

Meeting minutes

Date: 7 March, 2023 **Time:** 6:30pm – 9:30pm
Location: Quest Moorabbin
Program: Suburban Rail Loop
Title: Heatherton Community Reference Group
Meeting Number: 1
Chair: Kim Jordan

Attendees (Name, Organisation)	Apologies (Name, Organisation)
Kim Jordan, Independent Chair	Dishan Rajaratnam, Heatherton Christian College
Damian Higgins, Heatherton Christian College	Andrew Taylor, General Manager, Kingston Heath Golf Club
Giuseppe Sottile, community representative	
Carol Dawson, Residents Against Inappropriate Development	
Andrew Dawson, Residents Against Inappropriate Development	
Michelle Hornstein, Kingston Residents Association	
Guy Davidson, community representative	
Ben White, community representative	
Leith Brown, community representative	
Julian Birthisel, Senior Traffic Engineer, Kingston City Council (KCC)	
Brenton Shaughnessy, Deputy Director Engagement, Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA)	
Amin Mousavi, Senior Delivery Manager, SRLA	
Rebecca Hunt, Senior Manager, Planning & Environment, SRLA	
Astrid Hildebrand, Senior Engagement Adviser, SRLA	
Liam Morkham, Engagement Adviser, SRLA	
Michael Lanigan, Senior Project Manager, Initial & Early Works, SRLA	
Sophie Adams, Manager of Engagement - Initial & Early Works, SRLA	
Nicole Ekert, Senior Community & Stakeholder Manager, Laing O'Rourke (LOR)	
Josh Neumann, Project Manager, LOR	

Meeting minutes

#	Discussion
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kim Jordan introduced herself as the independent chair of the Heatherton Community Reference Group (CRG), opening the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country CRG members and Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) representatives provided introductions Kim Jordan explained her background in the industry and involvement in other major projects and their reference groups Kim Jordan noted that the purpose of the CRG was to establish a dialogue between SRLA, their contractors and the community, noting that it wasn't set up to revisit processes that have already been completed such as the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and planning approvals. Kim Jordan encouraged representatives to ask questions and bring ideas to the group, as this was an important part of the group's purpose.
2.	<p>Presentation from SRLA and project contractors:</p> <p>Presentation by SRLA providing an overview of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) SRL East The Heatherton Stabling Facility Environmental Management <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community member asked why early works such as eastern portal (tunnel entrance) excavation would begin in 2023 – noting he believed the location of the stabling facility had not yet been confirmed. SRLA confirmed the location of the SRL East stabling facility was fixed at the Heatherton site and will be built at that location. This was confirmed when the SRL East project received planning approval to construct the stabling facility – subject to stringent conditions being met – in October 2022. A community member noted that he thought he had been informed that Initial Works would first be undertaken to establish if the Heatherton location for the stabling facility was suitable from a ground condition perspective, and the location would only be confirmed then. SRLA agreed to review documentation and publications to discover how the different interpretations had come about, noting that the difference between Initial and Early works from a community perspective could be difficult to understand. Some 'Initial Works' were approved ahead of the EES being finalized, including service relocations, soil contamination testing, site levelling and ground improvement trials. Had the EES not been approved by the Minister, the works would have resulted in the area being returned to the State in an improved condition. SRLA noted the investigations showed that contamination levels can be managed effectively, by treating some soil on site, or sending it to appropriate facilities to manage subject to the classification. The EES was assessed and planning approvals received and the project is now progressing to delivery. Aspects of Initial Works and Early Works may be carried out concurrently – the distinction relates to the planning approval pathway. Excavation and construction of the eastern portal is currently planned to commence from late 2023. SRLA took an action to confirm if tunnel excavation and construction was in original Early Works scope and displayed as part of the EES. Community member asked what the project would do to provide public open space to the community, noting that the Heatherton stabling site had been earmarked to be converted into parkland. SRLA noted that the project is required to offset and replace the planned open space at the stabling facility site prior to the stabling facility becoming operational in 2035. Community member noted that it was the community's preference that offset open space be made available prior to the rail line becoming operational, as an improved community outcome Community members noted that there was no other site of equal size and value in the area. SRLA confirmed the offset was not required to be all on the same site, but could be found across a series of sites. SRLA noted the requirements for the public open space offsets can be found in the project

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Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) and the Public Open Space Framework (POSF). SRLA took an action to present to the CRG details about the POSF at a future meeting.

- SRLA emphasised that Early Works dates are subject to change and that the activities listed in 2023 may shift – this was due to the complexity of the planned works. SRLA confirmed works planned to begin in 2023 were largely located towards the eastern end of the site – between Old Dandenong Road and Dingley Bypass – due to the project now owning that land.
- Community member asked what the project would do to counteract contamination when excavating the eastern portal site.
- SRLA noted that eastern portal works are subject to EPRs including a human health risk assessment. Significant investigations to date have shown that normal site management protocols will help manage soil excavation around the eastern portal. The human health risk assessment will be staged to focus on the site at 217 Kingston Road first, followed by a broader secondary assessment linked to future design requirements.
- Community member asked how many cubic metres of soil will be excavated to build the eastern portal. Laing O'Rourke took an action to provide this figure to CRG members.
- Community member asked when Old Dandenong Road would close permanently to traffic, flagging concern that bus routes had been changed already. SRLA confirmed the closure would not take place in 2023 and it was currently planned to occur from mid-2024.
- SRLA noted the changes to the bus route were not directly required by SRL but were triggered by Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) – who are responsible for the bus network and any requisite changes. SRLA confirmed DTP is currently accepting feedback from community on the proposed changes.
- Community members raised concerns about additional time travel required for residents to access the local supermarket due to the closure of Old Dandenong Road. SRLA confirmed there is an EPR to conduct a traffic assessment of Kingston Road– this will include investigating any potential requirement for widening Kingston Road, a u-turn facility on Kingston Road (east of Dingley Bypass) to enable access from the Dingley Bypass, and the addition of a pedestrian crossing of Kingston Road close to Pietro Road. SRLA will share information with the CRG once the assessment is more progressed.
- Community member asked when the stabling facility construction would actually begin, noting that she was concerned about the location of the gates for the western portal being too close to houses.
- SRLA noted that major construction of the stabling facility wouldn't begin until 2026, but early works would begin in 2023 to prepare the area for the new facility. SRLA also noted that the traffic assessment of Kingston Road would assess any additional safety requirements required for the truck access point into the facility.
- Community member asked if SRLA could provide a summary of the EPRs that are relevant to the Heatherton stabling site specifically. SRLA confirmed they would be able to provide this, noting that many of the EPRs are relevant to the whole project and only a few were specific to Heatherton.

Laing O'Rourke (LOR) provided an overview of their early works and their approach to communicating and engaging with the local community.

Matters arising:

- Some members mentioned they and other community members had not received some works notifications and that they would appreciate it if the distribution zone could be adjusted to include a broader catchment of recipients. LOR agreed to adjust the distribution zone to include some of the areas suggested by community members (south of Kingston Rd and into Clarinda). LOR also confirmed they would provide the 1800 call centre number and SMS alert number for Heatherton to CRG members.
- LOR informed the group that some utility relocation works would have traffic impacts, and that traffic management and VMS boards would be in place to guide drivers. LOR confirmed community would be advised of potential impacts via works notifications prior to works and encouraged the group to contact the project if they have any questions. LOR noted they would host a community information session within the next 6 months to raise awareness of early works activities.
- Community members suggested any lane closures to Kingston Road will disrupt the traffic network and that recent closures by the Kingston Heath Golf Club for events had caused issues. LOR noted that the

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project will need to close lanes on occasion but that they would do this only when necessary. SRLA noted the traffic assessment of Kingston Road that is underway will likely address some of these matters – particularly the safety concerns mentioned

- Community member asked how big the substation would be in the stabling facility and whether it would make noise. SRLA advised that it would be approximately 2-3 metres wide, and that it would be built to modern standards with limited noise. SRLA noted that the new substation would be connected to the broader electricity network and that all works associated with the substation would be notified to community.
- A community member noted that she was concerned about piling works and dust impacts. LOR noted that these works would take approximately 6 months and would be delivered using a diaphragm wall method of construction which is significantly different to conventional 'driven piling'. LOR agreed to provide an overview of construction of the eastern portal to the CRG at a future meeting including equipment to be used, timelines, potential impacts and mitigations.
- A community member asked when gas pipeline relocation works along Old Dandenong Road and surcharging* works in the current Delta site are scheduled to take place. LOR noted the dates are not yet confirmed, but pipeline works are likely to be in 2024. Surcharging works were likely to be from early 2024 - subject to the land acquisition process.
 - **Surcharging (also known as pre-loading) refers to a ground improvement technique to improve sites with loose/soft soils. The technique involves placing a load of stockpiled materials on top of the loose/soft soil, by which the ground underneath is compressed, and stabilised**
- A community member asked how the project will manage impacts of all works for residents, especially given the high number of residents who work from home. LOR noted that respite options may be available depending on circumstances, and the best way to access these is to discuss your concerns with contractors when you receive notification of works that you believe will trouble you. SRLA explained that each notification will have an indication of what level of noise and vibration is anticipated, and the project has clear thresholds that if exceeded would trigger relocation or other options to support residents for the duration of the impactful works. Support will be offered on a case-by-case basis depending on the activity being undertaken. SRLA also noted that at source mitigation methods to reduce the impacts on residents is always preferable, including investigating use of less disruptive equipment and ways of undertaking works.
- A community member asked if the voluntary purchase scheme (VPS) would be available for residents living near the Heatherton stabling facility? SRLA noted that the VPS policy is being developed and that more information as to how this policy applies to Heatherton residents including eligibility criteria will be shared later in 2023.
- A community member asked why Heatherton had not been considered for a SRL East train station. SRLA took the question on notice and provided commitment to provide a response at a future CRG.
- A community member asked why the local MP is not chairing the CRG's. Kim Jordan noted that this CRG has a different scope to the Precinct Reference Groups. Meng Heang Tak MP was interested in attending but he had parliamentary commitments at the time of the CRG.
- A community member requested that the project start planting trees around the stabling facility site boundaries soon so the canopy has time to grow and provide screening as soon as possible. SRLA noted that the project has a tree canopy replacement program that has been established for this very purpose. SRLA confirmed early planting opportunities were being explored now and the intention was to plant replacement trees as soon as possible. SRLA noted that landscaping buffers will be included around the facility as required in the Urban Design Strategy (UDS). There will be an opportunity for community to comment on plans for these buffers as part of Urban Design and Landscaping Plan (UDLP) process. SRLA noted that the project will present on UDLP's at a future CRG to provide clarity on this process.
- A community member asked why the Alex Fraser recycling facility on Kingston Road was included in the project area? SRLA noted this issue had been previously discussed with community but would need to take the question on notice and provide a response to the CRG.
- A community member asked for confirmation of the level at which the stabling facility will be built, noting that it will have a visual impact for adjacent houses. SRLA noted that the final level of the stabling facility will be driven by the stabling design which will not be determined until a contractor has been appointed in 2025 to deliver the main works. Once a contractor is appointed, they will refine designs for the facility which will include the level of the stabling facility.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members noted that silica dust and pollution from TBM's and trains was a concern for the community and that they hoped that the project would manage these impacts appropriately. SRLA noted that these types of concerns are covered by the projects EPR's, and that information on how silica dust would be managed on site would be provided to members via a future update. A community member asked if the cumulative operational noise assessment had begun. SRLA confirmed that this work could not take place until the project knows what kind of trains will run on SRL East and that this was a number of years away from being determined. A community member asked if there would be a designated route for construction vehicles. SRLA noted that the EES included the proposed construction truck routes for the project. SRLA also noted that a traffic management liaison group had been established to oversee construction traffic impacts. The group includes councils, emergency services and DTP representatives. Contractors will be required to take their traffic plans to this group to be assessed. A community member requested that the project instruct their trucks to not use Nicholas Grove and Golf View Road. LOR agreed to investigate this request and come back on this item. SRLA also agreed to share truck and traffic routes from the EES with CRG members. A community member suggested the project should consider building a road from Henry Street through the industrial precinct north of Golf View Road to offset the closure of Old Dandenong Road and allow residents from this area to get to the shops easily. SRLA confirmed that they'd look into whether this was a practical and safe solution from a traffic perspective.
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kim Jordan thanked all participants for attending the CRG, and noted that she would be in touch to arrange a site walk with CRG members in the coming weeks. Kim Jordan also suggested that CRG members may want to create a WhatsApp group to discuss CRG matters outside of the quarterly meetings.

Actions - new

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
1.	<p>SRLA to provide updates to CRG members on the following matters prior to the next CRG meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide an update on what engagement was undertaken regarding Initial Works for the project. 2. To confirm if eastern portal excavation and construction was included in the original Early Works scope and displayed as part of the EES. 3. To provide a figure of how many cubic metres of soil will be removed to build the eastern portal. 4. To provide a summary of EPRs relevant to Heatherton to CRG members, and a link to the final planning documents including the Environment Management Framework and Urban Design Strategy. 5. To adjust works notification distribution zones based off member feedback and share 1800 call centre number and SMS alert number for Heatherton. 6. To provide information on whether Heatherton was considered for a new SRL East station. 7. To confirm why the Alex Fraser recycling facility was included in the project land boundary. 8. To provide an update on how silica dust will be managed by the project. 9. To share truck and traffic routes published in the EES. 10. To confirm whether early works trucks will be able to travel along Nicholas Grove and Golf View Road 11. To assess whether a connection from Henry Street to the industrial precinct would provide a practical and safe traffic solution. 	SRLA & LOR	April 2023	Open	Provided with the minutes and presentation on 21 April 2023
2.	<p>SRLA to arrange presentations for future CRGs on the below topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Open Space Framework (POSF) - SRLA • Urban Design and Landscape Plans (UDLPs) - SRLA • Kingston Road traffic assessment – SRLA • Voluntary Purchase Scheme (VPS) - SRLA • Eastern Portal excavation construction methodology - LOR • 631 bus route - Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) 	SRLA	2023	Open	To be provided in future
3.	<p>Kim Jordan to organise a site walk in Heatherton with CRG members prior to the next CRG in May</p>	Chair	May 2023	Open	Site walk invitation sent to CRG members for 16 May 2023.