

6 October 2023



Meeting Minutes

Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	6/10/2023	Time	10:00am - 12:00pm
Chair	Mike Marasco	Meeting no.	5 of 2023
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Jacqueline Weedon

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Mike Marasco (MM)	Independent Chair	Leah McGuinness (LM)	Whitehorse City Council
Joe Carbone (JC)	Community Representative	Nicholas Moore (NM)	Community Representative
Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative	Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative
Paul McMorran (PM)	Community Representative	Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative
Martin Juniper (MJ)	NELP, Senior Environment Specialist	Luke Minton (LMi)	Spark, Senior Manager, Community Engagement
Mia McMahon (MM)	Spark, Manager Community Engagement	John van Delft (JvD)	Community Representative
Nic Morton (NMo)	NELP, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor	Andrew McGlade (AM)	NELP, Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor
Tom McCann (TM)	Spark, Project Manager	Connor Curtin (CC)	Manningham City Council
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Spark, Senior Communications Advisor, Manningham	Michael Hobbs (MH)	NELP, Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Communications - South
Ben Davey (BD)	Spark, Communications Advisor, Manningham	Renato Marnich (RMA)	NELP, Trader Engagement Specialist

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Hayley Bester (HB)	Spark, Communications and Community Engagement Director	Mark Judge (MJ)	Department of Transport and Planning

Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative	Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council		

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged apologies Introduced guests Confirmed previous meeting minutes read and adopted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressed response from JV, this has been noted in additional information at the end of minutes Actions: S4-1, S4-3, S4-4 and S4-5 closed
Mia McMahon (MM) Tom McCann (TM) Luke Minton (LMi)	<p>Presentation covering overview of Manningham and Bulleen site activities using drone footage, 8 week works lookahead</p> <p>PM: How long will the Bridge Street diversion be in place? TM: There are a number of works that need to take place before the diversion is removed. At this stage we anticipate it will reopen late in 2025 or early 2026.</p> <p>JV: Will the M80 at Greensborough Highway be widened? LM: That is a separate package of work which will be delivered by another contractor. The plans for this area should be released by the end of October.</p>
Michael Hobbs (MH) Andrew McGlade (AM)	<p>Presentation covering overview of Eastern Freeway upgrades including current timeline, construction compounds, Templestowe Road Soccer Facility update and upcoming works</p> <p>GJ: Why are you doing community engagement in December when people are away? MH: There won't be any engagement over the Christmas period, this will only occur in the first two weeks of December and restart again in the last two weeks of January 2024. GJ: Is this engagement regarding design or compound establishment? MH: This is a reminder to residents that we will be putting up hoarding, diverting shared user paths etc</p> <p>JV: The engagement that has taken place is only about setting up the compounds before the works? MH: Approximately 6 weeks ago we spoke to residents and their feedback has been collated and shared with other Government agencies to approve before going to the Independent Environmental Advisor (IEA) for approval. We will be out at shopping centres etc doing further engagement sessions once UDLP submissions close RM: The UDLP (Urban Design and Landscape Plan) shows us what will happen but what about the how it will be done? MH: The latest concept designs will be shown from Monday. MM: The 21 day submission time is not always enough for some groups to make their submission so we encourage these groups in their response to request additional time MH: We have had meetings with some key Stakeholder Groups and Council Officers, we will also be doorknocking a small group of residents next to the freeway this afternoon and have more stakeholder meetings planned for next week. RM: Does the doorknock include the west side of Bulleen Road? MH: No, there aren't any pinch points that we are aware of in that area RM: I have had people in that area raise concerns to me re: the acoustic design, ramps etc. MH: The design for around the interchange near the tunnels (from the Estelle Street bridge to near Burke Road) was approved in February this year. RM: Have the residents near Orion Street been contacted? MH: Yes, they have been contacted and gone through the engagement process.</p> <p>JV: Are you working with CD as Boroondara Council are also working on the Koonung Creek plan? MH: Yes, we have been working with them on the masterplan. GJ: Not just the masterplan</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>the Boroondara bicycle strategy specifically states that there needs to be separate pedestrian and shared paths to avoid conflict with dog walkers etc. MH: I'm sure this will be raised, there are a few areas that it may be a bit tricky to have separate paths due to constrained space. MM: Its important to note that NELP and Councils are in constant contact. JV: When I look at the plan that Council has put out it looks like everything is pre-determined and no changes can be made. MH: The UDLP is more about the landscaping, things such as the freeway width can't be changed.</p> <p>JC: When will the Templestowe Rd Soccer Facility be open to the community? AM: We are working towards the first half of 2024. JC: Would like to thank the team for taking MJFC through the UDLP early which allowed us to raise some safety issues. Their willingness to discuss things such as seating was appreciated. RM: Why is the intersection not being signalised until NEL is finished in 4 years? AM: Its not in the current project scope. MH: It is planned for. JV: Will the cost be covered by VicRoads or NEL? MH: It will be a cost for NEL, we are working with DTP and in the meantime, we will install pedestrian islands.</p> <p>NM: Are you able to provide any comment on further upgrades to Templestowe Rd? MH: That maybe included in the signalisation of the intersection but is not in the current scope of this project. CC: Council is advocating for the duplication of Templestowe Rd but haven't had a response yet NM: Its seems like the signalling has been committed to but the duplication hasn't MH: Not at this stage</p>
<p>Martin Juniper (MJ)</p>	<p>Presentation covered Central Package IEA (Independent Environmental Auditor) Update, role of the IEA and overview of May - October 2022 report findings</p> <p>MM: Are contractors required to respond within the six months of the audit? MJ: Yes, audits are conducted and findings are reviewed regularly (currently each month) and a summary report is published publicly every six months RM: APP, Auricon and Arup are the auditors or the Central Package? Does each package have it's own auditor? MJ: Yes, One for the central package and one for all of the other packages RM: Who is the project wide auditor? MJ: There are a number of EPR'S that are project wide and we allocate the relevant EPRs depending on what's most relevant. RM: I've had experiences with gaps in auditing on different packages MJ: There are some interfaces between each IEA as required.</p> <p>NM: There was a finding in the October 2022 report that there were 'areas for improvement' regarding flood emergency procedures and response. MJ: There was moderate flooding at the time the audit was conducted (approximately a week after the audit). NM: As the finding was an 'area for improvement' is this considered a 'minor' finding? MJ: Yes, an Area for Improvement is a step down from 'Non Compliance'</p> <p>NM: Have the effects of these floods been reported directly and in subsequent audit reports? Will findings be reviewed and implemented? MJ: This reporting was completed at the end of the period summary reporting period.. There have been a number of updates to Sparks flood emergency plans since the finding was made. NM: When incidents occur do Spark and NELP produce their own reporting? Can you please explain how the reporting works? MJ: Spark have their own incident reporting system as part of their management plans, where there is an incident that has potential impact to the environment it is dealt with in a timely manner as required. NM: Is there visibility available to the public prior to the report being published? MJ: We are required to release a summary report and the next report will detail what has been closed off as there are a number of complex background processes NM: What is the status of the current report? NMo: This is currently with the minister and should be released shortly. This was the first report, we are hoping to streamline the process. We are happy to present on this when the reports come out six monthly going forward. MM: That would be great as part of our role is to ensure that remedial action has been taken particularly with flooding when the next report is publicly available. RM: There seems to be a long delay with finding out issues if they are reported six monthly. JV: It's important that any issues are addressed at the source at the time, is there a process to ensure issues are being dealt with in a timely manner? MJ: There is a monthly audit which includes checking whether previous actions have been closed. LM: Spark will respond to any incidents immediately and then internally review the actions and processes prior to the next audit being undertaken. JV: If a major issue is found can it be reported to this group when it happens? LM: I will take that on notice. MM: As we are aware of particular issue for the area (flooding) can this group be advised at the next meeting rather than waiting six months for the report to be made available? NMo: Part of how CLGs run is that when issues arise, we often cover them as part of ongoing meetings. JV: I believe it is in good faith that we informed rather sooner rather than later. LM: Speaking on</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>behalf of Spark only, we need to follow the framework for auditing to avoid potentially interfering with the IEA's role. We can talk about issues as they come up as part of construction but not part of the findings. MM: I believe we generally trust the process but would appreciate feedback. JC: Can there be a summary of community issues shown at these meetings? LM: Yes, we can present a summary of these at each meeting. MM: Does the audit report become public once it leaves the Ministers Office? Will it be available soon? NMo: Yes.</p> <p>PM: What role does the IEA play in the UDLP process? MJ: They review and verify PM: Is that prior to the UDLP being released? MJ: The IEA review before and after the community consultation PM: Can the community see the IEA response prior to submissions? MJ: The IEA provide comments and once these have been addressed and verified that it meets the requirements of the process, this is an internal process.</p> <p>NM: There is a flood marker in the Manningham carpark that goes back approximately 100 years if anyone is interested in having a look.</p> <p>TMc left at 11:30am</p>
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Other Business</p> <p>JV: Where will we be meeting for the bus tour? JW: The meeting point will be Yarraleen Cricket Club. There will be more details sent to participants shortly.</p> <p>MM: Natalie Pearson has left NELP to take up a new role. MM would like it noted that the group appreciates her help and support both during meetings and behind the scenes</p> <p>MM: Colin Aitken has resigned from the group and has contacts available to him if he has any queries.</p> <p>Next meeting 17 November</p> <p>Thanked SCLG members and presenters and closed the meeting at 11:50am.</p>

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
S4-1	Link to EPRs to be sent with minutes	JW	6.10.23	CLOSED	Sent with agenda for his meeting
S4-3	Truck route from Eastern Freeway during compound set up to Balwyn Road to be shown	MH	6.10.23	CLOSED	During the set-up of the construction compounds, construction vehicles will use the Eastern Freeway and arterial roads network as much as possible. Where use of local roads are required, we'll consult local Council and obtain appropriate permits.
S4-4	Dates to be provided for member bus tour	IZ	6.10.23	CLOSED	Invitations sent
S4-5	During nightworks when exiting the Eastern Freeway at Bulleen Rd heading towards Bellevue, the left lane is blocked without prior warning.	CL	6.10.23	CLOSED	CL to look into Addressed in meeting held on 06.10.23 Our traffic team have advised that there have been occasions when traffic management has been implemented to close northbound lanes on Bulleen Road as far South as the outbound off ramp of the Eastern Freeway.

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
					Each of these closures is carried out under an approved Traffic Management Plan. Advance signage is placed on the off ramp indicating 'roadwork on the side road'. Motorists may report any traffic management questions or observations to the project by calling 1800 105 105.'
S5-1	Can major issues be reported to SCLG members as they occur?	LM	17.11.23	CLOSED	Spark will provide a snapshot of community engagement, including complaints and issues, at each SCLG meeting.
S5-2	Confirm whether IEA reviews the UDLP before and after exhibition	MJ	17.11.23	CLOSED	IEA review before and after community the community consultation period

Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
S8-1(2021)	MHi	JV asks about ball net fencing at Freeway Golf Course (FGC) and that NELP should be responsible for funding this on top of existing works at the site. At the meeting on 25.08.23 JV reported Freeway golfers are hitting many balls from the first tee onto the area designated for the off-ramp to the Bulleen Road tunnel and therefore emphasises the need for the ball net to be funded.	Open MHi to advise if this may be possible as part of the Freeways package
S14-1	MHi	MHi to investigate potential for installing radar crossings for pedestrians	Open MHi to advise if these will be installed at some intersections/interchanges
S5-1	MH	Will Templestowe Rd will be duplicated as part of the intersection being signalised	MH to advise once information is available

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
1 2024	14 April 2023	Presentation on Motorway Control Centre	SM	Presentation to be given when information available
2 Q4	14 April 2023	MHi to present further information on managing the flood plain in Freeway package design	MHi	Presentation to be given when information available

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
3 Q1 2024	7 July 2023	CW to present NELP Sustainability	JW	Presentation to be given in early 2024

Additional information

Please note the below post meeting note from the meeting held on 25 August 2023:

Following a conversation with NP JV has requested the below amendment to the minutes:

JV: From: Freeway Golf Club players are hitting many balls onto the Freeway and needs the ball net to be funded

To: Freeway golfers are hitting many balls from the first tee onto the area designated for the off-ramp to the Bulleen Road tunnel and therefore emphasises the need for the ball net to be funded. This has been added to the topic in long term actions

MM: This has been noted and will be shown as above in the minutes going forward