

31 October 2024



Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	31/10/2024	Time	5:30 - 7:30pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	7 of 2024
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Emma Miller

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Mark Minahan (MM)	Watsonia RSL
Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical/Watsonia Traders Association	Deanna Hadid (DH) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations	Spark
Damian Percy (DP) Director	Spark	Steve Denton (SD) Interface Zone (Watsonia) Construction Manager	AMA
Renato Marnich (RM) Trader Engagement Specialist	NEL	Enrique Castillo (EC)	AMA
Katy Sylvia (KS) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Tunnels	NEL	Carlos Ibarra (CI) Senior Community Relations Manager	AMA
Adrian Carter (AC) Acting Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL	Melissa Doolan (MD) Trader Engagement Manager	AMA
Emma Miller (EM) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NEL	Paul Raworth (PR) South Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA
Sean Carroll (SC) Trader Advisor	AMA	Jo McAuliffe (JMA)	Banyule City Council

Apologies

Sign up for updates
northeastlink.vic.gov.au



Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jim Needham (JN)	NEL	Nadine Wooldridge (NW)	Banyule City Council
Hesham Mobarek (HM)	Watsonia Pharmacy/ Watsonia Traders Association	Yvette Stanfield (YS)	Macleod Traders Association
Tania Treasure (TT)	Nillumbik Shire Council	Alex Chan (AC) Senior Project Engineer	Spark
Brett Kavanagh (BK) North Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA	Matt Guest (MG) General Manager	Watsonia RSL
Amy Harris (AH) Economic Development Coordinator	Banyule City Council		

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgment of country Guest presenters introduced Update on project staff Acknowledged apologies All short-term actions were reviewed
Renato Marnich (RM)	<p>Trader Engagement Update</p> <p>RM gave an overview of businesses engagement for M80 including dust mitigation, business support and other enquiries received by traders. RM also spoke to:</p> <p>Trader Engagement on Watsonia Rd, Lower Plenty Rd and utilities works Dust mitigation including but not limited to mist canons, truck wash, sprayed concrete cover, polymer spray, watercarts, hydroseeding.</p> <p>Question from SD: What is hydroseeding? Question from JC: Is hydroseeding same as used to stop land erosion? Answered by DP: Yes</p> <p>RM spoke further to other dust mitigation in detail cross-project and rail occupation in October including Surprise and Delight activities at Heidelberg and Eltham stations.</p>
Damian Percy (DP) Deanna Hadid (DH)	<p>Spark Update</p> <p>DP gave update to Spark timeline and tunnelling progress. Noted they have found Aboriginal artefacts on site. Other topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using repurposed timber for bridges Video and progress on site including tunnelling, on and off ramps and additional lanes Noted they've reached the base where the TBM launched at 40 metres deep. Minimising impact to noise using specialty materials and products to break rocks at certain times of the day to minimise construction noise

Owner

- Acoustic Spoil Shed at Winsor Reserve and ongoing removal of excavated materials – 14,000 tonnes per day being removed
- Watsonia Site and how concrete segments are delivered to TMB 'Zelda' and lifted into place
- The concrete segments are 480 millimetres thick and 3 metres long, 2.6 metres wide

Question from JMA: How heavy would they be?

Answered by DP: approx. 14 or 15 tonnes

DP continued to speak to:

- First tunnel excavated at SPARK, waterproofing and how concrete sets around foundations
- Tower crane – 62metres in the air and is the tallest crane on the project at Blamey Rd site

Lower Plenty site, excavation and formwork to build the base of the tunnel

Deanna Hadid (DH)

Community Engagement

DH spoke to how far the TBM has progressed, car parking, Eel Bridge design, and support and ongoing engagement for increased night works at Lower Plenty.

DH spoke to trader activities and engagement with *The Gold Standard Barber* and *Macleod Dental*, offering designed flyers, posters and promotional business cards, and window cleaning.

Sean Carroll (SC)

M80 Ring Road Update

Renato Marnich (RM)

SC spoke to enquiries and complaints including:

Trader engagement in the Interface zone, carparking including signage and hoarding

Trader feedback with Watsonia Road traders going a bit fast into the slip lane and putting up signage to reduce speed

Window washing organised at businesses twice per week

Business support packages to assist with traffic changes and road realignment.

RM spoke to:

Offset carpark, with appetite from Banyule to enforce car parking in the carpark and currently working on an agreement.

Question from MM: Bank up of traffic at the Watsonia Road roundabout wanting to turn left onto Greensborough Hwy, limited access with congestion backing up during peak time from 3pm to 7pm.

ACTION: M80 to investigate traffic bank up on Watsonia Rd during peak times limiting access to centre and causing congestion and whether anything can be done to improve the situation.

Comment from JR: Access and footpath in the carpark is steep, difficult to access with three roads to cross. The carpark is not suitable for elderly people and usability limitations.

Answered by SD: Conflicting paths and environment protection zone.

Statement from JR: Limits usability but in favour of publicising the carpark to encourage local use. Noted council stated signage isn't compliant.

SC continued and spoke to Zone 2 with businesses along Greensborough Road (6 traders) and on Hobson Street.

Map showing traffic movements to access traders

Trader Impact Assessment complete to understand limitations and trader requirements and needs moving forward

Window washing organised at businesses twice per week.

Owner

Enrique Castillo (EC)

UDLP Update

EC spoke to comments addressed during UDLP engagement and community concerns and amenity, connectivity, and justification of design and upgrade including:

- Ongoing conversations with council and stakeholders taking into consideration community feedback
- UDLP development steps and now major construction can begin and public exhibition snapshot
- 'What we heard from the community' including architecture and landscape design, open space, resident and trader submissions
- Each zone design in detail including upgrades to infrastructure, landscape, and connectivity
- Next steps post UDLP approval including Watsonia Station carpark UDLP when it begins.

Comment from MM: Lots of graffiti at the moment on the bridges

Answered by EC: Noted graffiti and the new design will limit areas for graffiti

Question from JR: after the UDLP carpark engagement session, JR is concerned with the number of carparks planned to build don't satisfy EPR requirements at the start of the project. Would like to know how many car parks are planned as it looks like a reduction in carparking.

ACTION: WTA would like an official response on the carparking reflected in the UDLP.

Steve Denton (SD)

Carlos (CI)

Interface Zone Update

SD spoke to construction and activities at:

- Elder Street upcoming works to build a new signalised intersection, noting traffic into the intersection at all times and majority of works will occur behind barriers.
- 56 Super T Beams to be installed, first set to be delivered next week overnight. Construction of beams throughout December.

North Zone Update

SD spoke to north zone update, tree removal, noise wall installation, piling works, fencing, and upcoming ramp closures

Question from JR: How many lanes of traffic on the M80 Ring Road, and will there be emergency lanes?

Answered by SD: 10 lanes and yes there will be emergency lanes

Zone (2) Update

SD spoke to utilities, upcoming rail works, AK Lines light commissioning date.

Videos - M80 works update and Grimshaw Street bridge.

Jeni Coutts (JC)

Katy Sylvia (KS)

Renato Marnich (RM)

Jeremy Richards (JR)

Other business

JC: Timing of NBLG and expanding group

- **ACTION:** RM to follow up in the next NBLG with timing options, member expansion plans and meeting methods (online etc).

JC: Would like a site tour and then a brief meeting after the tour prior to next BLG

- **ACTION:** Spark/M80 to organise site tour prior to next meeting.

JR: Would like to be taken through likely disruptions for Watsonia Rd Bridge to understand impacts well before works begin.

- **ACTION:** M80 to take WTA through likely disruptions for Watsonia Rd Bridge to understand impacts well before works begin

Owner

JR: Que JR: Queries around auditing process for carpark EPRs and no real answers to why it didn't happen. – Auditor response to action is unsatisfactory as carparking is an important issue for traders. Would like to know if the station carpark will have a satisfactory number of carparks.

RM: Continuing to raise actions in meetings to document and in other trader meetings as have done so before.

JR: Is there any other way we can raise EPR for carpark other than just in meeting minutes?

ACTION: NEL to advise how WTA can raise concerns about EPR for carparking other than just in meeting minutes.

MM: Possible to get support for VMS signage on 11 November for Remembrance Day ceremony.

CI: Will take on action as a project and Mark to provide past examples of VMS signage to RM.

- **ACTION: RM** to investigate **Watsonia RSL** request for VMS signage support to promote their Remembrance Day event.

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
6.1	AMA to create and drop an offset trader car park map to traders	Sean Carroll	31/10/24	CLOSED	
6.2	NEL to determine what further information, if any, can be provided on the assessment of the EPR discussed.	Katy Sylvia	31/10/24	CLOSED	
6.3	Spark & NEL to provide feedback to traffic teams and provide an update on the Yallambie Roads lights sequencing.	Deanna Hadid Katy Sylvia	31/10/24	CLOSED	Limited capacity to signalise signals – DTP gives priority to major arterials.
6.4	Interface Zone of the M80 works to be reviewed first in future NBLG meetings.	M80	31/10/24	CLOSED	
6.5	M80 to investigate traffic bank up on Watsonia Rd during peak times limiting access to centre and causing congestion and whether anything can be done to improve the situation.		05/12/2024	OPEN	
6.6	WTA would like an official response on the carparking reflected in the UDLP		05/12/2024	OPEN	
6.7	RM to follow up in the next NBLG with timing options, member expansion plans and meeting methods (online etc)		05/12/2024	OPEN	
6.8	Spark/M80 to organise site tour prior to next meeting		05/12/2024	OPEN	
6.9	M80 to take WTA through likely disruptions for Watsonia Rd Bridge to		05/12/2024	OPEN	

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
	understand impacts well before works begin				
7.0	NEL to advise how WTA can raise concerns about EPR for carparking other than just in meeting minutes		05/12/2024	OPEN	
7.1	RM to investigate Watsonia RSL request for VMS signage support to promote their Remembrance Day event		05/12/2024	OPEN	

Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
1.5	WTA	WTA to work with Banyule Council on the possibility of getting electronic message boards installed	BCC met with WTA 06.07.23. The Committee will investigate some options and provide options ASAP. 21.09.23: ON HOLD - Will revisit Q1 2024
7.5	JN	JN to advise when the details for any planned Watsonia Station car park upgrades will be known	

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2024	09.11.23	Timeline of works for M80 completion to be presented	JN	Will be presented once UDLP approved

Additional information

NA