

21 March 2024



Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	21/03/2024	Time	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	2 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
Shondelle Mathews (SMa) Manager, Community Engagement	Spark	Jim Needham (JN) Communications and Stakeholder Relations Manager, North	NELP
Alex Chan (AC) Project Manager	Spark	Katy Sylvia (KS) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations	NELP
Renato Marnich (RM) Trader Engagement Specialist	NELP	Mark Minahan (MM) Duty Manager	Watsonia RSL
Sarah Maguire (SM)	Watsonia Traders Association	Hannah English (HE) Senior Trader Engagement Advisor	Spark
Kim Norton (KN) Communications and Stakeholder Relations Lead	AMA	Steve Denton (SD) Interface Zone (Watsonia) Construction Manager	AMA
Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Matt Guest (MG) General Manager	Watsonia RSL	Georgie Nathan (GN)	Nillumbik Shire Council

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Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
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
Lexie Walter (LW) Sustainability, Environment and Government Policy Lead	AMA	Paul Raworth (PR) South Zone (Greensborough) Construction Manager	AMA
Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical / Watsonia Traders Association	Adrian Carter (AC) Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NELP
Kate Zisos (KZ)	Spark	Tania Treasure (TT) Economic Development & Tourism Lead	Nillumbik Shire Council
Brett Kavanagh (BK) North Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA		

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Jeni Coutts	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced new presenters and guests Actions 7.4 and NB241-1 closed
Hannah English (HE) Alex Chan (AC)	<p>Spark Works Update</p> <p>Presentation included works updates on Watsonia, Lower Plenty, Tunnels and community interactions</p> <p>MM: Does the gantry crane move? AC: The crane has two movements - it can move parts up to 50 metres away from the box and the grabs can move left and right.</p> <p>RM: Will the competition be project wide? SMa: Yes, it will be open across the tunnelling package.</p> <p>SM: The winners should be chosen from across the tunnel construction area SMa: Let HE know if you have any ideas on how to promote or encourage entries.</p>
Steve Denton (SD) Kim Norton (KN)	<p>M80 Ring Road Update</p> <p>Presentation covered alignment-wide current and upcoming works and community interactions</p> <p>KL: Is the mound of dirt that is being removed from the M80 before Greensborough Bypass from when the M80 was originally built? SD: Yes</p> <p>KL: Is it clean spoil? SD: It's 'Category C', which is classified as low quality.</p> <p>KL: Is a blitz still being considered for the Greensborough Highway/Grimshaw St works? SD: We are still considering options on how these works will go ahead.</p> <p>SM: Will there be weekend lane closures during the Greensborough Highway centre median works? SD: Yes, there will be double lane closures overnight and single lane closures during the day,</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>there will also be a speed reduction to 40km/h. There will be no works over the Easter long weekend or the weekend after ANZAC Day.</p> <p>KL: Will there be any changes to the sequencing of the traffic lights at Watsonia Station? SD: We are looking at lengthening the time pedestrians have to cross during the morning and afternoon peak and will continue to monitor.</p>
Renato Marnich (RM)	<p>Presentation on NELP Trader Support</p> <p>KL: Do you know what the barriers are to traders taking up the free mentoring offer? RM: From my experience it seems that business owners are very time poor which prevents them from taking up support available.</p> <p>SM: Sometimes small business owners are very focused on running their business and aren't keen on someone else from outside providing a different view. Sometimes they just need to be educated on how to adapt to different situations such as construction or an event.</p> <p>RM: We will be sending out a trader survey which will hopefully identify what assistance traders are looking for and those topics can be focused on.</p> <p>HE: We are also looking at holding trader workshops with various topics. KL: Banyule Council hold these sessions as well.</p>
	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Don't forget to respond to bus tour invite</p> <p>Open Forum</p> <p>MM: The RSL is willing to participate in any opportunities that become available.</p> <p>Next meeting 2 May 2024</p> <p>Thanked NBLG members and presenters and closed the meeting at 7pm</p>

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
7.4	SM to advise date for NCLG/NBLG member bus tour	SM	07.12.23	CLOSED	Invite sent for 2 April 2024
NB241-1	HE to advise when generators will be removed	HE	21.03.24	CLOSED	Generators at the Lower Plenty site will be switched off in April. However, they will remain onsite as a back up to the main power.
2.1	Bus tour information to be sent to members	JW	22.03.24	CLOSED	JW sent to members 22.03.24
2.2	RSL Courtesy Bus driver reports green light at Yallambie Rd travelling toward Lower Plenty Road difficult to see	SM	02.05.24	OPEN	SM to report back on outcome of discussions with DTP
2.3	JN to seek a contact for MM to engage with re: RSL advertising ANZAC Day activities at Watsonia Station.	JN RM	02.05.24	OPEN	
2.4	SM to advise if a VMS can be put before the slip lane coming from Lower Plenty to show people how to access Watsonia Shops	SM	02.05.24	OPEN	SM to advise if this can be done
2.5	KN to provide brochure holders to the RSL to display project works notices and brochures for members to take	KN	02.05.24	OPEN	

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
2.6	HE to provide display stand as per Bulleen Plaza to RSL	HE	02.05.24	OPEN	

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
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

Additional information