

31 July 2025



Meeting Minutes

Southern Business Liaison Group

Date	22/07/2025	Time	5:30pm - 7:00pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	5 of 2025
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Niamh Kenny

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Nic Morton (NM)	NELP
Luke Minton (LM)	Spark	Niamh Kenny (NK)	NELP
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Laing O'Rourke/EBTA	Frank Freschi (FF)	Veneto Club
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Spark	Andrew Mangan (AM)	Manningham Council
Reza Nami (RN)	Spark	Tom Simper (TS)	NELP
Yolanda Torrisi (YT)	Greythorn Traders Association	Renato Marnich (RM)	NELP
Paul McMorran (PM)	Bulleen Art & Garden		

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Soula Grouios (SG)	Arthurs Fish & Chips Bulleen	Milan Dhruve (MD)	Spark
Mia McMahon (MM)	Spark	Andrea Lomdahl (AL)	Boroondara City Council
Cam Giardina (CG)	Commercial Property Owner	Tim Sligo (TS)	Heidi Museum of Modern Art
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara Council	Alison Tobias (AT)	Alot of Good Stuff

Sign up for updates
northeastlink.vic.gov.au



Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC25 4-1	HV to send weekly eDM sign up link out to members.	HV/JL	22/07/25	CLOSED	Link sent with minutes.

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Discussion
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Welcome and Introductions Acknowledgement of Country Acknowledged apologies, previous actions and new attendees
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Combined Construction Update - North East Link Tunnels and Eastern Freeways <u>Presentation covered worksite updates, TBM tracker, Estelle Street Bridge and Heyington Bridge timelapse videos.</u>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	North East Link Tunnels LM: Provided an update on the discolouration of Banyule Creek which occurred last Wednesday (16 July). The project is working closely with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on clean-up and remediation of the creek. The discolouration is due to a product used for dust suppression across work sites which the EPA advise is made up of polymer and pigment which is of low toxicity to humans and the environment. Sandbag bunds have been put in place to create pools along the creek down towards the Yarra River to prevent the discolouration going any further. A range of targeted pumping of the pools has been done as well as flushing the pools with fresh water. The project continues to work closely with the EPA and Melbourne Water. Once remediation is complete, the project and the EPA will focus on investigating the cause of what happened on site. FF: Asked how the substance got into the creek. LM: Stated that Spark and the EPA are still investigating the cause, and will keep the group updated as further information is received. IZ: As per presentation. FF: Asked if construction activities are running on time? IZ: Works are on track. Eastern Freeways: JL: As per presentation. FF: Asked if any sections of the existing Doncaster bridge will remain. JL: No, one side of the existing bridge will be demolished and rebuilt with traffic then directed onto it. The other side of the bridge will then follow. Doncaster Road is planned to remain open during the works with potential for overnight lane closures.
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Combined Traffic Changes in 2025 Update - North East Link Tunnels and Eastern Freeways <u>Presentation covered 2025 works lookahead, newly opened permanent Bulleen Road update and Eastern Freeways upcoming freeway closures.</u>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	North East Link Tunnels

Owner	Discussion
	FF: Asked when the Bulleen Road southbound closure will be occurring. IZ: During the September school holidays. PM: Asked if access will be maintained during the closure. IZ: Access will remain. FF: Mentioned some confusion amongst community members regarding the VMS signage during the July Bulleen Road closure. Stated the wording made it seem like Bulleen Road businesses were closed. IZ: Acknowledged it was a difficult balance to communicate that Bulleen Road was closed whilst businesses remained open. The project addressed this by having a subsequent VMS panel displaying that Bulleen Road traders remained open. JC: Asked how long each VMS panel is displayed for. IZ: Stated between two and three seconds. FF: Noted that people do miss the signs as they are very brief, complimented the project's overall level of communication and support during the July Bulleen Road works campaign. Eastern Freeways: FF: Will one lane always remain open during the Eastern Freeway closures? JL: Not necessarily, a carriageway closure means one direction of the freeway is completely closed and a full closure means both directions are completely closed. JL: Noted that an extensive MRPV marketing campaign is in development to support the full Eastern Freeway weekend closure going live on Friday 25 July for six weeks, exact times will be added once confirmed. Assured the group that the AFL finals traffic levels are being considered and stated advanced warning, preparedness and encouragement to use public transport will be the communications focus. FF: Asked if only one full closure of the Eastern Freeway will occur. JL: No, at least one more full closure will be needed this year. Further details will be communicated in future meetings and via the project's weekly EDM updates. PM: Asked how travel on surrounding roads will be impacted as business deliveries can't be made via the closed sections of the Eastern Freeway. Asked if each detour route will have different delay times advertised. JL: Yes, there will be specific detour delay times although off route detours won't be modelled. PM: Map platforms don't provide that information and raised concerns regarding the large volume of deliveries and numbers of customers to his business on weekends. JL: Stated that Bulleen Road will remain open and acknowledged that Manningham Road heading towards Doncaster will be busy during weekend peak travel times, suggested early morning travel. PM: Stated he was under the impression that a full closure of the Eastern Freeway would not occur. JL: Stated a full closure is needed to demolish the bridge, added majority of the full closures will occur off peak at night and require 12 months of planning. FF: Noted that local traders in the area are suffering.
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Combined Business and Community Engagement Update <u>Presentation covered trader support update, upcoming community events and business engagement.</u>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	North East Link Tunnels IZ: As per presentation. Eastern Freeways JL: As per presentation.
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Open Forum

Owner	Discussion
	YT: Requested for communications material for disruptions to be sent with more advanced notice for future campaigns so they can inform their customers.
	JC: Closed the meeting and noted the next meeting will be held on 2 September.

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Update
N/A				