

16 May 2025



# Meeting Minutes

## Northern Community Liaison Group

Date	16/05/2025	Time	10am - 12pm
Chair	Leah Waymark	Meeting no.	3 of 2025
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Katy Sylvia

## Attendees

Attendees		Apologies	
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Leah Waymark (LW)	Chair	Wade Howell (WH)	Community Representative
Giselle James (GJ)	Community Representative	Tracey Varley (TVa)	Nillumbik Shire Council
Michelle Molinaro (MMo)	Community Representative	Steve Denton (SDe)	M80RRA
Stephen Paul (SP)	Community Representative		
Michelle Giovas (MG)	Community Representative		
Alan Hunter (AH)	Community Representative		
Andrew Mills (AM)	Community Representative		
Kathleen Petras (KP)	Banyule City Council		
Yuan Li (YL)	Department of Transport and Planning		
Kalyan Shrestha (KSh)	Department of Transport and Planning		
Katy Sylvia (KS)	NEL		
Josh Ribarich (JRi)	NEL		
Sam Doyle (SDo)	NEL		
Deanna Hadid (DH)	Spark		
James Hamilton (JH)	Spark		
Joson Joy (JJ)	Spark		
Wiebke Wenzel (WW)	MRPV		
Carlos Ibarra (CI)	M80RRA		

## Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC250-1	NEL and M80RRA to provide dust and air quality compliance update in next presentation.	Spark and M80RRA	16/05/2025	CLOSED	Information provided at 16/5 meeting

## Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Leah Waymark (LW)	Welcome and Outstanding Business
	<b>Introductions</b>
	<b>Outstanding short-term actions</b>
	NC250-1 – Provided in 16/5 meeting; action closed.
	<b>Long term actions reviewed.</b>
	Amended dates for future presentations in long term actions table.

Owner	Action
Sam Doyle (SD)	<p><b>IEA summary report</b></p> <p><u>Presentation covered IEA 6-month summary report May 2024-October 2024, the auditing process and summary of findings</u></p> <p>MG said it would be helpful if the case studies had the actions listed.</p> <p>SD said the case study is intended to provide context, and the full detail is available in the report which is published online.</p> <p>MG said if more information can be provided on the overview to the CLG members, they can pass it along to community groups and improve trust with the community.</p> <p>DH said the project responds directly to stakeholders who request more information.</p> <p>SD said the full report covers all actions, status, and what's been done. The project would like to provide more real-time information to these groups in the future.</p> <p>MG said she wants to see more responses to direct enquiries.</p> <p>SD said that is the intent of these overviews, and that current information being provided is a goal of the project.</p> <p>SP asked if the report could be timelier.</p> <p>SD said the project has already halved the time between report publishing and will continue to work to get them published sooner.</p>
James Hamilton (JH)	<p><b>Dust and air quality compliance</b></p> <p><u>Presentation covered dust and air quality management, Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs), and monitoring results for the North East Link Tunnels and M80 Ring Road areas.</u></p> <p>MG asked what the yellow mats are.</p> <p>JH answered they are Foreign Object Debris (FOD) system mats.</p> <p>MG asked how big stockpiles of dirt are.</p> <p>JH said the tunnels sites have limited room to store dirt and rock, and we do not have large stockpiles on site.</p> <p>DH stated that when a dust exceedance occurs, workers are alerted and works pause until it's resolved.</p>
Deanna Hadid (DH) James Hamilton (JH)	<p><b>North East Link Tunnels update</b></p> <p><u>Presentation covered worksite updates, tunnelling progress, Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) breakthrough and relaunch preparations, Lower Plenty Road widening works, Silk Street pedestrian bridge upgrade plans and community engagement.</u></p>

Owner	Action
	<p>SP asked when the next stage of tunnelling will start.</p> <p>DH said TBM tunnelling will recommence in the coming weeks.</p> <p>SP asked how long until the TBMs get to Bulleen.</p> <p>DH said the TBMs are expected to arrive in Bulleen by early 2026.</p> <p>GJ asked what construction activities are occurring within the tunnel.</p> <p>DH said construction activities include installation of culverts and services, smoke duct shafts and excavation of cross passage tunnels</p> <p>GJ asked what the approximate time frame of completion for those activities is.</p> <p>JH said it will be finished several months after the TBMs have completed their journey to Bulleen.</p> <p>GJ asked how often the project meets with Banyule City Council (BCC).</p> <p>DH said there are regular meetings between various parts of the project and BCC.</p> <p>SP said worker car parking in local streets is making it difficult for residents to get out of their driveways.</p> <p>DH said The Project is working closely with construction crews and council to manage parking impacts, regularly reminding workers of permitted areas and encouraging public transport use where practical. We continue to assess affected streets and support changes to improve local parking conditions.</p> <p>GJ said the traffic on Elder Street was a challenge, with banking up at the intersection lights.</p>
Carlos Ibarra (CI)	<p><b>M80 Ring Road Completion Update</b></p> <p><u>Presentation covered worksite updates, noise wall installation, Yando Street underpass construction, bridge beam installation, retaining wall construction, Watsonia Road landscaped bridge progress, recently completed Hurstbridge Line occupation works, Greensborough Road utilities relocation and community engagement.</u></p> <p>Referring to the Yando Street overpass, MG asked if it's the highest bridge in the project.</p> <p>CI said that it is not the highest, but that the new bridge which will connect traffic travelling to and from Diamond Creek will be the highest and the longest the longest in the project. Its dimensions are 420 metres in length and 21 metres at its highest point.</p> <p>MG asked what type of impacts the gas works will cause this weekend.</p> <p>CI said it will be a partial closure of the road during the day.</p> <p>MG asked if the project works with the police to address the graffiti issue on site.</p> <p>CI said the project is focused on making our site as secure as possible to address the graffiti.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>GJ noted the artist impression of the stairs to the pedestrian bridge show no handrail on one side and requested the design be altered to include railing on both sides. CI took question on notice and can confirm that there will be handrails on both sides</p> <p><b>ACTION: M80RR to provide updated design for Watsonia Road pedestrian bridge. We are in the process of updating the visualisation and will send it to the group at the next meeting.</b></p> <p>SP noted there are workers parking in Watsonia streets.</p> <p>CI said with new construction teams coming in and out of the project, it is a constant exercise to keep parking under control.</p> <p>GJ asked about Watsonia station roadway in the fenced off area on the station side of Greensborough Road and asked if this is the realignment of Greensborough Road. CI took the question on notice.</p> <p><b>ACTION: M80RR to provide update on the location of the next realignment of Greensborough Road.</b></p> <p>MG asked if the shuttle buses to the various worksites are being utilised and if their use has increased.</p> <p>CI said the shuttle buses were being used as part of a push to get the workforce to park in a way that reduces impact to local residents.</p> <p>MG asked if the buses operate 24/7.</p> <p>CI said it did during the Hurstbridge Rail occupation, but now they operate only during the day.</p> <p>MG noted it might be good to look at running them more often now.</p> <p>CI said Shuttle buses run during all periods of construction including night works.</p> <p>LW asked if there are multiple shuttles in operation.</p> <p>CI answered there is more than one and they run during peak work times.</p> <p><b>ACTION: M80RR to provide a breakdown of shuttle services to the worker parking area. The shuttle buses operate at the start, middle and end of every shift.</b></p>
Leah Waymark (LW)	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>GJ asked when the UDLP for Watsonia Station will be released.</p> <p>CI said the project is looking for a designer now, and once they are appointed, that would allow the project to have a clearer timeline. The UDLP is expected to be publicly exhibited towards the end of 2025, early 2026.</p> <p>GJ asked if the traffic conditions in Elder Street and other areas that have been mentioned in the UDLP process and if any outcomes can be made.</p> <p>DH said the Project consults with BCC and the Department of Transport and Planning, with feedback relayed to the Project's traffic teams. DH added there have been changes to traffic conditions in</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>response to community feedback in the past, though changes to major arterial roads take precedence over side streets in this case.</p> <p>MM noted the diversity in the work force.</p> <p>MG noted the data for community engagement is different between the last CLG minutes and the presentation on the day.</p> <p>JRi said the project will verify and update accordingly if needed.</p> <p><b>ACTION: NEL to check the details of engagement numbers and update if any inaccuracy. In future, the time periods will be included.</b></p> <p>AM complimented the Project and noted the work force are using the traffic lights and respecting road rules.</p> <p>SP asked if there are complaints about solar panels and dust from residents.</p> <p>DH said that where possible, we have previously arranged solar panel cleaning in response to these complaints.</p> <p>GJ thanked the previous minute taker for comprehensive understanding.</p>
Leah Waymark (LW)	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <p>N/A</p>

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC251-1	M80RR to provide updated design for Watsonia Road pedestrian bridge.	M80RR	20/6/25	Open	
NC251-2	M80RR to provide update on the location of the next realignment of Greensborough Road.	M80RR	20/6/25	Open	
NC251-3	M80RR to provide a breakdown of shuttle services to the worker parking area.	M80RR	20/6/25	Open	
NC251-4	NEL to check the details of engagement numbers and update if any inaccuracy. In future, the time periods will be included.	NEL	20/6/25	Open	

## Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
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## 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 2025	OPEN	NEL to present in Q3, 2025
NC243-6	Would like to know the figures of women and the gender balance in labouring roles and construction.	SM/KM	Q3 2024	OPEN	To be updated at next meeting

## Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
Q4	1 December	JC has requested actual v's modelling for noise and vibration to be presented in 2023	LM	LM to arrange JRo (Spark Environment Manager) to present when results available
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	M80RRA to present what goodwill offers will be available to residents	CI	Presentation to be given in future meeting

## Additional information - previous

North East Link tunnels Community Interactions February: 599	M80 Completion Community Interactions February-March: 1028
Enquiries/Comments: 143	Enquiries/Comments: 228
Project engagement and responses: 264	Project engagement and responses: 520
Complaints: 197	Complaints: 256
Positive Feedback: 5	Positive Feedback: 23

# Additional information - new

North East Link tunnels Community Interactions March- April: 1017	M80 Ring Road Completion Community Interactions March-April: 504
Enquiries/Comments: 270	Enquiries/Comments: 128
Project engagement and responses: 432	Proactive check-in: 140
Complaints: 305	Complaints: 213
Positive Feedback: 9	Positive Feedback: 23