is awaiting feedback and actions.

RM: Noted it was a successful meeting and that it was acknowledged that the design elements were not there, but project collaboration and early discussions occurred.

MM: Queried if business signage had been considered.

DM: The project is working to install wayfinding signage.

JR: Business focused presentations for tonight's meeting were noted and appreciated.

TK: Requested a call from the project representative regarding the pop up at Greensborough Plaza, and if the project would like further pop ups at the plaza.

DM: Discussed the previous pop up at the plaza, suggested further support with plaza staff, noted a call back.

Meeting ended.

Actions – Short Term

No	Topic	Owner	Status	Update
4.5	M80RR to provided timeline of Watsonia Station Car Park UDLP when available, with details on early engagement provided.	JL/CI	CLOSED	Met with WTA on 11/08/2025
4.6	RF requested to take part in the impact assessments for Watsonia Road, and to meet with SJ prior to going out.	RF/SJ	CLOSED	Update provided at 28/8 meeting.
4.7	M80 project team to provide a written response to WTA/Greensborough Plaza re timing of works at Grimshaw Street	M80RRA	CLOSED	VIDA response provided to WTA via letter on 28/08
4.8	M80RR project team to get back to WTA regarding trader impact assessments outcomes summary	M80RRA	OPEN	
4.9	M80RR to share VMS strategy for Grimshaw Street westbound disruptions and to respond to letter from Banyule City Council.	M80RRA	OPEN	
5.0	NBLG slide pack to be shared with Watsonia RSL – noting traffic disruptions of importance for remainder of the year	SJ	OPEN	
5.1	Open for business VMS signage to be explored for Watsonia Road	SJ/YA	OPEN	
5.2	Watsonia Station parking enforcement updates to group	M80RRA/RM	OPEN	
5.3	Project team to investigate traffic queuing at Greensborough Bypass southbound and Grimshaw Street intersection, in collaboration with DTP to review signals	M80RRA	OPEN	
5.4	Project team to call back TK from Greensborough Plaza regarding pop ups and sentiment	M80RRA	OPEN	

Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
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Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
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