

Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group (NBLG)

Date	12/08/2021	Time	7:30-9:30am
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	4
Location	via Zoom	Minute taker	Nadia Hollins

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical
Noella Jacobs (NJ)	Greensborough Chamber of Commerce	Matt Guest (MG)	Watsonia RSL
Erica Hardie (EH)	Banyule City Council	Hannah Johnson (HJ)	NELP
Bill Himonas (BH)	NELP	Nadia Hollins (NH)	NELP
Emily Abrahams (EA)	NELP	Andrew Brenchley (AB)	LXRP
Maureen Clifford (MC)	LXRP	Chris Logan (CL)	CPB
Katie Zisos (KZ)	CPB		

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Tony Aouad (TA)	Kebab Nation & Anchor Fish & Chips	Toni Clark (TC)	NELP
Sarah Maguire (SM)	Watsonia Traders Association	Danielle Phyland (DP)	Nillumbik Shire Council

Key discussion points/decisions

Presenter	Discussion
Jeni Coutts (JC), Chair	<p>Welcome and outstanding business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JC welcomed the group and introduced the presenters. JC reviewed the Actions and Issues Register (see attached).

Presenter	Discussion
Kate Zisos (KZ), CPB Chris Logan (CL), CPB	<p>Early works update</p> <p>CL & KZ provided an update on the progression of the early works program in the northern area of the project. Presentation attached (Appendix A).</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>The Borlase Reserve construction site was listed as a Tier 1 exposure site over the weekend. The site was closed on Sunday for cleaning, with one worker testing positive to COVID-19. 135 people went into isolation with no cases arising from this infection. The site was reopened on Monday with advice from DHHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: JC, how much of the area was affected? • A: KZ, one person attended the site last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday who tested positive and potentially came in contact with 135 workers on the site. The 135 workers are in isolation and have tested negative at this stage.
Andrew Brenchley (AB), LXRP Maureen Clifford (MC), LXRP	<p>Hurstbridge 2 upgrade</p> <p>AB & MC gave an overview of the Hurstbridge Line Duplication Project and the delivery improvement on the Hurstbridge line. Presentation attached (Appendix A).</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: JC, what is a passive crossing? • A: AB, a passive pedestrian crossing has no gates, lights or bells to warn you about approaching trains, an active pedestrian crossing has warning and control devices such as bells, flashing lights, gates/boom that close and stop signs and pavement markings. • Q: MG, how many extra carparks will be provided at Greensborough station and what is the completion date? • A: AB, we are looking at completing all the works for the project by 2022. No additional car parking will be provided at Greensborough station. • Q: JR, the Victorian Government announced that Watsonia Station would have an increase of 40 or 50 carparks to maintain the total amount of carparks in the area, and because there would be a net loss of parking at Greensborough Station, has this decision been changed? • A: AB, yes there will be an increase of 60 carparks built at Watsonia Station. The new Greensborough station footprint will require additional space, the existing 60 parking spaces at Para Road, will be relocated to Watsonia Station as part of the North East Link Project. • A: MC, other car parking options at Greensborough station are being investigated but they are only investigations at this stage. The new Greensborough station footprint must be DDA compliant, and the existing ramps will be removed and replaced with new compliant infrastructure. • Q: JC, how can people get access to the integrated disruptions map? • A: MC, the QR codes are in the community updates (distribution area of over 20,000). Posters will be displayed at key points and local shops. E-updates do not have the QR code as they don't scan in well but have a link to the integrated map via our website. • Q: MG, with the new upgrades, is there a push to have more car user commuters use the Watsonia hub area and station, with those who walk and use their bike to use the Greensborough and Montmorency stations? • A: MC, there are going to be new facilities at the Greensborough and Montmorency Stations for active transport use, bike hoops and cages. People are encouraged to use active

Presenter	Discussion
	<p>transport in those areas as this is the focus of the Victorian Government. Commuters can also use the kiss-and-ride facility and other transport options are being investigated.</p>
<p>Emily Abrahams (EA), NELP</p>	<p>Skills and Job Centre update</p> <p>EA provided an update on the Skills and Job Centre (SJC) in Watsonia. Presentation attached (Appendix A).</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: JR, has received complaints from a couple of traders regarding the car parking in front of their shops. Car spaces intended for customers appeared to be occupied by people attending the opening of the SJC event, with three car spaces being reserved with witches hats for MP's or VIP's. When NELP is holding events at the Watsonia Hub, could you please be mindful of your local traders and organise staff and visitors to park their cars at the train station or Morwell Avenue car park? • A: EA, apologised for the disruption and will be mindful of the traders and customers access to the shops when planning future events. The Minister's office reserved one car space only and visitors found car parking where it was available around the precinct. If another event is organised a parking plan will be developed and enforced. • Q: JC, can signs be made up during the events that parking is available for local customers only in those areas? • A: EA, we will certainly look at any option available in order to alleviate pressure on available car parking.
<p>Jeni Coutts (JC), Chair</p>	<p>What keeps you up at night?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JC asked each member individually to discuss and raise any questions or concerns they may have. • JR says that he appreciates the amount of time and effort taken to organise and share presentations from the various project groups and learn about the types of disruptions we could have during construction. • JR feels that local businesses are underrepresented in this group and would like to see a variety of other small businesses involved for diversity. He believes that two hours every six weeks is not too much of a time commitment but that business owners would need to be interested in the content for them to consider joining the group. JR suggested that NELP run a communication campaign to businesses in local shopping centres (Diamond Village, Grimshaw Street, Macleod, Rosanna). • NJ believes that having meetings at the Watsonia Community hub assists traders to feel part of the project with the visual displays and would like to host one of her Greensborough Chambers of Commerce committee meetings at the hub. Traders have been impacted by COVID-19 and do not prioritise a 10-year infrastructure project however NJ has pushed for her business owners to be involved. NJ is unhappy with the loss of 60 carparks for the Greensborough Rail upgrade and feels that council has no interest in providing more carparks. NJ knows of businesses that are keen to be involved but are not ready to join the NBLG yet. NJ is happy with communication coming from NELP however is unhappy with LXRP's communication to the Greensborough traders. NJ is worried about the accessibility to Greensborough in the future with the impacts of the various projects works around them.

Presenter	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EH will present the Watsonia Town Square concept designs to the NBLG in November. EH is preparing additional changes to the plan (toilet block upgrade, installing monopoles and lattice removal) with collaboration with the steering and community groups, to be presented to Banyule Council on 30 August. EH asked MC to provide information about the Hurstbridge 2 upgrade project “surprise and delight” promotion and send the expression of interest information to the Economic Development team at Banyule City Council so that it can be shared with relevant local businesses. MC to follow up with Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) to provide EH with those details.• NJ also asked MC to share that information with her. MC to follow up.• JC thanked all members for their participation and closed the meeting at 9.30am.• Next meeting is scheduled for the 23 September.

Actions and issues arising

Refer to Actions and Issues Register (Appendix B).

NBLG Actions and Issues Register

Mtg #	Action/Issue	Owner	Status	Date closed
1	NJ to share LGRP representative contact information to HJ.	NELP	CLOSED Information received	30/04/2021
1	HJ to investigate how to share works notifications and updates to NBLG	NELP	CLOSED Hard or fixed copy content for sharing of works notifications: all current and updated notifications are available on the NELP website. The changing nature of works notifications prohibits hard copy or fixed copy content. Stakeholders are recommended to view works notifications online in order to get the most up to date information. Once the builder consortium is appointed, they will develop an email database of all impacted traders and develop a regular e-newsletter with links to the website for works information.	20/05/2021

Mtg #	Action/Issue	Owner	Status	Date closed
1	E-newsletter campaign for traders	NELP	CLOSED An additional trader e-newsletter will not be developed as there is minimal content at this time and may result in less engagement from traders, however this will form part of the Trader Engagement Plan once the builder consortium is appointed and the project design is finalised.	20/05/2021
2	JR to submit questions from the Watsonia Traders Association	NELP	CLOSED NELP has provided an initial response to those questions.	1/7/2021
2	NELP to invite other MTIA projects to present at upcoming NBLG meetings.	NELP	CLOSED M80 and Fitzsimons Lane upgrades presented on 1/7/21. Hurstbridge 2 project presented on 12/08/21.	12/8/2021
3	JR to supply a business listing to CR	NELP	OPEN Awaiting listing from JR	

Mtg #	Action/Issue	Owner	Status	Date closed
3	EH to present the WTS Draft Plan	NELP	OPEN Scheduled for November 4 meeting	
3	TC to provide Business Disruption Mitigation Strategy to EH upon finalisation of document	NELP	OPEN Awaiting finalisation of document	
4	Renewal of NBLG membership drive	NELP	OPEN NELP proactively inviting businesses from key impacted areas.	
4	Hurstbridge 2 Surprise & Delight program	NELP/LXRP	OPEN LXRA to pass on Surprise & Delight promotional details to EH & NJ	
4	Email from Jeremy Richards: Request presentation/discussion on EPRs at upcoming meeting	NELP	OPEN Tabled to include in upcoming meeting agenda	

Mtg #	Action/Issue	Owner	Status	Date closed