

21 September 2023



# Meeting Minutes

## Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	21/09/2023	Time	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	6 of 2023
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Jacqueline Weedon

## Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Kim Norton (KN)	AMA
Sarah Maguire (SM)	Watsonia Traders Association (WTA)	Martin Laidler (ML)	Melbourne Business Photography
Josh Ribarich (JRi)	NELP	Joe Piasecki (JP)	Spark
Matt Guest (MG)	Watsonia RSL	Hesham Mobarek (HM)	Watsonia Pharmacy/ WTA
Renato Marnich (RM)	NELP	Jim Needham (JN)	NELP
Hannah English (HE)	Spark	Karl Erdmanis (KE)	Spark
Adrian Carter (AC)	NELP	Shondelle Mathews (SMa)	Spark

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Georgie Nathan (GN)	Nillumbik Shire Council	Katy Sylvia (KS)	NELP
Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical / WTA	Luke Minton (LM)	Spark
Yvette Stanfield (YS)	Macleod Traders Association	Maria Cogger (MC)	Banyule City Council
Colin Brooks MP (CB)	Member of Parliament		

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# Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>Introduced new presenters: Shondelle Mathews, Martin Laidler and Joe Piasecki</p>
Shondelle Mathews (SMA)	<p><b>Spark Presentation including promotional initiatives, custom marketing brochure development, 'shop local' gawk screens with Watsonia Shops branding to be installed in September and upcoming Hub open day with catering supplied by local traders.</b></p>
Hannah English (HE)	<p><b>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 January 2024 at Watsonia and Yallambie sites.</b></p>
Karl Erdmanis (KE)	<p>HE: The night of the conveyor lift there will be a road closure at Lower Plenty Road and Grimshaw St for one night and also some local access detours. Traffic modelling shows that this is the best way to manage traffic to minimise detrimental impacts on traders.</p>
Joe Piasecki (JP)	<p><b>MG: It's been a dry winter, has this allowed you to get ahead of schedule?</b> KE: The program is created with the expectation of dry weather, which is why we tend to lose time when it's wet. At this point we are on schedule.</p> <p><b>HM: Is the TBM still expected to start in May 2024?</b> KE: Yes</p> <p><b>MG: Does NELP have a Facebook page?</b> SM, Yes,</p> <p><b>JR - is any geotargeting being done about the road closure for the conveyor lift?</b> JRi: My understanding is no</p> <p>SMA: We would appreciate if you share any feedback you hear.</p> <p><b>MG: Once the substation is turned on for the TBM do you expect any power disruptions in the area?</b> KE: No, we don't expect any disruptions</p> <p><b>MC: Do the TBMs both start at Watsonia?</b> KE: Yes.</p> <p>KE left the meeting at 6.21pm</p>
	<p><b>Presentation on social impact including social procurement and employment initiatives.</b></p> <p>KN: AMA will also be delivering social impact initiatives as these are a standard inclusion in Government contracts</p> <p>JP left the meeting at 6.36pm</p>
Jim Needham (JN)	<p><b>North package update including works update, October rail disruptions and UDLP explainer</b></p>
Kim Norton (KN)	<p><b>HM: Is there a date the UDLP will be available yet?</b> KN: It will be mid - late October</p> <p><b>SM: Will there be evening sessions of the UDLP Exhibition?</b> KM: No, these weren't very well attended last time so the Hub will be open 10am - 5pm Monday - Friday and 10am - 2pm on Saturdays during the exhibition period.</p> <p><b>HM: Has there been pre-engagement with other stakeholders other than with Council and Watsonia Traders Association (WTA)?</b> KM: There have been other engagements and these will be listed in the incorporated documents.</p> <p><b>Post WTA - North Package Workshop Feedback</b></p> <p><b>HM: Is disappointed that although NELP and WTA met in February, feedback has not been taken on board - NELP is clearly not meeting its obligations to the UDS and I am yet to receive a response to my email regarding this. We have been asking for more than six months to be consulted and shown detail of the design. How are you meeting the UDS? We needed to have decision makers in the room at the last workshop to make an impact.</b> KN: We set up the workshop using the roll plot to encourage discussion and gather feedback on the design - we need a starting point, otherwise, how can we effectively consult?</p> <p><b>HM: It shouldn't be us telling you that you aren't meeting the UDS requirements.</b> KN: We believe our design does meet the UDS.</p> <p><b>HM: We would like to have a workshop where we can respond.</b> JN: We have received your email and are compiling the information to respond, including responses to the points raised in the workshop.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p><b>HM: And the detail of the UDLP for the station carpark is still to come.</b> JN: The Station car park will form part of a separate UDLP - this is consistent with other UDLPs we have done in the <b>past</b>, e.g. Bulleen Park and Ride. We don't want to provide a UDLP that may preclude parts of the station such as access to the station and Watsonia Town Square.</p> <p><b>HM: Who will respond to our concerns?</b> JN: Either myself or another member of the team will respond, we currently have several members of the team pulling a response together, including Designers and Project Directors.</p> <p><b>HM: Can you see how Watsonia feels cheated? After 4-5 years of engagement all we've seen are green bridges, I feel we have gone backwards on the Elder Street bridge. Further along Greensborough Rd they have very good connectivity where it's not required.</b> JN: We can have another workshop session to discuss where you think we are not meeting the UDS. KN: We also didn't get to the last slide during the workshop, which specified where we've included WTAs Advocacy Report priorities - please read this when you receive the pack from the workshop.</p> <p><b>SMA left the meeting at 6:59pm</b></p>
Martin Laidler (ML)	<p><b>Presentation on NELP Trader Photography offer including the offer, process and examples of various styles of images</b></p> <p><b>HM: Has there been much interest from Watsonia traders?</b> RM: At this stage it's been fairly low, a few have booked then cancelled.</p> <p><b>ML: There has been some interest but this has dropped off, hopefully as the benefits of the offer are communicated more traders will take the offer up.</b> RM: Small business owners are often time poor which makes it difficult for them to book. To encourage members of trader associations they are eligible to take up the offer without completing the trader survey.</p> <p><b>HM: Have most traders on Watsonia been surveyed?</b> RM: Yes they have. HM: Some traders have taken up the offer when needing content for flyers. ML: I'm also flexible with booking times.</p>
	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <p><b>NA</b></p> <p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <p><b>HM: What are the dates for Watsyvania this year?</b> SM: 27-28 October</p> <p>Next meeting 9 November</p> <p>Thanked NBLG members and presenters and closed the meeting at 7:20pm.</p>

## Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
5.1	RJ to provide SM with soft copy of a summary of what was presented and the QR code	RJ	21.09.23	CLOSED	Provided to SM
6.1	JW to send QR codes for MBP with minutes	JW	09.11.23	CLOSED	Included with minutes
6.2	Who will respond to HM email?	JN	09.11.23	OPEN	

## Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
1.5	WTA	RM 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


## Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
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.


## Additional information

QR codes to book Trader Photography:

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