

11 October 2024



# Meeting Minutes

## Northern Community Liaison Group

Date	11/10/2024	Time	10am - 12pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	7 of 2024
Location	Watsonia Hub	Minute taker	Josh Ribarich

## Attendees

Attendees		Apologies	
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Chair	Wendy Cisar (WC)	Community Representative
Giselle James (GJ)	Community Representative	Michelle Giovias (MG)	Community Representative
Stephen Paul (SP)	Community Representative	Kathleen Petras (KP)	Banyule City Council
Wade Howell (WH)	Community Representative	Sam Doyle (SDo)	MRPV
Alan Hunter (AH)	Community Representative	Emma Miller (EM)	MRPV
Michelle Molinaro (MMo)	Community Representative	Elizabeth Patena (EP)	MRPV
Andrew Mills (AM)	Community Representative	Deanna Hadid (DH)	Spark
Jonathan Risby (JRis)	Banyule City Council	Jonathan Rowlands (JRo)	Spark
Tracey Varley (TV)	Nillumbik Shire Council	Jillian Arkoudis (JA)	Spark
Mick Marcevski (MMa)	Department of Transport and Planning	Lexie Walter (LW)	M80RRA
Josh Ribarich (JRi)	MRPV	Paul Raworth (PR)	M80RRA
Scott Lambert (SL)	MRPV	Peter Hunt (PH)	M80RRA
Wiebke Wenzel (WW)	MRPV	Gail Carland (GC)	M80RRA
Kate Zisos (KZ)	Spark		
Nicole Anderson (NA)	Spark		
Rob Maroney (RMa)	Spark		
Carlos Ibarra (CI)	M80RRA		

Attendees		Apologies	
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Zac Cvitkovic (ZC)	M80RRA		
Brett Kavanagh (BK)	M80RRA		
Steve Denton (Sde)	M80RRA		

## Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC245-4	Surface works flyover to be shared online or to the group when possible	KZ	30/08/2024	CLOSE D	Video shared on 27/08
NC245-5	KZ to provide MG information about the Silk Street bridge upgrade	KZ	30/08/2024	CLOSE D	DN called MG on 19/9 to discuss Silk St Bridge upgrade works and scope
NC245-7	MG to send SDo copies of the NEL communications materials that commit to unchanged access to the oval.	MG	30/08/2024	CLOSE D	MG yet to send SDo copies of the NEL communications materials that commit to unchanged access to the oval. Action now closed.
NC246-1	Spark to provide GJ with width for land bridge near Veneto Club.	DH	11/09/2024	CLOSE D	JR called GJ on 13/9 and explained width for the land bridge near Veneto Club was provided in July minutes. (82 metres wide).
NC246-2	NEL to investigate whether a site tour for NCLG members before Christmas is feasible.	SDo	11/10/2024	OPEN	Pending further discussion with contractors
NC246-3	LW to email stakeholder raised by MG in relation to rail and road levels at Watsonia Rd towards Grimshaw St.	LW	11/10/2024	CLOSE D	Comms team sent an email to Alicia Curry on August 30 <sup>th</sup> to answer their questions and provide access to materials online

## Key discussion

## points/decisions

Owner	Action
Jeni Couatts (JC)	<p><b>Welcome and Outstanding Business</b></p> <p><u>Introductions (new attendees)</u>  Nicole Anderson (Spark)  Rob Maroney (Spark)  Carlos Ibarra (M80RRA)  Wiebke Wenzel (MRPV)  Zac Cvitkovic (M80RRA)  Tracey Varley (Nillumbik Shire Council)</p> <p><u>Outstanding short-term actions</u>  <b>NC245-7</b> – JC: this action was raised two meetings ago with no follow-up from MG. Information was supposed to be provided to SDo before last meeting but was not, so this action is now closed.</p> <p><u>Outstanding long-term actions</u>  <b>N6-6</b> – Surface works were presented at last CLG meeting (30/8). Action is now closed.  <b>NC241-2</b> - Construction works won't be shown via livestream. Construction updates and milestones will be posted regularly online. Action is now closed.</p>
Rob Maroney (RMa)	<p><b>North East Link tunnels update</b>  <b>Presentation covered 3-month timeline, drone footage, TBM tunnelling update, worksite updates, Winsor Reserve artwork update and recent community engagement including a community event.</b></p>
Kate Zisos (KZ)	<p>JC asked what the excavation depth of the box at the Lower Plenty site (for the on and off ramps) was currently at.</p> <p>RMa said the excavated depth is currently at around 20 metres, with another 12 metres needed to be dug out.</p> <p>SP asked if works were on schedule. RMa said they were on schedule.</p> <p>GJ asked with the TBMs operating concurrently, are the dug-out tunnel areas reinforced to ensure there's no vibrational issue. RMa said the machines are staggered so they're not digging next to each other.</p> <p>JC asked if there had been any complaints relating to vibration from the TBMs to date. RMa said there have been no complaints and the team was encountering good ground conditions so far. KZ added comments have come through to the Watsonia Hub from locals saying they're surprised they haven't felt more impacts from TBM tunnelling.</p> <p>GJ asked about the southern ventilation building in Bulleen and if the land bridge was being built solely to accommodate it. RMa explained the land bridge has been designed to connect communities and had no impact on the design or construction for the southern ventilation structure.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>JC asked how much earth the TBMs have dug out so far. RMa said the TBMs have taken out about 350,000 tonnes and, when TBMs progress further and hit their stride, they'll excavate about 20,000 tonnes a day.</p> <p>BK asked how many metres the TBMs travel per day. RMa said the TBMs will travel, on average, about 12.5 metres per day. JC asked if the (quality of) earth was as they expected to find it. RMa said it was, mainly being mudstones and good material for digging.</p> <p>TV asked where the excavated material went once excavated. RMa said the dirt and rock is taken to two licensed sites – a former quarry in Point Wilson and former Orica site in Deer Park.</p> <p>JC asked if the Project has had to relocate many people close to the Lower Plenty work site. KZ said they offer relocation to impacted residents closest to the works, as well as continuing to support those who live near the work site.</p> <p>SP noted there were 71 complaints for the month of September and asked what they were. KZ said the complaints related to ongoing night works at the Lower Plenty site, project parking, light spill and dust on Greensborough Road. SP commented that this appeared to be a lower amount than last month. KZ agreed, noting more favourable weather could have been a factor. SP noted a graph could be a good way to show trends.</p>
Brett Kavanagh (BK)	<p><b>M80 Update</b>  <b>Presentation covered UDLP engagement, drone footage, worksite updates, community engagement and trader update.</b></p>
Paul Raworth (PR)	<p>SP asked what types of vines are planned as vertical greening for the noise walls to the north of the M80 Ring Road. ZC said the species selection will be based on what will grow and survive based on the direction they're facing. JC asked if there would be irrigation to accommodate this. ZC said there will be for some of them but will be on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Steve Denton (SDe)	<p>GJ asked if individual emails would be sent out to those who submitted feedback for the UDLP. CI said everyone who made a submission had received a general email acknowledging their contribution and that the UDLP was now approved. CI said the team had also been calling individuals who were heavily impacted by the UDLP design updates and offering them a follow-up meeting if required. CI said due to the large number of submissions, they would not be emailing people individually but there is a summary of the submissions available online at <a href="https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/roads/m80-ring-road-completion/planning-and-approvals/m80-ring-road-completion-urban-design-and-landscape-plan">https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/roads/m80-ring-road-completion/planning-and-approvals/m80-ring-road-completion-urban-design-and-landscape-plan</a>. CI also mentioned more UDLP materials would be available at the Hub from mid-October.</p>
Carlos Ibarra (CI)	
Zac Cvitkovic (ZC)	<p>AM asked how much uncovered train line will end up being tunnel. BK said they will be extending the current 145 metres to 493 metres.</p>
	<p>GJ asked if there were any changes to the bridge dimensions for Elder Street and Watsonia Road following revisions to the UDLP, noting the dimensions of the Elder Street land bridge was 49.5 metres x 53.5 metres. SDe clarified the Elder St bridge is 40.8m wide x 41.06m long. GJ asked why there was such a huge difference between dimensions of the two bridges. SD explained it was because the Watsonia Road bridge had ramps coming on to it and to accommodate the land component of the bridge and to allow temporary traffic to be carried across it.</p>
	<p>MMo asked if the Project went out to schools as part of their current tree giveaway program. CI said they did, but the program started during school holidays, and they have now extended the program deadline to allow more uptake.</p>

Owner	Action
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <p>WH mentioned concerns relating to dust impacts during the Summer over the past 2-3 years. WH asked if there was anything new or going to be added to help mitigate these impacts, particularly with additional traffic on Greensborough Highway. CI said exits will be asphalted and extra wheel washes for trucks will also be implemented. BK added batters that are not currently being excavated are glued in place, and hydro seeding would take place for long-term batters. BK said the team has sourced four more street sweepers and will continue using water carts at the very minimum. BK said the team is also looking at new products, such as better binding agents and polymers. As well as looking to put down more crushed rock on dirt roads. BK acknowledged de-misters don't work in large environments but said they have investigated it.</p> <p>WH noted dust concerns specifically for the Lower Plenty work site area, where it is a heavy usage construction zone. KZ acknowledged dust was a key challenge the team is focused on, particularly with more excavation activities to occur in this area. KZ mentioned de-mister cannons are in place on site pointed directly at excavation activities. KZ also mentioned they planned to implement hydro seeding and binding agents and polymer over the Christmas break to keep dust in check, as well as sealing haul roads where possible through crushed rock and asphaltting. KZ mentioned the team has applied this process in areas during the last Christmas break period and received positive feedback from residents. Based on this, they'll explore opportunities to place more polymer on site areas that may be inactive for a period of time.</p> <p>GJ asked what the height of the land bridge is in Bulleen. KZ noted she would find out and get back to GJ.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> The highest point of the Bulleen land bridge is 18.9 metres. This is measured from the freeway road level to the height of the barriers atop the bridge.</p> <p>GJ mentioned a resident who received a letter from a utilities service provider and suggested that if it had any connection to NEL works, it should reflect that in the notice. JRis explained each agency has a different requirement to notify residents based on their own works.</p> <p>GJ asked about the future of the Watsonia offset car park and if it would remain in Frensham Reserve. BK said the team could not answer that at this stage. JRis said the current UDLP says the offset car park area will be reinstated back to what it was, but there will be more information on this to come in the future.</p> <p>GJ mentioned the difference in speed limit on Greensborough Highway – it is 60km/h during the day and 40km/h at night. GJ added Para Road has a permanent 40kmh speed limit in place and asked why Greensborough Highway can't be given a blanket 40km/h. MMA said a response from the M80RRA had previously been provided on the matter. BK added regulatory speeds are governed by the Department of Transport and Planning.</p> <p>MM mentioned there appeared to be a lot of dirt on the road near the end of the M80 Ring Road (Greensborough-bound). BK said the team would investigate and deploy street sweepers if required.</p> <p><b>Action: M80 to investigate potential excess dirt on road near the end of M80 Ring Road (Greensborough-bound) and deploy street sweepers in area if required.</b></p>

Owner	Action
	<p>MM said the bridge along Greensborough Bypass (southbound) near Plenty River Drive had an advisory sign for 60km/h roadworks ahead. MM said it should be mandated (and this should be reflected in its colour scheme). BK said the traffic team would investigate.</p> <p><b>Action: M80 to investigate speed limit advisory sign near the bridge along Greensborough Bypass, near Plenty River Drive, and whether it needs to be changed.</b></p>
	<p>JR passed on WC's message of resignation from CLG meetings due to professional commitments and passed on her well wishes to the group.</p>

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC247-1	M80RRA to investigate potential excess dirt on road near the end of M80 Ring Road and deploy street sweepers in area if required.	BK	22/11/2024	OPEN	
NC247-2	M80RRA to investigate speed limit advisory sign neat the bridge along Greensborough Bypass, near Plenty River Drive, and whether it needs to be changed.	BK	22/11/2024	OPEN	

## Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC242-3	Between Grimshaw Street and Watsonia Road - traffic is banking up more than it used to maybe due to traffic signals on Grimshaw Street giving more green time to the traffic going on Grimshaw Street than Greensborough Highway	LW	26.04.24	Open	
NC246-2	NEL to investigate whether a site tour for NCLG members before Christmas is feasible.	SDo	1/11/2024	OPEN	Pending further discussion with contractors

## Actions – Long Term

No	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
N6-6	KZ to present lookahead on Greensborough Road surface works	KZ	Q1 2024	CLOSED	Surface works presented in 30/8 CLG meeting
NC241-2	Can construction works be shown via livestream on NELP website?	KZ	Q3 2024	CLOSED	Construction works won't be shown via livestream. Construction updates and milestones will be posted regularly online.
NC242-1	MG: Asks what is the percentage of greenhouse gas emissions for the entire NEL Project?	RH	Q3 2024	Open	We won't be able to provide the emissions total until the final energy models have been received from our delivery partners associated with the project once it becomes available in July.
NC243-6	Would like to know the figures of women and the gender balance in labouring roles and construction.	SM/KM	Q3 2024	Open	

## Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
Q2	10 May 2024	GJ has requested the five phases of construction for Watsonia Road realignment and traffic plans including traffic signals and timings	CI	
Q4	1 December	JC has requested actual v's modelling for noise and vibration to be presented in 2023	LM	LM to arrange JRo to present when results are available
Q3	31 March	Vent outlet operation presentation including how will the vent outlets disperse the emissions and how far will they go?	LM	LM to arrange presentation
2025	31 March	Presentation on LXRP's communication plan for the Macleod level crossing removal	JN	LXRP to present at a future meeting
Q3	12 May	VPS Overview	LR	Presentation to be given in future meeting

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
Q1 2024	27 October	M80RRA to present what goodwill offers will be available to residents	CI	Presentation to be given in future meeting
Q3 2024	30 August	M80RRA to present on traffic light phasing during construction and in the ultimate configuration	GC	Presentation to be given in future meeting

## Additional information - previous

North East Link tunnels Community Interactions: (July and August) 1759	M80 Ring Road Completion Community Interactions:
Enquiries/Comments: 458	Enquiries/Comments:
Project engagement and responses: 995	Project engagement and responses:
Complaints: 291	Complaints:
Positive Feedback: 15	Positive Feedback:

## Additional information - new

North East Link tunnels Community Interactions: 252	M80 Ring Road Completion Community Interactions:395
Enquiries/Comments: 170	Enquiries/Comments: 102
Project engagement and responses: 109	Project engagement and responses: 192
Complaints: 71	Complaints:100
Positive Feedback: 2	Positive Feedback: 1