

26 May 2025



Meeting Minutes

Southern Business Liaison Group

Date	29/04/2025	Time	5:30pm - 7:00pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	3 of 2025
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Niamh Kenny

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Cam Giardina (CG)	Commercial Property Owner
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Laing O'Rourke	Frank Freschi (FF)	Veneto Club
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Spark	Paul McMorran (PM)	Bulleen Art & Garden
Nic Morton (NM)	NEL	Yolanda Torrisi (YT)	Greythorn Traders Association
Jasmine Kha (JK)	NEL	Milan Dhruve (MD)	Spark
Andrew Mangan (AM)	Manningham Council	Renato Marnich (RM)	NEL

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Tanya Mehta (TM)	NEL	Helena Vun (HV)	NEL
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara Council	Tim Sligo (TS)	Heidi Museum of Modern Art
Soula Grouios (SG)	Arthurs Fish & Chips Bulleen	Hudson Brown (HB)	The French Lettuce
Lauren Watson (LW)	Spark	Andrea Lomdahl (AL)	Boroondara City Council
Alison Tobias (AT)	Alot of Good Stuff		

Sign up for updates
northeastlink.vic.gov.au



Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
	No actions				

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Discussion
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Welcome and Outstanding Business Acknowledgement of Country Acknowledged apologies and no previous actions New combined updates during presentation slides explained
Milan Dhruve (MD)	Combined Construction Update - North East Link Tunnels and Eastern Freeways <u>Presentation covered worksite updates, TBM and SEM breakthrough, TBM tracker, three month lookahead and noise wall update.</u>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	CG asked how many operators work inside the tunnel. MD said there are teams of 20-30 that work in shifts. FF asked if the noise walls that are still up between Doncaster and Elgar Road will remain. JL said most of those still standing will remain.
Milan Dhruve (MD)	Combined Traffic Changes in 2025 Update - North East Link and Eastern Freeways <u>Presentation covered upcoming changes to Bulleen Road for 2025, including a weekend closure in May.</u>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	FF asked if the Doncaster Road citybound exit ramp is temporary. JL said it is temporary due to the four-metre height difference between the old and new Doncaster Road bridge.
	Combined Business and Community Engagement Update <u>Presentation covered business and community support, including window cleaning and local food vouchers, upcoming community events, enquiries and complaints, community initiatives and business engagement.</u>
Mia McMahon (MM)	North East Link Tunnels YT asked how providing vouchers to local businesses works. IZ said Spark promote local businesses to both workforce and local residents. JL said that the Doncaster area differs as there aren't local traders on the doorstep of the project like Spark.
	Eastern Freeways

Owner	Discussion
	FF asked if damage claims have risen since last meeting.
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	<p>JL said they are the highest since the project started but not higher than last month.</p> <p>FF asked how the sentiment amongst Koonung Creek Trail users is. FF added he sensed increased angst from users.</p> <p>JL said the project hasn't heard from trail users much so cannot provide an accurate insight.</p> <p>JC and JL said it's likely a common issue on all shared user paths as there is congestion between the different user groups.</p> <p>FF asked what insights are generally coming out of the health checks and touch points with local traders.</p> <p>JL said parking and customer impacts are top concerns for traders.</p> <p>FF raised concerns about project workers taking the parking spots of regular customers at businesses during lunch and coffee breaks.</p> <p>YT suggested the group investigate parking in the Aldi underground car park which has lots of available parking.</p>
<hr/> <p>Combined Environmental Update <u>Presentation covered Environmental Monitoring Summary.</u></p>	
Mia McMahon (MM)	<p>North East Link Tunnels</p> <p>MM explained different format of this presentation was based on the members' feedback.</p> <p>FF asked if the contact centre number is how most complaints are received.</p> <p>MM said complaints are mainly received through the contact centre. Complaints and enquiries are always responded to and formally closed out.</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	<p>Eastern Freeways</p> <p>FF asked if complaints decrease when pilling works stop and if the polymer has mitigated complaints relating to dust.</p> <p>JL said complaints decrease noticeably during holidays periods when there are no works occurring. When works increase other methods such as water carts are more effective to manage dust.</p>
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>AM said council consultation regarding parking within the six streets closest to the Project's Manningham worksite is complete. Permanent 'two-hour permit' restrictions will be implemented on both sides of these roads. The upcoming May council meeting will consider restrictions request for further streets in the broader area.</p> <p>CG raised concern for where workers will park instead.</p>

Owner	Discussion
	IZ said Council's plan is one way to address the issue and we'll update the approach to parking as restrictions change.
	FF asked if shuttle buses are still not an option.
	MM said the project is continuing to assess different areas and options for parking.
	FF said the Project could potentially use the Veneto car park during the day when it's not as busy.
	NM said workers are encouraged to look for alternative modes of transport such as carpooling, public transport and bike riding. They may now be more likely to take these up to avoid a long walk to site.
	CG raised parking concerns in Noelle Street and asked if workers are encouraged not to park there as well.
	IZ said workers are asked not to park on local streets. IZ added the new parking restrictions should help manage worker parking in this area.
	PM asked what Spark does to enforce parking restrictions.
	MM said Spark can't legally enforce parking restrictions - Council can enforce restrictions, however the team continues to encourage positive behaviours by regularly reminding workers of where they can and cannot park.
	PM asked how many accidents have been reported as a result of traffic congestion on smaller roads.
	IZ said he's aware of two accidents since the start of the year which resulted in minor vehicle damage.
	FF asked if the contract for Tram to Springvale Road has been awarded.
	JK said the contract has been awarded and will find out by next SBLG meeting if the Hoddle Street to Burke Road contract has been awarded.
	Action: JK/MH to report on status of Hoddle Street to Burke Road project contract by next SBLG meeting.
	JC closed the meeting, noting the next meeting is scheduled for June 17 and will be chaired by Leah Waymark.

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Update
SC25 3-1	Eastern Freeway to report on status of Hoddle Street to Burke Road project contract.	JK/MH	17/06/2025	