

Meeting Minutes

Northern Community Liaison Group

Date	20/06/2025	Time	10am - 12pm
Chair	Leah Waymark	Meeting no.	4 of 2025
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Rania Souied

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Leah Waymark (LW)	Chair	Jonathan Risby (JRis)	Banyule City Council
Giselle James (GJ)	Community Representative	Wiebke Wenzel (WW)	MRPV
Michelle Molinaro (MMo)	Community Representative	Rania Souied (RS)	MRPV
Stephen Paul (SP)	Community Representative	Katy Sylvia (KS)	MRPV
Damian Percy (DP)	Spark	Isabella Luk (IL)	MRPV
Deanna Hadid (DH)	Spark	Donna Mongan (DM)	M80RRA
Yuan Li (YL)	Department of Transport and Planning	Ross Brookshaw (RB)	M80RRA

Apologies			
Josh Ribarich (JR)	MRPV	Tracey Varley (TVa)	Nillumbik Shire Council
Sam Doyle (SDo)	MRPV	Kalyan Shrestha (KSh)	Department of Transport and Planning
Wade Howell (WH)	Community Representative	Mick Marcevski (MMa)	Department of Transport and Planning
Michelle Giovas (MG)	Community Representative	Steve Denton (SD)	M80RRA
Andrew Mills (AM)	Community Representative	Carlos Ibarra (CI)	M80RRA
Alan Hunter (AH)	Community Representative	Kathleen Petras (KP)	Banyule City Council

Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC251-1	M80RR to provide updated design for Watsonia Road pedestrian bridge.	M80RRA	20/06/25	CLOSED	Update provided at 20/06 meeting.
NC251-2	M80RR to provide update on the location of the next realignment of Greensborough Road.	M80RRA	20/06/25	CLOSED	Update provided at 20/06 meeting.
NC251-3	M80RR to provide a breakdown of shuttle services to the worker parking area.	M80RRA	20/06/25	CLOSED	Per minutes from last meeting, the workforce shuttlebus runs at the start, middle and end of every shift.
NC251-4	NEL to check the details of engagement numbers and update if any inaccuracy. In future, the time periods will be included.	NEL	20/06/25	CLOSED	Confirmed previous figures were accurate. Dates included in current and future materials.

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Leah Waymark (LW)	<p>Welcome and Outstanding Business</p> <p>Introductions</p> <p>Outstanding short-term actions</p> <p>NC251-1 – Provided update in 20/06 meeting; action closed NC251-2 – Provided update in 20/06 meeting; action closed</p> <p>Long term actions reviewed. Amended dates for future presentations in long term actions table.</p> <p>ACTION: NEL to add post meeting updates in meeting minutes to capture any additional information, updates or responses to actions or questions raised during the meeting that were followed up after the meeting concluded.</p>
Isabella Luk (IL)	<p>IEA summary report <u>Presentation covered IEA 6-month summary report May 2024-October 2024, the auditing process and summary of findings.</u></p> <p>GJ asked if the project was aware of dust issues near La Trobe University. A person working in the area reportedly experienced nausea, possibly due to dust exposure.</p> <p>KS noted that La Trobe University has significant construction works occurring onsite.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>DM added that there is also a major housing construction project at Diamond Creek at St Helena roundabout.</p> <p>SP asked if the dust issue was related to the M80 and noted that it may be unrelated and from another project.</p> <p>KS confirmed it's uncertain whether this is linked to the M80.</p> <p>GJ said they simply wanted to raise awareness.</p> <p>DH added that Melbourne has experienced an overall dry period, resulting in more dust city wide.</p> <p>KS recommended checking the EPA Air Watch online, which shows real time dust levels across Melbourne.</p>
Damian Percy (DP)	<p>North East Link tunnels update</p> <p><u>Presentation covered worksite updates, tunnelling progress, Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) breakthrough and relaunch, drone footage, Lower Plenty Road widening works, Silk Street pedestrian bridge upgrade, associated impacts and community engagement.</u></p>
Deanna Hadid (DH)	<p>MMo asked if media had been notified about the drilling gantry installed in the northbound tunnel, noting it is the first of its kind in Australia.</p> <p>DH responded that there is frequent internal communication and frequent updates online and to keep an eye out for stories.</p> <p>KS added that much of the technical content is shared on MRPV's LinkedIn page.</p> <p>SP asked if the drilling gantry is a new technology.</p> <p>DP explained that it's not a new technology, drills are hydraulically mounted onto a gantry.</p> <p>SP asked if the system is computer generated and whether it would be used on other construction sites.</p> <p>DP confirmed that it is computer controlled and may be adopted on future projects. However, it still requires multiple operators.</p> <p>SP asked what the road surfacing of the tunnel is.</p> <p>DP explained that there is an underside paving layer in the tunnel at the moment. Crews are currently driving on a culvert approximately 3 metres high with concrete poured around the sides. On top of that there will be an asphalt layer that is laid across the top. Finally, a reinforced concrete pavement is installed along the tunnel's entire length. Concrete trials are currently being conducted in NSW to replicate tunnel temperature conditions and ensure the best finish.</p> <p>GJ asked whether worksites have ever been shut down due to air quality or safety thresholds being exceeded.</p> <p>DP confirmed that worksites have been shut down a handful of times due to various issues, including air quality.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>GJ also asked about the repositioning of air quality monitors between Yallambie and Lower Plenty.</p> <p>DH noted this had been discussed in a previous meeting.</p> <p>DH said that monitor relocations occur for operational reasons, including moving closer to activity zones. Handheld monitors are also used while static monitors are placed in areas of activity.</p> <p>DH reminded that the team utilises community feedback via the contact centre, which provides insight for the environment team. They also work closely with counterparts across other project packages to share and exchange data.</p>
	<p>M80 Update</p> <p><u>Presentation covered worksite updates, Yando Street underpass construction, Nell Street walking and cycling bridge construction, bridge beam installation, M80 Ring Road Interchange major switch, Watsonia Road landscaped bridge progress, upcoming Hurstbridge Line occupation works, Greensborough Road utilities relocation and community engagement.</u></p>
Donna Mongan (DM)	
Ross Brookshaw (RB)	<p>MMo asked whether pedestrian access and traffic light phasing at Elder Street would be changing, specifically if crossings would shift or allow more time for pedestrians.</p> <p>DM clarified that the traffic lights are currently in a temporary position. Elder Street has been realigned slightly, and there are now no slip lanes into and out of Elder Street from Greensborough Highway.</p> <p>There are right turns into and out of Elder Street currently but there will be a period where there will be a turn further north on Greensborough Highway back to Elder Street called a "P" turn. Traffic lights will remain in their current configuration for now. Pedestrian access will be shifted in the coming months to the northern side of Elder Street while a new road arrangement is established on the western side of the highway.</p> <p>GJ noted works at the Watsonia Station car park and questioned whether they related to creating a new left-hand turn or a larger road realignment.</p> <p>DM responded that the works are partly related to left-turn access into the station but are primarily for the realignment of Greensborough Highway northbound. This realignment is required to create a new roadway that will enable construction of the Elder Street bridge and excavation for the express lanes into the Tunnels. All these works are progressing in tandem, with the road realignment being a necessary first step before bridge works can commence.</p> <p>GJ noted that the scale of works seemed much larger than what would be expected for just a left-hand turn, and assumed the realignment was the major component.</p> <p>DM confirmed this, adding that work is also shifting further north of the Elder Street entrance into the car park, and towards Grimshaw Street, that section will be worked on. In conjunction, works are also progressing on a retaining wall structure and noise walls just north of Elder Street, on the eastern side. This whole stretch of the Watsonia area is now entering a more active construction phase, with more traffic impacts than seen previously.</p> <p>Referring to the temporary noise walls made from recycled plastic and cardboard, DH asked what level of noise reduction they provide.</p> <p>RB responded that while he doesn't have the exact statistics right now, the performance is the same between standard and recycled noise wall performance, even though the recycled noise wall is thinner.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>SP asked whether there are cost savings associated with the use of solar light towers on site.</p> <p>RB confirmed there is a cost saving when comparing solar towers directly to diesel powered alternatives. The solar towers are more practical when frequent relocation is required. Safety is improved due to the absence of power cables.</p> <p>GJ raised a question about the comparative strength of clay versus concrete, especially for future proof construction.</p> <p>RB explained that the team is trialling clay-based materials and achieving strengths equivalent to 40 MPa concrete, which is typically used for structural elements. They are currently trialling 30% material replacement, with plans to gradually increase it. For non-structural elements like garden beds, a cement-free material has been trialled and received positively in early modelling. Cost remains a key focus, but this type of material is expected to become more common after 2030.</p> <p>KS asked whether the trials involve temporary or permanent structures.</p> <p>RB replied that while trials begin with temporary structures, the intention is to deliver permanent legacy features, including footpaths and garden beds, as part of the final works.</p> <p>MMo asked what the difference is between Type A and Type B.</p> <p>RB explained that both are dirt with specific properties to build upon, both are commonly used on site.</p>
Leah Waymark (LW)	<p>Other Business</p> <p>DM advised that the next meeting would include updates on designs, Indigenous cultural heritage, and the M80 Ring Road and Grimshaw Street works.</p> <p>MMo raised concerns about tree planting outside Greensborough College, questioning whether the trees should have been planted inside the school grounds instead. She also mentioned that the trees outside the school's office area appear to be planted too closely together and noted that the school's maintenance staff have had difficulty manoeuvring mowers around them due to the limited spacing.</p> <p>LW asked who was responsible for the tree planting at Greensborough College.</p> <p>WW enquired whether the trees had been planted recently or some time ago.</p> <p>MMo clarified that the trees were planted some time ago, but the school is still seeking clarity about them.</p> <p>JRis confirmed that the trees in question, located on Nepean Street, were planted by the local council and funded by North East Link.</p> <p>JRis and WW liaised with MMo following the meeting to provide further clarification.</p> <p>GJ raised concerns about traffic conditions in the area following project completion.</p> <p>GJ presented two diagrams illustrating her traffic concerns, highlighting potential increased shortcut usage and congestion on local streets such as Elder Street. She expressed that as the area's population continues to grow over the next 20 to 30 years, traffic conditions could become significantly worse, creating a lasting impact on future generations. GJ also raised concerns about the lack of</p>

Owner	Action
	pedestrian infrastructure in the plans, suggesting that ongoing updates and long-term solutions should be considered to address future transport needs.
	DM responded that M80RRA is happy to arrange for traffic planners to meet with GJ and provide responses to their questions.
	KS noted that traffic modelling data for the post-project completion is available online.
	ACTION: M80RRA to arrange a meeting between community representatives, council, and project traffic planners to discuss post-project traffic modelling.
	ACTION: NEL to provide an overview of future traffic modelling for the project to members.
Leah Waymark (LW)	Open Forum
	N/A

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC252-1	M80RRA to arrange initial meeting traffic planning with community representatives regarding traffic modelling post-project completion.	DM	15/08/2025	Open	
NC252-2	NEL to provide an overview of future traffic modelling for the project to members.	KS		Open	

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC251-4	M80RRA to arrange meeting with community representatives regarding traffic modelling post project completion.	DM		OPEN	
NC251-5	NEL to provide an overview of future traffic modelling for the project to members.	KS		OPEN	

Actions – Long Term

No	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC242-1	MG: Asks what is the percentage of greenhouse gas emissions for the entire NEL Project?	RH	Q3 2024	Open	Information available August 2025; presentation TBC.

Actions – Post meeting update

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC251-4	M80RRA to arrange meeting with community representatives regarding traffic modelling post project completion.	DM		OPEN	Discussion with GJ 30/06: DM to arrange for GJ's questions regarding traffic forecasts and Elder Street operations to be addressed.

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2025	10 May 2024	GJ has requested the five phases of construction for Watsonia Road realignment and traffic plans including traffic signals and timings	LW/GC	Presentation to be given when further information is available (potentially late 2025 or early 2026)
Q3	31 March	Vent outlet operation presentation including how will the vent outlets disperse the emissions and how far will they go?	LM	Addressed in previous meeting and ongoing discussion. (CLOSED)
2025	31 March	Presentation on LXRP's communication plan for the Macleod level crossing removal	JN	LXRP to present at a future meeting.
Q1 2024	27 October	AMA to present what goodwill offers will be available to residents	LW/GC	Respite offered on a case-by-case basis; matter can be addressed in ongoing discussion. (CLOSED)
2025	20 June	Gender representation in labouring roles and construction.	SM/KM	Presentation to be delivered at a future meeting (TBC).

Additional information - previous

North East Link Tunnels Community Interactions (March/April): 1016	M80 Completion Community Interactions (March/April): 393
Enquiries/Comments: 270	Enquiries/Comments: 222
Project engagement and responses: 432	Project engagement and responses: 54
Complaints: 305	Complaints: 110
Positive Feedback: 9	Positive Feedback: 7

Additional information - new

North East Link tunnels Community Interactions (May): 454	M80 Ring Road Completion Community Interactions (May): 515
Enquiries/Comments: 90	Enquiries/Comments: 97
Project engagement and responses: 242	Project engagement and responses: 321
Complaints: 121	Complaints: 92
Positive Feedback: 1	Positive Feedback: 5