

Minutes

Subject: Community Liaison Group Meeting **Date:** Thursday 04 September 2025 **Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre **Chair:** (KJ) Kim Jordan

Apologies: Geoff Mitchelmore, Kevin Redfern, Senthil Sundaram, Ferdinand Saliba, Adam Bright, Jala Shekho, Bert Boere, Fran Araneda, Glen Yates, Steve Wilson

Attendees:

Community Members	Major Road Project Victoria, Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority Representatives
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	(SDR) Shane D’Rozario, Chief Operating Officer
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(DM) Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations
(CF) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(JT) Jordana Thornton, Engagement Coordinator
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(JZ) John Zeccola, Senior Advisor, Community Relations
Group/Association Members	Transurban Representatives
(GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network	(AS) Ashleigh Tomas, Communications & Engagement Manager
Council Members	(SF) Scott Frazer, Environment Manager
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	(MB) Max Burney, Stakeholder Engagement Lead
(MB) Melissa Best, Maribyrnong City Council	Joint Venture Representatives
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	(TS) Tim Spawton, Environment, Sustainability and Planning Manager
(NH) Neil Hutchison, City of Melbourne	(MU) Mario Urban, Community & Stakeholder Relations Manager

Agenda:

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.35pm	2	Actions update	CLG members
5.40pm	3	MRPV update: Completions roadmap	Shane D’Rozario
5.55pm	4	Community engagement update	CPBJH JV Mario Urban
6.05pm	5	Construction update	CPBJH JV

			Mario Urban
6.15pm	6	Preparing for road opening: Landscaping Interpretive Artwork	CPBJH JV Tim Spawton
6.35pm	7	BREAK	All
6.50pm	8	Preparing for road opening: Honorary naming Freeway Control Centre/Incident response	Transurban
7.15pm	9	Member questions	All
7.30pm	10	Meeting closed	All

Introduction

- KJ provided an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed attendees in person and online, and mentioned apologies for the night.
- KJ welcomed Tim Spawton, Environment, Sustainability and Planning Manager from CPBJH and Scott Frazer, Environment Manager from Transurban.

Actions update

Action ALL1: State to follow up on why Arden Structure Plan was removed from VPA work program and provide update on what actions/works have been undertaken as part of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan.

- KJ noted to the group that an email was sent to members on Thursday 28 August with information on this action. DM to follow up with FA that she is happy with the response to close out the action.

Informal action for follow up:

- Question raised by FS in early 2025 meetings regarding security hoops outside Cleanaway site in Brooklyn.
 - SDR advised DTP (Department of Transport & Planning) to install both security hoops, aimed to be completed in the following weeks.

MRPV update

Completions roadmap – Shane D’Rozario

- SDR provided a high-level overview of the construction activity remaining on the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) including portal works, shared use paths, open spaces. SDR also noted this includes testing and commissioning on the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) within the tunnel and freeway and ensuring it feeds back to the Freeway Control Centre (FCC).
- SDR explained Transurban will monitor and manage the West Gate Tunnel and West Gate Freeway through the ITS systems in the FCC. Transurban will have an integration into the road network system that DTP uses to allow both operators to talk to each other if a major incident occurs.
- SDR explained other remaining items in the completion process including returning land and completed infrastructure back to relevant councils, Department of Transport & Planning (DTP) and rail operators.
- SDR spoke to the community engagement and education that is taking place in the community, including shopping centre activations in the outer and inner west communities to explain how to use the new tunnels and roads.

- SDR noted that on day 1 of the project opening, DTP and Transurban will enact a hype-care period where there is specific focus on the new tunnels and roads, to ensure the traffic network is running smoothly.
- SDR advised the active transport network was reviewed by project parties with changes made to improve the interface points with the remaining network in Melbourne. SDR also spoke to the Transport Amenity Program (TAP) which is being delivered by DTP in the North and West Melbourne area to improve amenity outcomes for residents and mitigate and manage traffic flow in that area post project opening.

Member questions

Q: (IE) Asked a question about the signage coming from M1 onto the WGF. It was discussed that the wording might change to make more sense to drivers to access freeway exits to be in the left lanes. IE asked if this has been finalised?

A: (SDR) Will confirm if this location is being changed and will advise the group on the outcome.

Community Engagement update – Mario Urban

- **West Gate Freeway full outbound closure 29 August – 1 September:** MU advised members on the strong engagement that was done with residents, businesses and freight industry on the full outbound lane closure on the West Gate Freeway. MU noted extra measures that were put in place including: letters being sent advising of expected increases in traffic, VMS signage to assist drivers and mitigate noise and respite offered to some residents.
- **Site extension and occupation of 8 car parks until September at Harris Street & Whitehall Street:** MU advised the JV worked closely with businesses who are directly impacted from these works.
- **Hyde Street and Somerville Road intersection signalling works planning:** MU spoke to the engagement that was completed with the businesses on these plans.
- **Informal community garden bed relocation – Watson Street, South Kingsville:** MU advised that gift vouchers were provided to a resident to repurchase plants that the project had to relocate due to sewerage works.

Member questions/comments

(DR) Noted that on Blackshaws Road during the WGF weekend closure, traffic impacts from detours weren't too impactful, and he was quite pleased. DR noted that the information and advice from the communications teams were well received in the community.

Q: (AB) Asked what works are being done on Hyde Street and Somerville Road?

A: (MU/MB) A safety review was completed on the two-way shared use path near Yarraville Gardens. It was decided that amendments to the existing traffic signals could be implemented to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists to allow for a safer experience.

Construction Update – Mario Urban

- **West Gate Freeway:** MU explained to members the works that have been completed on the West Gate Freeway (WGF) over the last few months during the winter campaign which includes road resurfacing, drainage works, line marking and kerbing. MU noted that works done during the full outbound lane closure from 29 August – 1 September were successful.
- **Southern outbound portal:** MU stated cladding works are up to 99% on the southern outbound portal. Once cladding is complete, other external works remaining include a small amount of miscellaneous civil & structure works (E.g. roof steelworks, cracks repair, water proofing). MU noted plans to start landscaping near this area in October.
- **Tunnels:** MU explained the inbound tunnel asphaltting and line marking is complete and crews will commence in the outbound tunnel in the coming days. MU noted that testing and commissioning works are still taking place within the tunnel.
- **Northern portal:** MU noted that cladding on the northern portal is now over 30% complete and targeted to be complete by end of October.

- **Footscray Road:** MU explained that speed limit has gone back up to 60 and 70km on Footscray Road. MU noted upcoming works to remove scaffolding and some overhead cladding to be finished end of September. DM noted the inbound service road from Footscray Road to the elevated road looks complete.

Member questions

Q: (IE) Asked if the final speed on Footscray Road will be 70km?

A: (MU) Confirmed yes.

Q: (CF) Asked about Sims Street, inbound service road and if it is that part of the West Gate Tunnel works?

A: (MU) Noted it was separate to West Gate Tunnel works.

Preparing for road opening update

Landscaping – Tim Spawton

- TS provided a high-level update on the recent landscaping that has taken place across the project, particularly in the west zone with 98% of landscaping complete. TS noted that there has been an increase in tree numbers into the offset tree package due to density issues.
- TS spoke to the northern portal area of landscaping which is currently in progress. TS explained macrophytes have been planted in the water of the detention basin near the northern portal, there is also planting along the paths of the basin and around that area.
- TS noted that at Lyon Street, the drainage works finished and landscaping has commenced, which includes semi-mature trees.
- TS explained that in the east zone, landscaping is close to completion, areas include the bridge along Moonee Ponds Creek and the area near the veloway where they have inputted rehabilitation plants.
- TS provided an overview on the offset trees and is working closely with Ian Butterworth from Hobsons Bay Council to locate further tree planting sites.
- TS advised that crews are going back to Stony Creek to maintain the plants that were planted last season, removing weeds and trees that haven't survived and replacing them.

Member questions:

Q: (CF) Asked if landscaping works will still be happening when the project is open?

A: (TS) Answered the west and east zone works will be completed along with the northern portal area. Near the southern outbound portal area, landscaping might still be taking place once the project opens as there is a lot happening in that area, playground etc.

Q: (CF) Asked if the river area under the Maribyrnong River bridges going to open up now that works are almost complete?

A: DM will follow up.

Q: (IE) Asked if the offset tree package numbers are included in the greening in the west program numbers?

A: (TS) Advised the numbers might be separate.

Q: (NH) Asked if we know how far away the project is to hitting the 5:1 replanting ratio?

A: (TS) Advised they are getting close to knowing, approx. around 2,500 trees away. Still looking around for areas to plant them in respected council areas.

Q: (IE) Asked who are the IREA?

A: (TS) They are an independent reviewer. DM explained that the JV are audited throughout the entire project to ensure they successfully achieve the Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) set out during the Environment Effect Statement (EES).

Q: (NH) Asked if there have been any issues with density whilst planting in the east zone?

A: (TS) Confirmed there are around 150 trees that the project needs to catch up on that will go into the offset tree planting package. Not as much as the west zone.

Q: (IE) Asked if there is an option to pass on any unplanted trees to friends of groups.

A: (TS) Advised that wouldn't meet the EPR requirements, the plants need to be planted in a council area affected by the project.

Interpretive Artwork – Tim Spawton

- TS provided members with an overview of the interpretive artwork packages across the project, including the locations within the project that will host interpretive art and signage, and a brief statement on each artist that was chosen.
- TS provided an extensive overview on the engagement that has been done with the traditional owners of the land including two walks on country, developing a Cultural Heritage Interpretation Strategy and discussions and endorsement of artwork and themes.
- TS provided an overview of the northern portal site which will be transformed into an open space with a water retention basin, large vegetated areas and a custom boardwalk with seating opportunities. TS explained there will be a custom boomerang-shaped seat, perforated steel screen to convey stories, language carved into the timber seat battens and traditional patterns on precast seat and concrete paving.
- TS spoke to the site at Moonee Ponds Creek, positioned north of Footscray Road which will connect to a new open space created by the project. The bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek that connects to the Veloway includes a perforated steel panel screen designed as a story telling panel of the Wurundjeri people delivered by Wurundjeri artist Samantha Richards
- TS advised members of the site at Kororoit Creek, which is situated off the existing Kororoit Creek Trail and adjacent to Kororoit Creek and the West Gate Freeway at Altona North. TS explained the yarnning circle opportunity will be surrounded by landscaping with indigenous flora species to celebrate the site in its many forms. The yarnning circle is a Bunurong piece incorporating sculptural artwork, steel totems and traditional patterns on precast concrete seats, basalt boulders and concrete paving.

Member questions:

Q: (CF) What is being done to prevent vandalism on these pieces of art? Suggested running community sessions explaining the importance and respect of the art and history.

A: (MB) Transurban will take that feedback on board.

Break (6:45pm)

Preparing for road opening update

Honorary Naming – Ashleigh Tomas

- AT provided members with a quick update on the honorary naming activities that have been taking place. AT noted the engagement that has taken place the Traditional Owners, CLG group, councils, broader community and schools. AT spoke to next steps including emergency services review and endorsements.

Freeway Control Centre/Incident response – Max Burney

- MB showed members a video of the new Freeway Control Centre. The video showcased the facility where Transurban will manage and monitor traffic on the West Gate Tunnel and Citilink.
- MB noted DTP have a similar centre where they manage the rest of the traffic network across Victoria. MB explained there is a big screen that shows different issues happening at the same time and TU and DTP can communicate with one another. MB explained there are over 600 cameras that will feed into the FCC including CCTV that will monitor the veloway.
- MB provided a quick overview of the current incident response that is in place for Citilink and showed an example of how this was put into action when there was a fire in the Burnley tunnel in 2024.
- MB noted that response time was approximately 45 seconds with the incident resolved in under 5 minutes.

Member questions

Q: (CF) Does the software and cameras have facial recognition?

A: (MB) No. The software is like what is already being used on the traffic network, in that it can pinpoint if a car was to stop on a road where it isn't meant to.

Q: (CF) If there is a major incident will the local community members be notified? I.e. those living above the tunnel.

A: (MB) All people who have a Linkt account will receive a phone notification that there is an incident in the tunnel to avoid driving in the area, however there is no obligation for Transurban to notify locals if there is an incident nearby.

Q: (IE) Does the West Gate Tunnel have the same lights along the wall as the Burnley Tunnel that tells traffic how fast they should be travelling?

A: (MB) Not at this stage, it likely won't be required due to the West Gate Tunnel being quite flat, compared to the Burnley being slant.

Q: (IB) Asked how often the cameras in the veloway will be monitored? Will you be notified if there is an accident? Is it the same technology that you use on the WGF?

A: (MB) Noted in the veloway there are CCTV cameras that will be monitored the same way Transurban's other assets are however there is not an automated response mechanism in place like the road assets have.

Member questions/comments

- **Q: (DR)** Asked if the outer lanes heading inbound on the WGF can access the Hyde Street ramps?
- **A: (DM)** Yes, the left outer lanes heading inbound are the only lanes that can access the freeway exits, including Hyde Street.
- **Q: (CF)** Asked if Hyde Street ramps are tolled?
- **A: (DM)** Confirmed yes for cars and trucks.
- **Q: (IE)** noted there has been talk around an extra air monitoring station in the media. Requested for EPA to come and talk about it at the next meeting.
- **A: DM** to follow up on details ahead of next meeting.
- **Q: (IE)** Noted temporary fencing behind Oval 1 at Donald McLean Reserve that was protecting some construction assets which has since been decommissioned. IE asked if that fencing can now be removed and that area cleaned up and returned to the community?
- **A: (DM)** This question has been sent to Transurban and CPBJH and will get back to members on the outcome.
- **Q: (AB)** Noted he was travelling from the M80 onto the WGF and was in the express lanes and noted he couldn't get to the exits. Asked if he could access the express lanes from Grieve Parade, inbound on WGF.
- **A: (DM)** No. You can only access the inbound express lanes from M80 and M1.
- **Q: (NH)** Requested a close out report on the EPR requirements as we head closer to project opening.
- **A: DM** noted the group will have the opportunity to meet likely in February 2026 once the project is open to talk through operations on the network and compliance with post opening EPRs.

Meeting close (7:35PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting and thanked members.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place Thursday 16 October 2025.