

Meeting Minutes

Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	27/06/2025	Time	10am – 12pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	4 of 2025
Location	Manningham Hotel and Club	Minute taker	Tanya Mehta

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Chair	Mia McMahon (MM)	Spark
Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative	Tom McCann (TMc)	Spark
Matt Hill (MHi)	NEL	Lauren Watson (LW)	Spark
Joe Carbone (JCa)	Community Representative	Casey Hansen (CH)	EBTA
Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative	Tanya Mehta (TM)	NEL
Andrew Mangan (AM)	Manningham City Council	Michael Hobbs (MH)	NEL
Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative	Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	EBTA
Tara Schneeweiss (TS)	Spark	Josh Ribarich (JR)	NEL
Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative	Niamh Kenny (NK)	NEL
Nic Morton (NMo)	NEL	Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council
Rachel Kamath (RK)	Whitehorse City Council	Hamid Peimany (HP)	Spark
Jack Collier (JCol)	EBTA	Luc Cotte (LC)	NEL
Hope Landsberry (HL)	EBTA	Shane Cutland (SC)	Manningham City Council

Apologies

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
John van Delft (JD)	Community Representative	Otto Sargent (OH)	Community Representative
Carolina Camelo (CC)	Spark	Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative
Shaun Leane (SL)	PARL	Victoria Setches (VS)	PARL
Nic Moore (NM)	Community Representative		

Previous actions – short term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC256-1	JL to provide more information about the traffic arrangement post-realignment for the left turn at Bulleen Road and Thompsons Road intersection.	JL	27/06/2025	CLOSED	Included in today's presentation

Previous actions – long term

No.	Owner	Topic	Status
SC24 1-3	MH	AL has requested that feedback received and mitigations (including for PTV operator) that were put in place for the Bulleen Rd stage two closure be shown after these works	MH to advise once information is available
SC24 6-8	MH	OS requests if a meeting can be scheduled upon the completion of the Doncaster Park and Ride UDL to include a PTV representative	Pending Doncaster Park and Ride approval and DTP availability
SC25 5-10	MRPV	Burke Road lighting	MRPV provided written response from DTP to RM on 8 April discussing its safety assessment on the current lighting on Burke Road.

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2025	Initially raised: 14/04/2023 Re-raised: 18/10/2024 02/05/2025	Flooding considerations across North East Link	MHi	MHi to present more information on flood mitigation in future presentations when more information becomes available.
SQ2	2/5/2025	Noise wall community engagement update	JL	CLOSED. Included in presentation 27/06/25

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Discussion
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Acknowledgment of Country
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Welcome and Introductions Short term actions JC said that short term action SC256-1 has been adopted and is in presentation. ACTION CLOSED Long term actions No updates Future presentations SQ2: JL provided an update on community engagement for noise walls, including a summary for the noise wall information sessions completed. CLOSED
Tom McCann (TMC)	North East Link tunnels construction update <u>Presentation covered worksite updates, SEM tunnelling and TBM update.</u>
Jamie Ledwidge	Eastern Freeway construction update <u>Presentation covered worksite updates and Eastern Freeway busway video</u> RM asked if people were missing the Doncaster citybound entry ramp, noting that he had done so himself. JL: This occurred during the first week due to muscle memory and driver behaviour but has not been an issue since. RM asked for clarification on the express busway, confirming it runs along the north side, and questioned what changes occur when it reaches Hoddle Street. JL: Another project package will deliver the bridge that shifts the express busway to the south side. MH: The

Owner	Discussion
	lanes split near Chandler Road, with dual lanes continuing up to that point. One lane remains on the northern side while the other shifts to the left. Further details will be shared when the Hoddle to Burke upgrades are announced.
Mia McMahon (MM)	<p>North East Link Tunnels traffic update <u>Presentation covered upcoming changes to Bulleen Road for 2025, including detour maps and map of final alignment</u></p> <p>RM said he hadn't seen information about Bulleen Road in the weekly update emails and asked when it would be released. MM: The changes will be included in the July works notification, expected in early July and will also feature in weekly updates from next week.</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	<p>AL asked if VicRoads would be monitoring traffic during the Bulleen Road closure from 18–21 July. MM: Real-time monitoring will be in place.</p> <p>Eastern Freeway traffic update <u>Presentation covered upcoming works from July to August, Bulleen Road update video and upcoming major freeway disruptions July to September.</u></p> <p>RM asked if there will be night piling. JL: While night piling will occur, it will not involve driven piling. RM followed up by asking if there will be any more night driven piling. JL: While they cannot make a firm promise, the project is aiming to avoid it. AL asked whether there is a way to minimise driven piling. MH: The team is aiming to avoid night-time driven piling wherever possible.</p> <p>JV said that when full weekend closures occur, the Freeway Golf Course will require at least a month's notice. JL: The upcoming closure will be between Doncaster Road and Tram Road, so the Freeway Golf Course will not be impacted. JV said that the closure could still affect Ringwood-bound drivers. JL: Now the closure dates have been confirmed, the communications strategy can begin, and early communication will be rolled out. MH: Now that the dates are finalised, a broader communications campaign will commence. The project team is coordinating with local councils and sporting clubs, and key stakeholders. MH: Westfield Doncaster has already been briefed, and the team will continue to engage with them, including planned face-to-face pop-up sessions at the centre.</p> <p>JCa asked whether there will be clear detour options available. MH: Detour routes have been planned and supported by traffic modelling. JCa will be provided with a dedicated briefing.</p>
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	<p>Eastern Freeway noise complaints <u>Addressed noisy night works and complaints from May and change in methodology moving forward.</u></p> <p>RM shared his experience with night piling noise at 3am. He noted no notification was given for Saturday morning works and asked if the EPA got involved. JV added it was audible in East Kew.</p> <p>JL: The still night caused noise to travel unusually far. The team received feedback from 96 residents and more by email. RM believes the team should consider residents' perspectives. JL: Notification areas will be reevaluated, as people cope better with advance notice. Noise modelling was done, but conditions were atypical.</p> <p>RM said outdoor noise modelling is subjective. JL: Driven piling will be avoided where possible and notifications expanded. The incident has led to process changes.</p>

Owner	Discussion
	<p>RM asked why piling wasn't stopped after complaints. MH: The next five weeks of piling were cancelled. Night work was chosen to reduce traffic impacts, and they were nearing completion. Restarting would have caused greater and longer disruption to residents.</p> <p>MHi said options like daytime lane closures are now being explored with DTP. RM asked how much notice would be given if it happens again. MH: Driven piling is not expected to return without assessment, though bored piling may continue. MHi: Future works may involve a lane closure of the Eastern Freeway during the day. JL noted community feedback has been taken on board.</p>
Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p>North East Link social impact <u>Video shared showing the story of females working on the NEL Tunnels</u></p>
Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p>North East Link Tunnels community engagement update <u>Presentation covered project interactions over the last 6 weeks and community events.</u></p>
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	<p>Eastern Freeway community engagement update <u>Enquiries and complaints across the project over the last 6 weeks included construction noise and vibration impacts. Presentation on noise wall engagement and info sessions.</u></p> <p>FF asked whether damage claims had been paid and what they related to. JL: Payments had been made, with most relating to property or vehicle damage.</p> <p>JC asked how the community responded to the proposed noise wall materials during the information sessions. JL: There was particular interest in the recycled plastic and noted that design experts were available to speak about the wall design. JV asked how the final decisions on noise walls were made. JL: The information sessions were not consultations, community consultation occurred earlier during the UDLP phase. JC commended the ability to view the noise wall heights and materials via GIS modelling, which JL agreed had been a popular feature.</p> <p>JCa asked about the reason behind the final noise wall height for Park Avenue adjacent to the soccer pitch, noting that he had understood the wall might be taller. JL: The height is determined by a combination of noise mitigation and urban design. JCa raised safety concerns regarding the wall's proximity to the bus lanes, suggesting there is a risk of balls entering the busway. FF added that similar netting is used at golf courses and asked what consideration had been given to adjacent amenities, referencing EastLink's high fencing. JL: The Eastern Freeway is set for major disruptions from late July to September 2025 as crews build new bridges over the freeway. Discussions have taken place with Manningham Juventus regarding design and noted the new wall will be both closer to the field and taller than the previous one.</p> <p>JCa said that the closer position increases risk and suggested the risk should be tested. FF asked whether the concern was being taken seriously, noting it had been raised by JCa. MH: The issue can be investigated, adding that a similar solution involving netting has been used near the football oval at Bulleen Road, though in a slightly different context and that such matters are part of the design process.</p>
Mia McMahon (MM) Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	<p>North East Link Tunnels and Eastern Freeway environmental update <u>Presentation covered environmental monitoring results including surface water, noise, vibration and air quality</u></p> <p>FF asked how noise exceedances are managed when levels go over the limit. LW: Exceedance levels are set as trigger or intervention levels, which prompt further</p>

Owner	Discussion
	<p>investigation. FF asked whether this functions as a threshold, and LW confirmed it does, acting as a signal to review the situation.</p> <p>FF asked how the source of noise is identified, suggesting that a 15-minute monitoring window may be too short. LW: There had only been one exceedance recorded within a single 15-minute period, making it difficult to determine the source. In cases of actual exceedance events, multiple consecutive 15-minute breaches typically occur, which help in identifying the cause. FF said that he has concern about loud noises late at night, suggesting they could be related. LW: Monitoring applies to any noise after 6pm.</p> <p>MM said that the team also consults residents to help identify unusual noise sources. RM asked if this approach was consistent with processes used on the Eastern Freeway. CH: Yes.</p>
Luc Cotte (LC)	Eastern Freeway BTA: IEA Six-monthly Summary Report May 2024 – Oct 2024
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p>Questions and open forum</p> <p>JV said she has concerns about the change in land acquisition from the Freeway Golf Course, saying she had asked from the beginning whether the land take was final and was told it was. She expressed disappointment that this has since changed, as it has affected operations on the course, including staff access.</p> <p>CD said that the recording of the April community forum is now available on YouTube. During that session, Boroondara City Council was asked if it would undertake its own noise and air quality monitoring and committed to doing so. It is currently working out how this will be implemented and are discussing potential monitoring locations with EBTA.</p> <p>AM reported delays in installing parking signage. Whilst some signage has already been installed, more will be added over the coming weeks. He noted that while internal approvals were fast-tracked, the supply of signs was the cause of the delay. The aim of this signage is to encourage behaviour change such as relocating or carpooling.</p> <p>FF asked whether there are standards for the freeway surface, noting it feels rugged at high speed and asked if complaints had been received. MHi: All road changes are subject to road safety audits. Current alignments are temporary and less smooth than the final freeway surface will be. There is a surveillance and maintenance crew monitoring the freeway weekly, and the team responds promptly to safety concerns.</p> <p>FF said that some drivers swerve to avoid road grates, and that existing line marking can be confusing due to fading or outdated markings. JL: Surface feedback is acted on and followed up with maintenance. MHi There are intervention levels for road condition and a strong focus on community feedback. Safety remains the top priority, and independent surveillance supports the team's ongoing reviews. FF acknowledged the efforts and appreciated the work being done amidst traffic challenges.</p>

Actions – new

NO NEW ACTIONS

Additional information