

25 September 2025



Meeting Minutes

Southern Business Liaison Group

Date	2/09/2025	Time	5:30pm - 7:00pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	6 of 2025
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Niamh Kenny

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Nic Morton (NM)	NELP
Paul McMorran (PM)	Bulleen Art & Garden	Niamh Kenny (NK)	NELP
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Laing O'Rourke/EBTA	Renato Marnich (RM)	NELP
Mia McMahon (MM)	Spark	Liz Evans (LE)	NELP
Reza Nami (RN)	Spark	Tom Simper (TS)	NELP
Terry Zafiriou (TZ)	Greythorn Traders Association	Cam Giardina (CG)	Commercial Property Owner

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Soula Grouios (SG)	Arthurs Fish & Chips Bulleen	Shane Cutland (SC)	Manningham Council
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara Council	Andrea Lomdahl (AL)	Boroondara City Council
Frank Freschi (FF)	Veneto Club	Tim Sligo (TS)	Heidi Museum of Modern Art
Alison Tobias (AT)	Alot of Good Stuff	Yolanda Torrisi (YT)	Greythorn Traders Association

Sign up for updates
northeastlink.vic.gov.au



Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
N/A					

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Discussion
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Welcome and Introductions Acknowledgement of Country Acknowledged apologies, previous actions and new attendees
Liz Evans (LE)	Urban Design and Landscape Plan (UDLP) update <u>Presentation covered package award update, project partners, fly through video and Tram to Springvale UDLP</u> LE: As per presentation. JC: Asked what the usual noise decibel limits for the Eastern Freeway project are. JL: There is now a new limit of 58 decibels at night, previously no nighttime noise limit. TZ: Asked if the Tram to Springvale package of works is along the Eastern Freeway. LE: Yes, it is one of the three packages along the Eastern Freeway.
Mia McMahon (MM)	Combined Construction Update - North East Link Tunnels and Eastern Freeways <u>Presentation covered worksite updates, TBM tracker, Estelle, Heyington and Doncaster Bridge updates and noise walls.</u>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	North East Link Tunnels: MM: As per presentation. Eastern Freeways: JL: As per presentation. LE: Asked if the group have seen/heard advertising for the upcoming Eastern Freeway full closure. The group stated yes, on the news and radio. JC: Added a lot of people are unlikely to pay too much attention to the advertising around the closure until they are actually disrupted on the road. JL: Stated VMS signage will ramp up in the coming days, encouraged the group to sign up for SMS updates for quick updates and any late changes. JC: Asked if the project has noticed increased subscriber numbers following the advertising campaign. TS: Yes, a subscriber push prior to works commencing also contributed. JL: Stated more enquiries about where to find more information rather than complaints have been coming through recently. LE: Added the high-level messaging has been 'significant 90 minute delays' to encourage motorists to avoid the area as this approach has been successful in previous West Gate Tunnel Project campaigns. JC: Added that google maps is a useful tool for up-to-date delay times. LE: Agreed and advised the group of the upcoming M80 closures.

Owner	Discussion
Mia McMahon (MM)	Combined Traffic Changes in 2025 Update - North East Link Tunnels and Eastern Freeways <u>Presentation covered 2025 works lookahead, Bulleen September campaign and upcoming Eastern Freeway closures.</u>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	North East Link Tunnels: MM: As per presentation. Eastern Freeways: JL: As per presentation. CG: Asked if the existing Doncaster Road bridge is being replaced or just widened. JL: It will be a whole new bridge. Construction on the city side half is underway and once complete we'll shift traffic onto it whilst the existing bridge is demolished and the second half of the new bridge is built. JC: Asked what the reception amongst impacted stakeholders on Doncaster Road has been. JL: The response has been generally quite relaxed as this is the first full freeway closure and Doncaster Road is already very busy. Added businesses that operate on weekdays aren't impacted. Noted planning ahead and advertising the 90-minute delay time has been the focus. TZ: Asked how long the Doncaster Road outbound exit ramp will be closed and if the southbound ramp will close at some point too. JL: It will close for five weeks in November. The southbound ramp will not close because of how the Doncaster Road bridge will connect.
Reza Nami (RN)	Trader Support Update <u>Presentation covered recent examples of trader support.</u>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	North East Link Tunnels RM: As per presentation. Eastern Freeways JL: As per presentation.
Mia McMahon (MM)	Yarra Link Green Bridge - North East Link <u>Presentation covered ventilation structure overview and facts, timeline of what to expect, fly through video and renders.</u> MM: As per presentation. JC: Asked if the Yarra Link Green Bridge will have disability access. MM: Yes, there will be accessible ramps in certain locations. CG: Asked what the expected noise levels of the ventilation structure during operation will be. MM: Noted the design of the structure is in line with the project's Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs). LE: Added it depends on in internal fan system within the structure. TZ: Stated given the structures height of 51 metres, believes significant noise is unlikely.
Mia McMahon (MM)	Combined Community Engagement Update <u>Presentation covered upcoming community events and community engagement.</u> MM: As per presentation.

Owner	Discussion
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	JL: As per presentation.
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Open Forum PM: Asked if there is an update on the contamination of Banyule Creek. MM: No, Spark is still waiting on the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) report, and will provide an update once ready. PM: Asked when the September campaign around the Manningham Road lane reductions was planned, believes BAAG were only made aware of the closure two weeks ago. Added previous lookaheads covered only the Bulleen Road southbound closure. This makes it difficult to plan six months in advance for Spring and the September school holidays which is a very busy time for the business. Noted knowing the scope of works and whether they are overnight or a full weekend is very important. MM: Noted the Manningham southbound closure has been in the forecast for some time and flagged in the 2025 timeline in each meeting. Noted the detailed closure maps have been shared in the past few weeks upon being finalised. NM: Added, Spark is working on a similar 2026 lookahead, which will be provided shortly. Acknowledged it's difficult to give specific details several months in advance as plans can change. The project aims to find a balance between advance notice and accuracy of details. RM: Stated traders in Watsonia in a similar situation have been providing the project with a six month lookahead of their plans which has been helping. MM: Stated Spark will take the feedback on board and continue to provide the six-month lookaheads and acknowledged there is a lot happening across the different packages in Bulleen projects. CG: Stated the new two-hour parking restrictions are costing his business due to workers having to move their cars every two hours. Has consulted Hamid from Spark and Manningham Council but no resolution has been reached. Suggested implementing a work zone permit or documentation to display on workers cars. Believes Shane from Manningham Council said the approach would not be fair to the North East Link workers. Spark spoke to Shane from Manningham Council last week encouraging him to get in touch with Cam regarding some potential solutions. CM: Acknowledged the situation is different to resident parking and permits can't be issued for private commercial construction vehicles. MM: Noted Cam's concerns and has been discussing his request for permits with Manningham Council. Noted that Cam's parking for his commercial business would be prioritised over worker parking. Added Spark is focusing on rebuilding car parks within the worksite where feasible, with some new car parks opened near Bulleen Park recently, however acknowledged this doesn't change the signage issue for Cam. Action: Spark to pass on feedback to Manningham Council regarding private worker parking solution for CG TZ: Requested as much notice and signage as possible for the five-week Eastern Freeway Doncaster Road exit ramp closure to assist customers and workers heading towards Westfield shopping centre. Asked what the expected delay times will be and if the dates are fixed. JL: Detour maps outlining the specific detours and delay times will be produced and available for all retailers, staff and customers. Dates are not fixed, and details have not yet been released to the public. The project is working towards November. Potential for the works being pushed to 2026 is low as the goal is to shift traffic onto the new Doncaster Road bridge in December 2025. JC: Closed the meeting and noted the next meeting will be held 14 October.

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Update
SC25 6-1	MM to pass on feedback to Manningham Council regarding private worker parking solution for CG	Manningham Council	14/10/25	