

8 February 2024



Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	8/02/2024	Time	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	1 of 2024
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Jacqueline Weedon

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Karen Leeder (KL) Manager City Futures	Banyule City Council
Adrian Carter (AC) Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NELP	Jim Needham (JN) Communications and Stakeholder Relations Manager, North	NELP
Mal Baptist (MB), Project Manager – Northern Surface Works	Spark	Tania Treasure (TT) Economic Development & Tourism Lead	Nillumbik Shire Council
Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical / Watsonia Traders Association	Paul Raworth (PR) South Zone (Greensborough) Construction Manager	AMA
Renato Marnich (RM) Trader Engagement Specialist	NELP	Matt Guest (MG) General Manager	Watsonia RSL
Jim Waller (JW) Executive Program Director	NELP	Mark Minahan (MM) Duty Manager	Watsonia RSL
Hannah English (HE) Senior Trader Engagement Advisor	Spark	Steve Denton (SD) Interface Zone (Watsonia) Construction Manager	AMA
Lexie Walter (LW) Sustainability, Environment and Government Policy Lead	AMA	Sarah Maguire (SM)	Watsonia Traders Association

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Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Kim Norton (KN) Communications and Stakeholder Relations Lead	AMA	Brett Kavanagh (BK) North Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA
Jeremy San Juan (JSJ), Site Engineer D-Walls, Construction	Spark	Peng Li (PL), Senior Project Engineer	Spark

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Katy Sylvia (KS)	NELP	Georgie Nathan (GN)	Nillumbik Shire Council
Hesham Mobarek (HM)	Watsonia Pharmacy/ Watsonia Traders Association	Colin Brooks MP (CB)	Member of Parliament
Yvette Stanfield (YS)	Macleod Traders Association	Amy Harris (AH)	Banyule City Council
Kate Zisos (KZ)	Spark	Shondelle Mathews (SM)	Spark

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Jeni Coutts	Welcome and introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced new presenters and guests
Jim Waller (JW)	Program Overview including 2024 Program Overview: Presentation included project timeline, community focus, works focus and Jobs and Social Value overview
Mal Baptist (MB) Jeremy San Juan (JSJ) Peng Li (PL) Hannah English (HE)	Spark Works Update Presentation included works updates on Watsonia, Lower Plenty, Tunnels and Community interactions MG: What are the most common complaints? HE: Construction impacts such as dust, noise and works going into the night.
Kim Norton (KN) Brett Kavanagh (BK) Lexie Walter (LW) Paul Raworth (PR)	M80 Completion Update Presentation covered upcoming and completed works including environmental and sustainability overview and community engagement MG: Doing the works on the Grimshaw St intersection will be complicated, how will this be done? Is a blitz where the intersection will be cut off being considered? PR: Yes, this will be considered as it will be a shorter inconvenience for road users. JN: This is still being assessed. JC: What will the timing be for these works? PR: This will occur in 2026, we are trying to see what the impacts will be to deliver the best solution. JC: If these works would take 18 months to complete in stages how long would it take if Grimshaw St was closed for a blitz? PR: It would be 3-4 months of 24/7 works. JN: We would need

Owner	Action
	<p>to engage with all relevant stakeholders including Council before a decision is finalised. PR: We are aware this will be a significant disruption and will do our best to minimise inconvenience.</p> <p>JR: How long will the Watsonia Station offset carpark be in place? SD: Until the end of the project in 2028.</p> <p>MG: Where is it located? SD: It runs from Greensborough Rd through to Gabonia Ave Reserve.</p> <p>MG: What is the plan for this area once works are complete? JN: As shown in the UDLP it will be reinstated to its prior condition and handed back. The shared user path will be left in place</p> <p>MG: How many carparks are in the multi storey car park? SD: The initial design showed up to 650 spaces.</p> <p>MM: Will any cars still be able to park at Watsonia Station during construction? SD: There are nine DDA compliant and three MTM car spaces which will remain. JN: The bus loop will remain as will the 'kiss and drop' area.</p> <p>MM: What is the current Watsonia Station carpark capacity? SD: It's 550 which has been replicated in the offset carpark.</p> <p>MG: When will it be known if Watsonia Station will be revamped? JC: That's a separate Government process. JN: It's not within our scope to deliver any works west of the carpark or along the rail corridor.</p> <p>MG: Will catering be offered at AMA worksites? SD: We are investigating having a canteen onsite with goods to be supplied by local businesses.</p> <p>MG: Do you anticipate Watsonia Station will be used less with the offset carpark in place? Do you think commuters will choose to use other stations? SD: There is a possibility this may occur, we are looking at the possibility of slowing the traffic lights to allow more people to cross without holding up traffic. PR: There has been considerable works undertaken at Greensborough and Montmorency Stations recently which may have seen more commuters using Watsonia Station, this may decrease as works are completed at the other stations.</p> <p>JR: Watsonia Road is used as a short cut when traffic on Greensborough Rd backs up. This build up tends to stop people from going to the shops, will traffic be measured prior to, during and after works? BK: Spark and NEL had already commenced traffic modelling prior to AMA starting works. DTP also keeps live data which enables them to change the traffic light sequences as required. Contractor traffic will only be using main roads.</p> <p>JR: We understand that at times there will be extra traffic but hope this can be minimised.</p>
Renato Marnich (RM)	<p>Presentation on NELP Trader support including 'Open for Business' promotion, new collateral, and 2024 lookahead</p> <p>JC: Have other local traders had this communicated to them? RM: Not yet but they will receive the fact sheet.</p> <p>KL: Has the business support offer started yet? RM: Yes</p> <p>KL: Banyule Council will be happy to promote the offer. Is this an ongoing offer? RM: Yes for the duration of the project or until funds are exhausted.</p> <p>KL: How will the rollout to home businesses be done? We can help by providing assistance if required.</p>
	<p>Other business</p> <p>Reminder to send expressions of interest for bus tour to JW by COB Friday 9 February</p> <p>Open Forum</p> <p>MG: Thank you to Spark for rolling out the key tags enabling Spark team to get a discount at the RSL</p> <p>Next meeting 21 March 2024</p> <p>Thanked NBLG members and presenters and closed the meeting at 7:16pm</p>

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
7.1	KN to advise how UDLP submissions will be responded to. Will all submissions be responded to line by line or overall?	KN	07.12.23	Closed	Upon UDLP approval, AMA will undertake targeted resident and stakeholder engagement and produce a Community Consultation Report.
7.4	SM to advise date for NCLG/NBLG member bus tour	SM	07.12.23	Open	
NB241-1	HE to advise when generators will be removed	HE	21.03.24	Open	
NB241-2	LW to contact KL as Banyule Council may be interested in timber to be re purposed	LW	21.03.24	Closed	KN has initiated contact with Banyule Council to commence timber reuse discussions

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 Watsonia Station carpark be known	

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
Q4	16.03.23	Presentation on parking solution for southern end of Watsonia shopping strip	RM	NELP Traffic Team is working on this and there will be a presentation to this group when information is available.
2024	09.11.23	Timeline of works for M80 completion to be presented	JN	Will be presented once UDLP approved
Dec 2023	09.11.23	D Wall construction presentation	SMA	To be presented at meeting on 7 December

Additional information