

1 May 2025



Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	1/05/2025	Time	5:30 - 7:30pm
Chair	Leah Waymark	Meeting no.	3 of 2025
Location	Online Zoom	Minute taker	Emma Miller

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Leah Waymark (LW)	Independent Chair	Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical/Watsonia Traders Association
Hon. Colin Brooks	State Member for Bundoora	Mark Minahan (MM)	Watsonia RSL
Renato Marnich (RM) Trader Engagement Specialist	NEL	Georgie Meyer (GM) Manager Inclusive and Creative Communities	Banyule Council
Jim Needham Manager, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL	Deanna Hadid (DH) Senior Advisor Communications and Stakeholder Relations	Spark
Josh Ribarich (JRi) Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Tunnels	NEL	Carlos Ibarra (CI)	AMA
Selena Jensen (SJ) Trader Engagement Manager	AMA	Steve Denton (SD) Interface Zone (Watsonia) Construction Manager	AMA
Sean Carroll (SC) Trader Advisor	AMA		

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Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Emma Joyce	Banuyale City Council	Matt Guest (MG) General Manager	Watsonia RSL
Katy Sylvia (KS) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Tunnels	NEL	Rania Fayad (RF)	Watsonia Traders Association
Adrian Carter Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL	Anne Warner (AW)	Greensborough Chamber of Commerce
Emma Miller (EM) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL	Michael Cannatelli (MC)	Greensborough Chamber of Commerce
Hesham Mobarek (HM)	Watsonia Pharmacy/ Watsonia Traders Association	Tania Treasure (TT)	Nillumbik Shire Council

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	
Leah Waymark (LW) Renato Marnich (RM)	Welcome and Introduction RM Acknowledgement of Country LW Welcome to Colin Brooks MP - Spoke through short term actions - Minutes from last meeting had no questions and are approved
Deanna Hadid (DH)	NEL Tunnels – Construction Update Flyover video for tunnels area Watsonia site update – Gantries have been installed to help build the concrete supports for the smoke duct components (being installed later this year). More than 1,000 culverts have now been installed in the NB tunnel. Blamey Road site update – Building the basement walls and columns of the northern ventilation structure Lower Plenty site update – Constructing the roof slabs for the on and off ramps, and road widening works underway on Lower Plenty Road.

Owner

TBMs Gillian and Zelda broke through at the LPR site in March. They're now being traversed through the portal and undergoing maintenance before resuming their journey to Bulleen in the coming weeks.

Silk Street bridge update – Works planned to upgrade the bridge from May (Q2/Q3 2025). The new design will enhance safety for local students and the community.

Delays expected with traffic changes during works.

CB – What safety measures are in place for the school children regarding the Silk Street bridge upgrade works?

DH – Acknowledged the project is working closely with key stakeholders to make sure detours are in place and communicated for schoolchildren accessing the school.

JRi – Noted the main span removal works will occur over the school holidays.

Community engagement

24 VCE students from Loyola College visited the Watsonia Hub on 27 March for a presentation and panel discussion exploring community conflict, decision-making processes and issues management on the project. The session supported their outdoor education and environmental studies.

Two community pop-ups held on 29 March at Coleen Reserve and 12 April at Mercedes Court in Rosanna. Another community popup was held at Greensborough Plaza on 30 April with the M80 team also attending. Great engagement and questions asked.

- Map overview of trader engagement with schools, businesses and Council.
- 1,017 overall interactions since the last NBLG.

Watsonia RSL ANZAC Day Event Promotion

Worked with the M80 to print and install corflutes and posters promoting the Watsonia RSL Anzac Day event at Watsonia Station

Watsonia RSL representatives also attended four pre-start sessions on site to promote fundraising initiatives and dawn service event. Merchandise was a huge hit with the work force, selling out during the session.

MM – Thanked Spark for ANZAC appeal. Matt Guest also sent his thanks. Recognises the community helping each other out and supporting the event.

Owner

Carlos Ibarra (CI)
Sean Carroll (SC)

M80 Ring Road – Trader Update

Community engagement snapshot

- Rail occupation reflection/feedback
- Relocation and respite
- Community outreach

Spotlight on Hurstbridge Line occupation

- Over 250 in person check ins
- 1500+ interactions with the community

84 frontline households offered relocation, 48 chose to stay home

600+ respite items such as headphones, air purifiers and vouchers to delivered to local homes close to the train line

Utility works in the Interface Zone (Watsonia)

- Utility works at the intersection of Watsonia Road and Greensborough Highway commenced on 16 March and is being completed in stages until mid-May.
- Overnight works to minimise impacts to businesses.
- Regular engagement with traders.

Window and exterior building clean planned for businesses closest to works.

Watsonia RSL ANZAC Day service – M80RRA installed two VMS boards along Greensborough Road to promote Anzac Day.

Utility works in the South Zone (Greensborough)

- Proactive briefings for utility upgrades followed by regular updates as crews upgrade utilities around Greensborough Road and Grimshaw Street,
 - Weekly cleaning during rail occupation for businesses in the rail corridor
- 'Be a good neighbour' parking initiative to prevent crews parking in residential streets.

Steve Denton (SD)

M80 Ring Road – Construction Update

Flyover videos for M80 areas

MM – Requested flyover video for their use

JR – Pleased with proposed construction changes and implementations

CB – Works Elder St connection; will buses still have connections to the station?

SD – Moving stop to other side of entrance - equivalent distance to what is currently there

Hurstbridge Line rail upgrade

Train comparison video of before and after displaying changes after the most recent 8-week rail occupation.

MM – When is next rail occupation?

SD – Next rail occupation is in July and then one in October.

Bridge beam installation

- Kempston Street piers installation
- M80 Ring Road beam installation built offline, away from live traffic to minimise disruptions

Noise walls being built along southside of M80 Ring Road.

Mark Minahan (MM)

Watsonia RSL – ANZAC Day

- Displayed images of the event

Owner

- Large turnout to the dawn service
- RSL wishes to grow the event further once the Council Town Square is complete
Appreciates the community and support from North East Link and Council
- Noted the NBLG is a great forum to talk about how we can support each other in events

CB – Recognised the support that Mark and the Watsonia RSL do, and the effort they put into our community.

Leah Waymark (LW)

Other business

JR – Expressed disappointment about certain businesses not being part of this BLG group

RM – Project has engaged with businesses around the project area. Offered to businesses based on their engagement with the project and impact. Approached a number of businesses thought to be good for the group but uptake has been limited.

JR – Noted project drops off pamphlets, could they do a similar thing with businesses?

Action – Project to investigate whether a DL or pamphlet for traders to join NBLG.

JR – Report shared not long before NBLG with businesses and noted after reading through business EPRs wasn't too specific - possible to find out further detail on which business were audited and how they were tested and what result (not passed). Also noted business amenity; are businesses asked?

Action – Business EPRs to be discussed next meeting.

JR – Requested early access, if possible, to consult with UDLP submission.

RM – Acknowledged that traders would like to take part in the UDLP consultation stage and will advise next steps as soon as they become available.

CB – Asked where the UDLP work is sitting, as not aware that they had started.

JN – Working group has been established and looking through when we can go to exhibition; looking into the late part of the year.

SD – Qualified that the designers are yet to be appointed.

CB – Noted importance that traders and Councils get awareness of the UDLP and feedback in consultation phase.

MM – Asked if the project can keep the wayfinding promotional support open as continue working through with RF and teams.

RM – Noted that the project will collaborate between Council and project for wayfinding. Something more tangible for next meeting. Second action (Rania) open for next meeting.

LW: Closed meeting.

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
9.2	Spark and M80RRA to follow up with wayfinding support to both RSL and WTA.	M80RRA , SPARK		OPEN	Using BCC/Project interface meetings to further investigate what can be done.
9.3	RF to circulate dates for proposed events and activations to Project/MRPV.	RF		OPEN	

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
9.4	Project to investigate whether a DL or pamphlet for traders to join NBLG.	RM		OPEN	
9.5	Business EPRs to be discussed next meeting.	M80RRA SPARK		OPEN	

Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
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Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
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Additional information

NA