

5 December 2024



# Meeting Minutes

## Northern Community Liaison Group

Date	22/11/2024	Time	10am - 12pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	8 of 2024
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Wiebke Wenzel

## Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Chair	Deanna Hadid (DH)	Spark
Giselle James (GJ)	Community Representative	Nani Clark (NC)	Spark
Stephen Paul (SP)	Community Representative	Beau Daley Roberts (BDR)	Spark
Michelle Giovas (MG)	Community Representative	Caroline Barker (CB)	Spark
Mick Marcevski (MMa)	Department of Transport and Planning	Carlos Ibarra (CI)	M80RRA
Lohith Tsavatapalli (LT)	Banyule City Council	Steve Denton (SDe)	M80RRA
Sam Doyle (SDo)	MRPV	Brett Kavanagh (BK)	M80RRA
Wiebke Wenzel (WW)	MRPV	Paul Raworth (PR)	M80RRA
Josh Ribarich (JR)	MRPV		
Scott Lambert (SL)	MRPV		

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Andrew Mills (AM)	Community Representative	Jonathan Risby (JRis)	Banyule City Council
Alan Hunter (AH)	Community Representative	Kathleen Petras (KP)	Banyule City Council
Wade Howell (WH)	Community Representative	Nicole Anderson (NA)	Spark
Michelle Molinaro (MMo)	Community Representative		

## Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC242-3	Between Grimshaw Street and Watsonia Road - traffic is banking up more than it used to maybe due to traffic signals on Grimshaw Street giving more green time to the traffic going on Grimshaw street than Greensborough Highway	LW/GC	26.04.24	OPEN	Update to be provided by email to group members.
NC246-2	NEL to investigate whether a site tour for NCLG members before Christmas is feasible.	SDo (JR)	11.10.2024	CLOSED	Site tour scheduled for 2 December, 2024
NC247-1	M80RRA to investigate potential excess dirt on road near the end of M80 Ring Road and deploy street sweepers in area if required.	BK	22.11.2024	CLOSED	Street sweepers are deployed daily, and twice per week at night for areas identified as difficult to access (M80 Ring Road and Greensborough Bypass, near Plenty River Bridge).
NC247-2	M80RRA to investigate speed limit advisory sign near the bridge along Greensborough Bypass, near Plenty River Drive, and whether it needs to be changed.	BK	22.11.2024	CLOSED	Road safety audits completed and noted this area was compliant. The audit noted that some signage was obscured so sightlines have been cleared.
NC242-1	MG: Asks what is the percentage of greenhouse gas emissions for the entire NEL Project?	RH	Q3 2024	OPEN	Update to be provided in Q1 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	Update to be provided in Q1 2025

## Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Jeni Coumts (JC)	<p><b>Welcome and Outstanding Business</b></p> <p><u>Introductions (new attendees)</u>            Beau Daley Roberts (Spark)            Lohith Tsavatapalli (Banyule City Council)</p> <p><u>Outstanding short-term actions</u>  <b>NC246-2</b> - JC: Site tour has been booked for 2 December 2024, action is now closed.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p><b>NC247-1:</b> Street sweepers are deployed daily, and twice per week at night for areas identified as difficult to access (M80 Ring Road and Greensborough Bypass, near Plenty River Bridge). Action is now closed.</p> <p><b>NC247-2:</b> Road safety audits completed and noted this area was compliant. The audit noted that some signage was obscured so sightlines have been cleared. This action is now closed.</p> <p><b>NC242-3:</b> Email update to be provided to the group.</p> <p><u>Future presentations:</u></p> <p><b>VPS overview:</b> JR provided a brief explanation outlining eligibility for the Voluntary Purchase Scheme (VPS), progress of scheme rollout and assessment process. Due to the confidential nature of the scheme, a full presentation will not be given and this has been removed from the list of future presentations. For any further enquiries relating to VPS and eligibility, residents can call the project team on 1800 105 105.</p>
Deanna Hadid (DH)	<p><b>North East Link tunnels update</b></p> <p><b>Presentation covered 3-month lookahead, drone footage, worksite updates, community engagement, and recent engagement activities including community events.</b></p>
Beau Daley Roberts (BDR)	<p>SP asked how far the TBMs have tunnelled. TBM 1 (Zelda) is approximately 700m into tunnelling, while TBM 2 (Gillian) is approximately 500m along.</p> <p>GJ asked if the TBMs will dig under the excavated area at the Lower Plenty Road site. TBMs will go through the excavated area and will be visible from ground level.</p> <p>SP asked when the TBMs will break through at the Lower Plenty Road site. This is expected to occur in March/April 2025.</p> <p>JC asked what was the nature of the compliments received by the project. The compliments focused on the team's complaint management procedures.</p> <p>SP asked how worker parking on local streets was being managed, and whether the measures were effective. DH said that progress has been made and the project is continuing to work with Banyule City Council to manage the issue.</p> <p>MG asked about sediment runoff at the Yando Street drain and Kalparrin Gardens, and whether a report could be provided to the group. SDo said there were strict requirements for the project around impacts to waterways, and that sites are regularly inspected to ensure compliance. SDo added that any non-compliances are identified in monthly audits and summarised in the biannual IEA report, which is publicly available.</p> <p>MG asked what controls have been implemented to minimise dust which finds its way into the waterways. DH said that the project has increased the frequency of street sweeping and use of water carts and are spraying polymer on exposed surfaces. SDo added that a response had previously been provided to MG and that the project is liaising with relevant authorities to ensure they are compliant, with no detrimental impact detected in recent audits (compared to pre-project baselines). MG requested further information to be provided on what tools are used to control sediment runoff.</p> <p><b>Action: Information to be provided about the tools that are in place to control sediment runoff.</b></p> <p>MG said that the Kangaroo Management Plan (KMP) was not effective due to multiple recent kangaroo sightings near the project. SDo said that kangaroos are prevalent in urban areas in the north-east. This is why the KMP exists and why sightings are not necessarily a sign that it is not effective. SP suggested information about the number of kangaroo injuries and fatalities on site would be useful. SDe said that incident reports are completed, however they only include animals located by workers.</p>

Owner	Action
-------	--------

**Action: Information to be provided about kangaroo injuries and fatalities on site.**

GJ asked about the choice in location for pop-up markets (for example, Kingsbury Market). DH said Kingsbury Market is an established market, led by Darebin Council. JR added the due to the market's location, the engagement rate from locals is quite high.

Brett Kavanagh (BK)	<p><b>M80 Update</b></p> <p><b>Presentation covered engagement activities, drone footage, 6-month lookaheads, trader update and community engagement.</b></p>
Paul Raworth (PR)	<p>JC asked about the nature of compliments received by the project. It was explained that the majority were related to addressing workforce parking issues. Construction managers have implemented 'no project parking' signage in some areas and reinforcing requirements with site supervisors.</p>
Steve Denton (SDe)	<p>SP asked where the project's noise complaints were coming from, given the baseline level of noise for residents living near the M80 Ring Road. CI said that the noise complaints were construction related, however the source of the complaint depends on the area and activity. BK added that whilst no exceedances of construction noise have been identified, some nearby residents may perceive an increase in noise after noise wall and tree removal, as they feel more exposed to construction activities.</p>
Carlos Ibarra (CI)	<p>JC asked when the next major Hurstbridge Line occupation would take place. It begins on 1 February 2025.</p> <p>SP asked whether the retaining wall along Service Road was permanent or temporary. SDe advised that the retaining wall is permanent and will support the future southbound arterial road.</p> <p>GJ asked about where the upcoming sewer relocation in Watsonia was being relocated from. SDe clarified that the sewer line runs between Watsonia Road and Rasheda Street and will be diverted under the eventual decline structure. GJ asked if this area will have any other utility service relocations. It was confirmed that gas, telecommunications and power will be relocated in this area.</p> <p>MG asked how close the permanent noise wall will be from residents along the M80 Ring Road, Altonabound (near Edmund Rice Parade). BK said that the wall will be located 5m from the rear property boundary.</p> <p>SP asked what will be built in the 5m section between the noise wall and property boundary. BK shared that the space would contain a maintenance access track to allow noise wall maintenance to be carried out without needing to close lanes on the M80 Ring Road.</p>

Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>JC reminded members to RSVP to the end of year site tour.</p> <p>JC asked when the end of year construction shutdown period was taking place. BK advised that the last working day of the year for M80RRA is 19 December, with crews returning to site on 14 January. BK added that some skeleton crews would be on site during this period. DH said that Spark's shutdown period was from 20 December to 13 January, with some crews returning early on 6 January.</p> <p>JC said that a membership drive would be held in 2025. SDo explained that this was to ensure the group includes representation from people in high impact areas. JC clarified that current members would not be impacted by this. SDo added that the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct would be reviewed in Q1 2025.</p> <p>SDo said that the 2025 meeting schedule was yet to be confirmed, and a survey would be provided to members to gather feedback on this year's meetings.</p>
------------------	--

Owner	Action
Jeni Couetts (JC)	<b>Open Forum</b> SP asked whether councillors had been invited to the end of year site tour. SDo said that new Councillors will receive a briefing from the projects, likely in the new year.

SP mentioned a recent report around sexual harassment in the construction industry, and asked about the requirements and policy surrounding this, and enforcement on sites. BK and DH said that there is a zero-tolerance policy in place, and the policy is enforced. PR mentioned that the construction industry is a broad industry, and NEL has higher regulation and oversight than other areas of the industry such as residential construction.

GJ asked about the criteria for closing out an action, as a previous action relating to the number and type of dust gauges used by M80RRA had been closed however she said a sufficient answer was not provided. SDo encouraged members to review and clarify minutes when they are provided to them to ensure the correct action is taken. BK added that he will investigate the number and type of dust gauges for GJ.

**Action: Information to be provided about type, number and location of dust monitors used across M80RR sites.**

GJ asked about goodwill offers and whether advice was offered to residents as a form of goodwill. GJ subsequently explained that they are seeking advice on gardening due to an influx of weeds, potentially unrelated to construction activities. SP suggested that Macleod Community Garden may be able to provide advice. GJ mentioned she had visited the Watsonia Hub however the team was unable to assist her. SDo said that staff send actions queries to the relevant teams to follow up.

JC thanked the group for their attendance this year.

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
NC248-1	Information to be provided about the tools that are in place to control sediment runoff.	NEL	Feb 2025	OPEN	Update to be provided at the next meeting
NC248-2	Information to be provided about kangaroo injuries and fatalities on site.	NEL	Feb 2025	CLOSED	Update to be provided at the next meeting
NC248-3	Information to be provided about type, number and location of dust monitors used across M80RR sites.	M80RRA	Feb 2025	OPEN	Update to be provided at the next meeting

## Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
Q2	10 May 2024	GJ has requested the five phases of construction for Watsonia Road	CI	Presentation to be provided in Q1 2025.

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
		realignment and traffic plans including traffic signals and timings		
Q4	1 December	JC has requested actual v's modelling for noise and vibration to be presented in 2023	LM	LM to arrange JRo to present when results are available
Q3	31 March	Vent outlet operation presentation including how will the vent outlets disperse the emissions and how far will they go?	LM	LM to arrange presentation
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
Q3 2024	30 August	M80RRA to present on traffic light phasing during construction and in the ultimate configuration	CI	Presentation to be given in future meeting

## Additional information - previous

North East Link tunnels Community Interactions: 252	M80 Ring Road Completion Community Interactions: 359
Enquiries/Comments: 170	Enquiries/Comments: 102
Project engagement and responses: 109	Project engagement and responses: 192
Complaints: 71	Complaints: 100
Positive Feedback: 2	Positive Feedback: 1

## Additional information - new

North East Link tunnels Community Interactions: 588	M80 Ring Road Completion Community Interactions: 846
Enquiries/Comments: 151	Enquiries/Comments: 209
Project engagement and responses: 286	Project engagement and responses: 435
Complaints: 142	Complaints: 198
Positive Feedback: 9	Positive Feedback: 4