

15 June 2023



Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	15/06/2023	Time	5.30 PM to 7.30 PM
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	4 of 2023
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Jacqueline Weedon

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical
Hesham Mobarek (HM)	Watsonia Pharmacy / Watsonia Traders Association	Sarah Maguire (SM)	Watsonia Traders Association
Renato Marnich (RM)	NELP	Matt Guest (MG)	Watsonia RSL
Hannah English (HE)	Spark	Michael Moloney (MM)	MTM
Adrian Carter (AC)	NELP	Jim Needham (JN)	NELP
Katy Sylvia (KS)	NELP	Joel Hargreaves (JH)	MTM
Kim Norton (KN)	AMA	Karl Erdmanis (KE)	Spark
Alana Fagan (AF)	NELP		

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Yvette Stanfield (YS)	Macleod Traders Association	Georgie Nathan (GN)	Nillumbik Shire Council
Collin Brooks MP (CB)	Member of Parliament	Erica Hardie (EH)	Banyule City Council
Luke Minton (LM)	Spark		

Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
1.5	RM to work with Banyule Council on the possibility of getting electronic message boards installed	RM	16.03.23	OPEN Will work with BCC to investigate a suitable solution	BCC met with WTA 06.07.23. The Committee will investigate some options and provide options ASAP.
3.2	Update on how many businesses have taken up the Small Business Mentoring offer	AC	12.06.23	OPEN RM to advise at next meeting	CLOSED RM presented on 15.06.23

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p>Welcome and outstanding business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed the Northern Business Liaison Group attendees • Introduced new presenters Karl Erdmanis, Joel Hargreaves and Michael Moloney • Introduced agenda items • Apologies noted • Addressed previous meeting's actions as above.
Jim Needham (JN) Kim Norton (KN) Joel Hargreaves (JH) Michael Moloney (MM)	<p><u>Northern Package Update</u></p> <p>Presentation covered high level timeline of Ring Road completion (RRC) works, proposed RRC site compounds and site investigations.</p> <p>JC: Is contact award running to schedule? <i>JN: Yes, the evaluation is running on schedule, we are on track to award the contract in the second half of the year.</i></p> <p>JR: Is the RRC described as Plenty Rd through to the tunnel? <i>KN: Yes, that's correct, it was previously referred to as the Northern Package.</i></p> <p>HM: The slide showing major works in 2024, the timeline is very high level, very vague and it's been this way for four years now and we are still unable to have a two-way conversation, the last meeting was one way and it's not good enough. JC: Presumably when the contract is awarded it's done on the interpretation of the reference design then the UDLP is exhibited. JN: Yes, that's correct</p> <p>HM: I see the signing of the contract to be a delay tactic and excuse, there is nothing to stop us having a conversation. A conversation could educate us on why things need to be done certain way. As major stakeholders, we are concerned that we will only get access to the UDLP 24 hours prior to it going public which is not good enough.</p> <p><u>Rail Works Update</u></p> <p>Presentation covered rail works update, further rail disruptions throughout 2023, buses replacing trains plans, how disruptions are communicated to passengers.</p> <p>JC: What does T-4/T-3 mean? <i>JH: How many weeks out.</i></p> <p>MG: Are there works happening now or will these works will be part of ongoing works? People get upset when they can't get to the footy on the weekend. MM: The works being presented today are specific to NELP, works next year could be attributed to MTM infrastructure works or AMA long term NELP works.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>MG: Technically they are all part of the NELP works? JN: Yes, a lot of these works are to prepare for the widening of the roadway over the Hurstbridge Line and next year there will be works to extend the tunnel. Current works are the prework for this. MTM will present at these meetings as works are coming up.</p> <p>MM: A lot of occupations are planned well in advance and depending on certain events such as the AFL Grand Final and Derby Day etc arrangements will be made to try and mitigate the impact to passengers.</p> <p>JR: This is all exploration at the moment, when the extension for the rail tunnel is being built is that likely to be 10 days or 5 weeks of work for example? JN: The planning is still underway but we can anticipate disruptions will be longer than the weekends.</p> <p>JR: The removal of the railcrossing at Macleod is there any ETA of when these works may happen? MM: The development team will be starting to work on that and we don't have a ETA of when these works will happen at the moment. JN: From memory it says it will be removed by 2027, we will have LXP in to present when appropriate.</p>
<p>Hannah English (HE)</p> <p>Karl Erdmanis</p>	<p><u>Trader Engagement</u></p> <p>Presentation covered Macleod Trader impact assessments, worksite 'Spend and Win' activation for staff shopping at Watsonia and Macleod and recent work with traders in Watsonia.</p> <p>HM: Who is eligible for the 'spend and win' activity? HM: The Spark workforce, when the spend over \$10 they put their receipt in the box and a winner is drawn from there.</p> <p>HM: Whats the prize? HE: A \$50 visa voucher</p> <p>MG: Can Macleod and Watsonia have a separate draw? HE: I think we can consider tailoring it in future competitions</p> <p>JC: Will AMA run a similar campaign? KN: Yes, we are looking at continuing a lot of the initiatives that have been running.</p> <p><u>Works Update</u></p> <p>KE worked through an aerial video of the site stopping at various points to discuss aspects of the construction site and works. Provided timeline of key activities through to September at Watsonia and Yallambie sites.</p> <p>JR: How many trucks is that per day is 6000 cubic metres of dirt? KE: It will vary depending on what works are being done. The peak will be approx. 10 times the amount of truck movements that are occurring now which is a truck every 4-5 minutes on a normal day shift. JC: How tall is the TBM? KE: It's 15.6 meters (three storey building).</p> <p>JC: How far down is the launch box? KE: Roughly 23 – 25 metres.</p> <p>HM: What is the big metal structure being built in the corner of Yallambie and Greensborough Roads? KE: That is the storage shed for the concrete segments for the TBM.</p> <p>JR: The box at Lower Plenty Road, is that a permanent design or just for servicing the TBM when it breaks through? KE: It is part of the permanent design</p> <p>JR: As the TBM keeps going to Bulleen can the permanent works be done whilst the TBM is working and dirt is still being fed back up to the conveyor? KE: We can do a lot of work around it while the TBM keeps going.</p> <p>MG: Are the works currently on or ahead of time? KE: We are on target to launch the TBM in May 2024.</p> <p>JR: Did the earthquake cause any problems? KE: No, it didn't trigger any onsite alarms.</p> <p>JC: How much progress do you expect to make a day once the TBM is launched? KE: 10- 15 metres a day. The concrete segments are approx. 2 metres wide and approx. five rings patterns will be built per shift if no issues arise.</p> <p>JC: People don't understand what bentonite is. KS: There is a fact sheet being developed.</p>
<p>Renato Marnich (RM)</p>	<p><u>North East Community Fund Round Two</u></p> <p>Presentation included overview of what the fund is and timelines, focus for round two, funding categories and overview, support available to applicants.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>SM: Can the money be spent for all of 2024? <i>RM: I will give you a copy of the Guidelines.</i></p> <p>MG: I don't see how this can help businesses. <i>JR: I can and have a couple of ideas.</i></p> <p>MG: We need ongoing marketing to get people to Watsonia not a one off event. Where are the businesses involved? <i>RM: I think there are opportunities for business, it is not specifically a business support mechanism.</i></p> <p>HM: It's an opportunity to engage with community groups and this can draw them to our businesses.</p> <p>MG: I already engage with a lot of community groups. <i>KS: You could host an event for a group that has been awarded funding. RM: Marie is the best one to advise and can guide you. I think there is opportunity for businesses but it's not necessarily for business.</i></p> <p>SM: Would like longer timelines, it may be daunting for businesses to apply as they may need permits etc. <i>JC: They could do a smaller project this year and plan a bigger one for the year after as the fund will be opened once a year for the life of is for the life of the project.</i></p> <p>SM: Would like to see a six month lead up to the opening of the grants applications. The way things are at the moment my mind is on survival not what I can do in 12 months time.</p> <p>JC: Is there a date that activities need to be completed by? <i>JW: I believe it is within 12 months of award. (This is confirmed after checking the Guidelines.)</i></p>
<p>Renato Marnich (RM)</p>	<p>Trader Engagement Update Presentation included Trader photography and business mentoring offers, NELP Trader Engagement update.</p> <p>HM: Can you register online for the photography offer? <i>RM: It's not quite ready but I can forward the details of businesses that are interested.</i></p> <p>HM: Will business be informed once the online registration form is ready? <i>RM: Yes, Traders will be sent a QR code via email to register and we are also developing a flyer that has the photography and available business mentoring services available.</i></p> <p>HM: Has there been interest in the photography? <i>RM: Yes and I also have a list of eligible businesses that have completed their Trader Engagement Surveys.</i></p> <p>HM: So the photography have already started? <i>RM: Yes, I will send SM the list of eligible businesses.</i></p>
<p>Jeni Coutts (JC)</p>	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Open Forum</p> <p>JR: Is concerned increase in traffic using Watsonia Road may deter people from shopping at Watsonia. Would like traffic counts done as he is concerned that this will get worse when works commence again on Greensborough Rd. He would like to see mitigation strategies being developed before people using Watsonia Road as an alternative becomes an issue.</p> <p>JC: Is this the best time to have these meetings? <i>SM: Yes, it's easier for those with kids. JC: Ok, we will leave the meeting time as is, please ensure you respond to the meeting invite for catering reasons.</i></p> <p>RM: Is the NELP Hub part of the Watsonia Traders Association? <i>SM: Not officially, you don't pay a special rate,</i></p> <p>JR: Banyule City Council (BCC) is potentially looking at changing how Traders Associations work, the definition of who is eligible may change. KS: To include more traders? SM: It may be a different model, BCC operates on 'special rate' where other councils may operate on schemes or precincts etc. RM: I may reach out to BCC</p> <p>SM: They are trialling a different way of running it now.</p> <p>Next Business Liaison Group North Meeting: 10 August 2023</p> <p>JC thanked the group and presenters for attending and closed the meeting at 7:15pm.</p>

Actions - new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date raised	Topic	Owner	Status
Q4	16.03.23	Presentation on parking solution for southern end of Watsonia shopping strip	RM	NELP Traffic Team is working on this and there will be a presentation to this group when information is available.