

18 March 2025



# Meeting Minutes

## Southern Business Liaison Group

Date	18/03/2025	Time	5:30pm - 7:05pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	3 of 2025
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Alyce Jeffery

## Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Mahesh Buchade (MB)	Project Officer, Manningham Council
Nic Morton (NM)	Senior Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor, NELP	Elizabeth Patena (EP)	Manager, Community Partnerships, NELP
Alyce Jeffery (AJ))	Senior Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor, NELP	Frank Freschi (FF)	Veneto Club
Renato Marnich (RM)	Trader Engagement Specialist, NELP	Tim Sligo (TS)	Executive Director, Heide Museum of Modern Art
Niamh Kenny (NK)	Graduate, Communications, NELP	Cam Gardenia (CG)	Commercial Property Owner
Mia McMahon (MMc)	Manager Community Engagement, Spark	Yolanda Torrisi (YT)	Greythorn Traders Association
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Senior Communications Advisor, Spark	Jaimie Ledwidge (JLe)	Senior Communications and Community Relations Manager, Burke to Tram Alliance
Tom McCann (TMc)	Project Manager, Spark	Ryan Walkenhorst	Environment Lead, Burke to Tram Alliance

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation

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## Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SB25.1.1	NELP to investigate other forums outside the project to discuss business concerns around car park safety near Bulleen Road strip shops	SPARK/NELP		Update sent to members on 28/02	CLOSED
SB251.2	BTA to email Terry information about polymer products used on site.	BTA		SENT	CLOSED

## Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Discussion
Renato Marnich (RM)	<b>Welcome to Country</b>
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Previous meeting minutes read and adopted No open actions
Elizabeth Patena (EP)	<b>Grants and Partnerships 2025 Update</b> TS asked if the date for the next round of grants was brought forward. EP explained rationale behind moving dates earlier in the year is to avoid Christmas closure shutdown periods and - significant delays with project delivery, contract set ups and expired quotes from suppliers. This approach will be adopted for the remaining rounds (2026, 2027,2028)
Tom McCann (TMc)	<b>North East Link - Manningham Update</b>  <b>Presentation covered:</b> Ongoing works for final Manningham Road alignment, southbound ramp D-walls, northbound ramp excavation, MCC earthwork preparation, bentonite plant will be de-mobilised soon and replaced, TBM Zelda and Gillian broke through in March.  <b>Key update on upcoming closures:</b> Bulleen Road/Manningham Road traffic changes, westbound traffic shifts north to allow D-wall works for ramp construction 4-13 April (week before Easter)  MMc ran through 2025 key milestones including two planned closures on Bulleen Road.  FF questioned lane closures in April and capacity during closures, noted concerns about traffic delays and potential to make it worse during closures.  TMc explained some lanes closures will be in place, but roads will open with detours in place.  IZ noted driver behaviour and adjustment occurs during closures and that the team will be on site to adjust signage if needed
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	<b>North East Link - Trader Update</b>

Owner	Discussion
	<p><b>Presentation covered:</b> First Transport and how Spark works with First Nations businesses, key trader concerns, trader meetings for 2025 and introducing a workforce survey for tailored menus.</p> <p>IZ noted dust management is a key concern therefore they have organised street sweepers presence 3 times during the day (9am-2pm), 2 times during the night, however acknowledged dust has been an issue over what has been a particularly dry month.</p> <p>TMc commented that a lot more hardstands will be constructed with a concrete footprint to help reduce dust. Majority of bulk excavation will be complete in Manningham this year.</p> <p>CG noted that dust is something we are breathing in from project and IZ noted that the onsite dust monitor takes readings on 2.5 and 10 particulate matter, exceedances to permitted levels are found to be very rare.</p> <p>IZ acknowledged that worker parking is a difficult topic on project and there has been a recent police presence. This led to a group discussion on solutions to parking and questions about what Spark, EBTA and the project are doing with support from council. JC noted that the problem won't be solved in this meeting and that it's front of mind for the project and the BLG would like to see some results.</p>
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	<p><b>Eastern Freeway BTA Update</b></p> <p><b>Presentation covered:</b> Upcoming works, Construction Update, Community and business engagement and UDLP for Eastern Fwy, What's coming up, building your new Bulleen road, Super T beams, Valda Wetlands, Heyington Bridge closure by DTP, Doncaster Interchange, Eastern inbound split, what we're hearing (vibration key issue, noted property condition surveys have been undertaken and are still available to properties).</p> <p>TS asked about fatality a few weeks ago and JLe confirmed it was non-project related, the person had a medical episode and was travelling at full speed when they crashed into the barriers.</p>
Luc Cotte (NELP)	<p><b>IEA Findings Update - EBTA</b></p> <p>Of the 87 relevant EPRs for the Eastern Freeway, 56 were reviewed in the audit.</p> <p>Most noncompliance was due to admin / no signage on clean fill</p>
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <p>YT noted that although parking is an issue, she welcomes more people in the area as it relates to an increase in commercial sales.</p> <p>FF and CG raised concerns around dust, particularly cement dust which has health impacts</p> <p>TS raised the need to be updated on major incidents/fatalities that occur in the project area as the information will be useful for the Heide community.</p> <p>MPRV/NELP agreed to notify the group about any traffic fatalities and major incidents that take place adjacent to the project area.</p>

# Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Update
			[Select date]	

# Additional information