

5 December 2024



Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	5/12/2024	Time	5:30 - 7:30pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	8 of 2024
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Katy Sylvia

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Mark Minahan (MM)	Watsonia RSL
Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical/Watsonia Traders Association	Deanna Hadid (DH) Senior Advisor Communications and Stakeholder Relations	Spark
Carlos Zapico (CZ) TBM Production Manager	Spark	Steve Denton (SD) Interface Zone (Watsonia) Construction Manager	AMA
Katy Sylvia (KS) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Tunnels	NEL	Carlos Ibarra (CI) Senior Manager, Community Relations	AMA
Selena Jensen (SJ) Trader Engagement Manager	AMA	Colin Brooks (CB)	Member of Parliament
Scott Lambert (SL) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL	Rania Fayad (RF)	Watsonia Traders Association
Sean Carroll (SC) Trader Advisor	AMA	Renato Marnich (RM) Trader Engagement Specialist	NEL

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jim Needham (JN) Manager, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL	Nadine Wooldridge (NW)	Banyule City Council

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Hesham Mobarek (HM)	Watsonia Pharmacy/ Watsonia Traders Association	Yvette Stanfield (YS)	Macleod Traders Association
Tania Treasure (TT)	Nillumbik Shire Council	Paul Raworth (PR) South Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA
Brett Kavanagh (BK) North Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA	Matt Guest (MG) General Manager	Watsonia RSL
Amy Harris (AH) Economic Development Coordinator	Banyule City Council	Paul Raworth (PR) South Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA
Melissa Doolan (MD) Trader Manager	AMA	Emma Miller (EM) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	
Jeni Couatts (JC)	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgment of country • Guest presenters introduced • Acknowledged apologies • All short-term actions were reviewed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 6.5: M80 to investigate further solutions to the traffic bank up on Watsonia Road during peak times. Action left open. – 6.9: M80 to arrange a meeting outside of NBLG to review upcoming disruptions for the Watsonia Road, to be arranged by Friday 13 December. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JR noted that more details sooner would be preferred. Requested the highest priority disruptions are sent in writing and a follow up meeting be scheduled in January 2025 for a more thorough review of the construction timelines. - MM noted the RSL would like to be included in the above. - CI noted he would send details to the whole NBLG. – All other actions closed. • Jeremy Richards (JR) requested the following items be noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Watsonia Traders Association (WTA) raised questions regarding the UDLP and the inclusion of car parks in the final design, how many car parks were removed, and how many are planned to be returned on 24 October 2024 and requested a formal response. – Overview of the nature of the Watsonia Shops was given. – Raised that the decrease in car parks during construction has been addressed to a certain extent with the offset car park. – Requested information on how the EPR for car parking in the Watsonia Shops will be fulfilled in the final design. • JR requested the following 4 questions be answered by the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How many car parks are being provided near the finalised Watsonia Road/Greensborough Highway intersection? – How many car parks were in the same area prior to NELP commencing its first works? – What was the minimum number of car parks in this area NELP was working towards whilst planning it? – Does NELP acknowledge that EPR B6 states that there must not be a reduction in car parking in the Watsonia Shopping Centre? • ACTION: Project team to provide an update on the four questions raised by WTA regarding the number of car parks in the final design, how many car parks originally available before the project began, the minimum number of car parks the project planned for the this area and confirmation that the project acknowledges that EPR B6 states no reduction in car parks is required.
Renato Marnich (RM)	<p>Trader Engagement Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RM gave an overview of trader engagement between July and November 2024 and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where the engagement is occurring across the project, and noted the interface area in Watsonia creates the most interest ○ What topics the project engaged with the most • RM showed a trader support video created for Gold Standard Barber. • RM discussed the highest priority areas for trader engagement.

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RM discussed NBLG membership for 2025 and noted a survey will be sent to current members to determine the future format, days and time that best suits members. This is likely to occur in January 2025.

- RM updated the group on the North East Community Fund round 3 grants and reviewed details on the overall success of the fund. It was noted that NBLG will be made aware of the next round of grants opening.

Deanna Hadid (DH)

Spark Update

- DH gave an overview of works for the next 3 months.
 - Drainage relocation along Lower Plenty Road, site compound setup at Creek Bend Reserve and the completion of the ventilation tunnel.
- Carlos Zapico (CZ) gave a construction update and showed drone footage to discussed:
 - TBM process and how the conveyor belt moves the dirt and rock that is being tunnelled to Winsor Reserve.
 - The ventilation tunnel area and excavation
 - The arrival site of the TBMs to the Lower Plenty Road interchange area
 - The excavation of the Lower Plenty Road interchange cut and cover tunnel
 - The installation of a booster to the conveyor belt so it can move more dirt and rock.
- CZ reviewed photos of construction to date and discussed:
 - The distance the TBMs have excavated
 - The changes to the conveyor belt as the tunnel progresses
 - Regular maintenance and stoppages of the TBMs to keep the machines moving
 - Review of the different types of tunnelling required for the various ground conditions
 - Tunnel segment delivery progress
 - The installation of culverts inside the tunnels as they progress
 - Ventilation tunnel progress
- DH reviewed photos of construction to date and discussed:
 - Progress on the ventilation building near Blamey Road
- CZ continued review of photos of construction to date and discussed:
 - The Lower Plenty Road cut and cover tunnel progress
 - Where the TBMs will re-launch in the south end of the cut and cover box
- DH gave an overview on community engagement including details on the key enquiries received and total numbers of interactions across the community.
- DH gave an overview of trader engagement in Watsonia since the previous meeting and discussed businesses they have recently worked with.

DH noted that a request was sent to Banyule City Council to increase parking enforcement along highly impacted residential streets.

- DH added that trader surveys for 2024 have been sent out now.
- Rania Fayad (RF) requested the project send details about community engagement to assist the WTA.

ACTION: DH to share information of community engagement activities with WTA and provide lookahead of works for 2025.

- DH reviewed end of year shutdown details for the tunnels area.

Sean Carroll (SC)

M80 Ring Road - Trader Engagement Update

- SC gave a summary of interactions with traders including key topics and enquiry numbers.
- SC gave an overview of trader engagement activities performed by the project including:

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- Regular health checks
- Speed limit sign adjustments
- Wayfinding signage for parking
- Encouraging the workforce to shop local
- Individual support offered to traders in the project area
 - Carlos Ibarra (CI) noted that works are planned to be completed at the same time to reduce total impact.

SC discussed a survey that is being provided to traders to determine if the laneway behind the southernmost Watsonia shops should be turned into a one-way road to increase access to Richards Avenue. Results of the survey will be shared with the group at the next meeting.

- SC discussed dust mitigation including what the project does to alleviate dust generated by construction activities.
- SC reviewed future opportunities the project will be exploring with local traders.
- RM noted there is an in-principal agreement with Banyule City Council to include the new trader offset car park in their enforcement zone.
- RF asked if WTA could participate in discussing the future opportunities the project will be exploring.
- Mark Minihan (MM) asked if wayfinding to the shops can also be considered near Grimshaw Street.
- **ACTION: M80 to meet with WTA and the Watsonia RSL individually to discuss future opportunities and wayfinding signage.**

Steve Denton (SD)

Interface Zone Update

- SD showed drone footage and discussed what construction activities are occurring in the interface area. Key upcoming activities were reviewed.
 - Extended rail occupation was discussed in 2025.
 - JR asked if the additional trader car park was being used.
 - SD said the car park is about a quarter full most days.
 - JC asked if it was appropriately signed
 - SD said it is signed, but more could be useful.

CI noted we want to strategically place signage, so it does not draw in train commuters.

- MM raised that the Watsonia Town Square works will begin to affect trader car parks in 2025.
- SD showed drone footage and discussed what construction activities are occurring in the South Zone. Key upcoming activities reviewed such as:
 - Drainage, rail occupations, and retaining wall construction.
 - JR asked when significant disruption is expected at the Greensborough Road and Grimshaw Street intersection
 - SD took the question on notice and gave some detail on the anticipated timeline in 2025.
 - **ACTION: M80 to give NBLG a timeline of works at Grimshaw Street and Greensborough Road with disruption information.**
- SD showed drone footage and discussed what construction activities are occurring in the North Zone. Key upcoming activities reviewed such as:
 - Lane construction and widening of the road, disruptions at the interchange at the end of the M80 in January, noise wall construction, and construction of the new pedestrian bridge starting.

CI gave an update on the Hurstbridge Line occupation set for January to March 2025 and discussed:

- Respite and relocation options for affected residents and the enabling works that will occur in advance of the disruption.
- SD gave an overview of upcoming day time Telstra works that will affect the pedestrian footpath leading to the south of the trader car park.

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Jeni Coutts (JC)

Other business

- **RF asked if the presentation was available before the meeting**
 - RM answered the agenda is provided in advance and the minutes are circulated afterwards.
- RF asked what the purpose of NBLG is

RM answered the objective of NBLG is a group of business and business-related stakeholders who are affected or interested in how construction affects local traders. He noted the meeting shows what is upcoming in construction and disruptions, show what the project is doing to support businesses and what further opportunities for support are available. He also said that disruption was a key topic.

- JR asked if the specific questions raised by WTA in October could be addressed so the number of car parks can be provided as requested.
 - JC noted the request was included in the minutes as an action.
- JR asked if the meeting minutes can be distributed before Christmas.
 - KS answered they will be distributed as soon as possible.
- JR asked if the traffic disruption on Watsonia Road headed south bound can be further investigated and asked if the sequencing of the lights can be adjusted outside of peak hour if nothing can be done when it's most impactful.
 - CI answered that the traffic engineers are working on options to mitigate in whatever small ways may be possible.

MM asked if there are AusNet connections with the project because some power surges are occurring and causing business disruption.

DH answered recent outages or surges are not associated with the project. We can explore any contacts at AusNet to identify someone who might be able to assist Mark with power issues.

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
8.1	Project team to provide an update on the four questions raised by WTA regarding number of car parks in the final design, how many car parks originally available before the project began, the minimum number of car parks the project planned for the this area and confirmation that the project knows the EPR B6 states no reduction in car parks is required.	MRPV			
8.2	DH to share information of community engagement activities with WTA and provide lookahead of works for 2025.	Deanna Hadid			
8.3	M80 to meet with WTA and the Watsonia RSL individually to discuss future opportunities and wayfinding signage.	Sean Carroll			
8.4	M80 to give NBLG a timeline of works at Grimshaw Street and	Carlos Ibarra			

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
	Greensborough Road with disruption information.				

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