

Meeting Minutes

Northern Community Liaison Group

Date	19/09/2025	Time	10am - 12pm
Chair	Leah Waymark	Meeting no.	6 of 2025
Location	Watsonia Hub	Minute taker	Katy Sylvia

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Leah Waymark (LW)	Chair	Shima Mohanadas (SM)	Banyule City Council
Giselle James (GJ)	Community Representative	Katy Sylvia (KS)	MRPV
Michelle Molinaro (MMo)	Community Representative	Deanna Hadid (DH)	Spark
Stephen Paul (SP)	Community Representative	Tyson Garnham (TG)	Spark
Wade Howell (WH)	Community Representative	Donna Mongan (DM)	M80RRA
Michelle Giovas (MG)	Community Representative	John Mowat (JM)	M80RRA
Andrew Mills (AM)	Community Representative	Stephen Denton (SD)	M80RRA
Allan Hunter (AH)	Community Representative	Josh Lloyd (JLo)	M80RRA
Sanjev Sivananthanayagam (SS)	Banyule City Council		
Apologies			
Kathleen Petras (KP)	Banyule City Council	Jonathan Risby (JRis)	Banyule City Council
Josh Ribarich (JR)	MRPV	Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Spark
Kalyan Shrestha (KSh)	Department of Transport and Planning	Mick Marcevski (MMa)	Department of Transport and Planning
Josh Ribarich (JR)	MRPV	Jasmin Lazzarotti (JL)	MRPV
Carlos Ibarra (CI)			

Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC252-1	NEL to investigate and provide information on infringement notices were issued to the project by the EPA.	NEL	19/09/25	CLOSED	Email response sent to MG on 27/08

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Leah Waymark (LW)	Welcome and Outstanding Business Introductions Action: Verify Nillumbik City Council has been invited to CLG. Minutes accepted from North CLG meeting on 15 August. Outstanding short-term action updates: NC251-4: Action to be moved to long-term actions. Traffic modelling will be available before the end of the year. - NC252-1: Closed, email response sent to MG 27/8. - MG commented that the group is interested in the southern end of the project and information on the whole alignment of NEL. - NC252-1: Email response sent to MG on 27/08. Update provided in meeting. Action closed. Outstanding long-term actions - NC251-4: To be presented at a later date when information becomes available.
Tyson Garnham (TG)	North East Link tunnels update Presentation covered tunnelling progress and construction lookahead, site updates, upcoming road works and campaigns, Lower Plenty site compound plan changes and community engagement. DH gave an overview of the work lookahead through February 2026, including: - Removal of 550-tonne gantry crane, update on progress at the ventilation structure, upcoming road works on Blamey Road, tunnel portal infrastructure construction and additional works on Lower Plenty Road. TG gave a site-specific overview of the upcoming works, including: - Lower Plenty Road service relocation, piling works, centre median works, trenching and boring - Watsonia tunnel portal works and tunnelling infrastructure works - Yallambie to Oban Way ventilation structure update with vent tunnel backfilling - Stockpile update, including where dirt and rock are being used on site - On and off ramp excavation at Lower Plenty Road - Progress on smoke shaft construction MG asked what the smoke duct is. TG explained the smoke duct is above the roadway and is used for ventilation in case of an emergency in the tunnels.
Deanna Hadid (DH)	

Owner	Action
	MG asked if the drainage work at Lower Plenty Road was for permanent stormwater drainage into Banyule Creek. TG answered it is part of the permanent infrastructure. MG asked what the environmental controls are for this. TG answered all work must be completed to EPR standards to meet water quality requirements. During construction the project needs to contain all water runoff within site. Action: What sediment traps, if any, will be included in the final design for the drainage at Lower Plenty Road. MG asked when the Greensborough Road Boulevard is being built and what the traffic disruption during construction will look like. DH confirmed that modelled impacts are currently minimal, with the team currently preparing work areas within the site. Traffic modelling is underway to be confirmed, and the project team will engage with local residents and traders about potential future impacts. Further information will be shared closer to the start of major construction later next year. MM asked how the smoke gets into the ventilation structure TG explained that smoke duct shafts run along the entire tunnel alignment, connecting to the ventilation structure. The system uses jet fans and consistent air circulation to direct airflow toward the ventilation building. MG asked why we're demolishing things within the ventilation dive structure. DH answered they're temporary structures intended for removal. Materials will be recycled wherever possible, and additional dust suppression measures are being implemented around the ventilation structure. TG discussed on and off ramp excavation at Lower Plenty Road work area and the site compound being moved further south on site due to the completion of diaphragm wall construction about 40m south within the site. DH added that the relocation will take place in stages, with some sheds being fully removed and the remaining ones repositioned. MG asked if the tanks would remain on site. TG answered the tanks will be removed. DH added there is active engagement with nearby residents as we progress with planning the compound move. MG asked if there will be less site lighting. TG answered there is a requirement for lighting for night works, but some lighting will move underground. DH gave an overview on community engagement throughout August, including Happy Valley Early Learning Centre open day on 2 August, regular pop-ups at Warringal Plaza, as well as a community information session at a local park to capture residents south of LPR. Community Feedback overview was given, including noise, respite & relocation, dust and vibration as key themes. MG asked where the finished precast concrete tunnel sections are being stored now. DH answered that these sections are being stored in Benalla and are regularly being moved to site . WH asked how long the stockpile will be in place at the Lower Plenty Road work area, noting he is experiencing an increase in dust near his home. DH answered that it will be in place until mid 2026 and that the stockpile is already being used within site and will continue to reduce in size over time. WH asked what the project is doing for local residents who have experienced an increase in dust. DH confirmed that support is assessed on a case-by-case basis, with respite available for residents or traders experiencing significant impacts. The project actively manages all complaints and can arrange appropriate assistance – and suggested that WH please email the project to discuss options. MG noted that Greensborough Road looks dusty driving and noted the quality of the dust seems to change depending on what work area you are driving by.

Owner	Action
	DH noted that there is significant activity in the interface area to manage dust across the project. Street sweepers are being regularly deployed, and dust levels are actively monitored to ensure they remain within EPR guidelines. MG noted the strong winds are to be taken into consideration. DH acknowledged the comment and explained that the project team is aware of the strong winds and takes this into consideration. She added that measures are in place to minimise potential impacts, with ongoing monitoring and mitigation efforts being carried out wherever possible.
Donna Mongan (DM)	M80 Update Presentation covered M80 project progress and lookahead, site updates, upcoming M80 and Grimshaw Street interchange works and community engagement
Stephen Denton (SD)	Overview of videos and animations in advance of the M80RRC closures this weekend was given.
Josh Lloyd (JLo)	MG asked if the project is expecting delays due to the anticipated weather. JM answered that there are always weather concerns in construction, but the work is progressing. MG asked if there has been water population from M80RRC works.
John Mowat (JM)	JM answered that there is a water basin on site where water can be captured and treated before being dispelled into the system. It was noted there is also a filter in place. DM noted this weekend's M80 Ring Road closure is the largest disruption for the M80RRC so far and gave an overview of the communication activities that occurred in advance of the closure and that the public is well prepared. DM reviewed artist's impressions of the interchange at M80RRC. JM walked the group through the road movements that will be available after the disruption that will be in place for road users for some time. SP asked how noise is being managed for local residents. DM answered that since the noise walls have been installed there is minimal complaints about noise. The project also has an extensive respite and relocation program for the closure, with offers made to residents anticipated to be impacted by the weekend works. SP asked if the project is still on schedule. JM answered "yes". MM commented on the noise walls and how they appear to be painting over graffiti that is showing up on them. JM answered that the noise walls are power washed, not painted. GJ asked if there will be an increase in traffic during this setup. DM answered there are some traffic impacts and modelling will be shared with the group. JM discussed the project's monitoring of the signals in the area and how adjustments can be made based off traffic to keep things moving in the area. JM gave an overview of the upcoming works across the zones, including: • Grimshaw Street works set for November • Rail occupation starting in October Nell Street pedestrian bridge update SP asked where the Nell Street pedestrian bridge was located.

Owner	Action
	JM answered its right near where the current bridge stands. SP asked if it will all be open space near interface areas. JM answered we will know more once the Urban Design Landscape Plan (UDLP) process is complete, but that it won't be all open space. DM gave a community engagement overview, including key themes for enquiries and complaints like upcoming disruptions, rail disruptions and project completion information. SP asked if there are complaints about noise. DM answered noise has not been the main concern for local residents at this time. MM commended the M80RRC team on the information provided for the upcoming disruptions, noting that even those not on social media have the information they need to navigate the area. JL gave an overview of the M80RRC co-design process and principles including: • The purpose of co-design and how the project works with traditional owners and local Councils to ensure design principles from relevant parties are included in the final design of the project. • Reviewed the different cultural precincts across the project and their key aims and principles. Overview of M80 lookout overview given with new shared use paths and access track to show the unveiling. MG asked how this cultural precinct will be maintained. JL answered the project is working on it. It will be low maintenance and there is a more thorough asset handover process and it will be made clear by the end of the project. MM asked what cultural burning was. JL answered that the Wurundjeri would traditionally use this area for controlled burning. This area is not intended to be lit on fire, but the design is emphasising that the landscape was shaped by fire. Yando Street overpass details associated with Traditional Owners reviewed, including wayfinding and signage to be included to tell the story and inform the final design. • Kempston Street underpass codesign reviewed, including themes that will transition from one cultural precinct to another. • Grimshaw Street west underpass design reviewed, including anti-social behaviour deterrents in the form of textured walls. GJ asked how the story behind the design will be communicated in this space. JL answered there will be plaques installed with some narrative. Trist Reserve overview on co-design elements given. • Gathering spaces and Wurundjeri engagement discussed. MG asked if this level of detail and collaboration occurs across the whole project with Traditional Owner groups JL answered these specific spaces have more opportunity to create something significant in the co-design space. ACTION: Co-design presentation for the full project alignment.
Leah Waymark (LW)	Other Business N/A
Leah Waymark (LW)	Open Forum WH noted the ongoing issues he is experiencing in his area, including dust, noise, and response times from the project. DH noted the return time on responses is 5 business days. WH noted the dust is intense at his home since the stockpile was created on site.

Owner	Action
	DH noted polymer is being sprayed and additional water carts activated. WH noted dust continues to be visible and mitigations don't seem to be reducing the impact. MM asked where the TBMs are located now. DH answered they are near Beverly Road. MM noted that school engagement presentations are being filtered up to parents and are a good engagement tool; asked if there is a program for school engagement. DH answered we often present to schools; DM mentioned M80RRC also has a robust school engagement program. MG noted dust issues are ongoing and is concerned from a health perspective and raised they do not believe enough is being done. DH and KS discussed mitigations in place and options for individual respite due to construction impacts. GJ gave a commendation to DM and DH on their technical presentation skills and thanked them for communicating detailed information in a way the group can easily understand. GJ noted they attended the EPA Air Quality information sessions and requested a better understanding of where the long-term monitors will be installed. ACTION: NEL to determine if permanent location of long-term air quality monitors has been decided and when the information can be shared with the group. GJ mentioned the traffic matters she wanted to raise would be deferred until she had met with the project's traffic coordinators. LW suggested this may be more a specific area matter rather than for a general CLG meeting.

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC256-1	What sediment traps, if any, will be included in the final design for the drainage at Lower Plenty Road.	NEL			
NC256-2	Co-design presentation for the full project alignment.	All			
NC256-3	Determine if location of long-term air quality monitors has been decided and when the information can be shared with the group.	NEL			

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update

Actions – Long Term

No	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC251-4	M80RRA to arrange meeting with community representatives regarding traffic modelling post project completion.	M80RRA	2026	OPEN	To be presented at a later date when information becomes available.

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2025	10 May 2024	GJ has requested the five phases of construction for Watsonia Road realignment and traffic plans including traffic signals and timings	LW/GC	Presentation to be given when further information is available (potentially late 2025 or early 2026)
2025	31 March	Presentation on LXRP's communication plan for the Macleod level crossing removal	JN	LXRP to present att October CLG meeting.

Additional information - previous

North East Link Tunnels Community Interactions (June and July): 1115	M80 Completion Community Interactions (June and July): 522
Enquiries/Comments: 289	Enquiries/Comments: 210
Project engagement and responses: 545	Project engagement and responses: 90
Complaints: 272	Complaints: 203
Positive Feedback: 9	Positive Feedback: 19

Additional information - new

North East Link tunnels Community Interactions (August): 404	M80 Ring Road Completion Community Interactions (August): 1,292
Enquiries/Comments: 93	Enquiries/Comments: 330
Project engagement and responses: 222	Proactive check-in: 717
Complaints: 81	Complaints: 230
Positive Feedback: 4	Positive Feedback: 15