

18 October 2024



# Meeting Minutes

## Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	7/02/2025	Time	10:00am - 12:00pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	1 of 2025
Location	Manningham Club and Hotel	Minute taker	Sean Larkin

## Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Lauren Watson (LW)	Environmental Manager, Spark
Mia McMahon (MMc)	Community Engagement Manager, Spark	Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative
Hamid Peimany (HP)	Community Engagement Advisor, Spark	John van Delft (JV)	Community Representative
Ben Scott (BS)	Project Manager, Bulleen	Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative
Jacinda Shen (JS)	Senior Environmental Specialist, NELP	Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative
Sean Larkin (SLa)	Graduate, Communications & Stakeholder Relations, NELP	Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	Senior Communication & Community Relations Manager, Burke to Tram Alliance (BTA)
Joe Carbone (JCa)	Community Representative	Sam Doyle (SD)	Interface Engagement Management, NELP
Leah McGuinness (LM)	Whitehorse City Council	Matthew Hill (MH)	Package Director, Eastern Freeway Upgrade: Burke to Tram
Andrew Mangan (AM)	Manningham City Council	Steven Thanos (ST)	Senior Environment Specialist, NELP
Michael Hobbs (MH)	Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, NELP	Reza Nami (RZ)	Communications and Community Engagement Advisor, Spark

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Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative	Nic Moore (NM)	Community Representative
Richard Vasta (RV)	Senior Design Manager, Spark		

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Mike Lowrie (ML)	Head of Delivery, Symal	Nic Morton (NMo)	Acting Manager, Communications and Stakeholder Relations
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council	Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative
Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative	Connor Curtin (CC)	Manningham City Council
Helena Vun (HV)	Advisor Communications & Stakeholder Relations, MRPV		

## Agenda

Agenda	Lead
Welcome, minutes & outstanding business	Jeni Coutts (JC)
North East Link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tunnel construction update</li> <li>- Upcoming works in 2025</li> <li>- Dust and Parking mitigation methods</li> <li>- Manningham Control Centre</li> <li>- Community engagement update</li> </ul>	Mia McMahon (MMc) Hamid Peimany (HP) Ben Scott (BS) Richard Vasta (RV)
IEA Report Presentation	Jacinda Shen (JS)
Eastern Freeway What's coming up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community engagement update</li> <li>- Environment update</li> <li>- Bulleen Park upgrade</li> </ul>	Jamie Ledwidge (JL) Michael Hobbs (MH)
Other Business	Jeni Coutts (JC)

## Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 8-1	JC requests for the project to showcase our mitigations methods for reducing dust in the area	HP	7/02/2025	CLOSE D	Spoken to during the presentation
SC24 8-2	JV How much land taken for the North East Link project will be returned to the Freeway Golf Course after project completion	MH	7/02/2025	CLOSE D	Spoken to during the presentation

## Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
S8-1(2021)	MHi	JV asks about ball net fencing at Freeway Golf Course (FGC) and that NELP should be responsible for funding this on top of existing works at the site. At the meeting on 25.08.23 JV reported Freeway golfers are hitting many balls from the first tee onto the area designated for the off-ramp to the Bulleen Road tunnel and therefore emphasises the need for the ball net to be funded.	Closed – Project is building ball net fencing
S14-1	MHi	MHi to investigate potential for installing radar crossings for pedestrians	MHi to advise if these will be installed at some intersections/interchanges Q4 2025
S5-1	MH	Will Templestowe Rd will be duplicated as part of the intersection being signalised	Closed – Out of project scope
SC24 1-3	MH	AL has requested that feedback received and mitigations (including for PTV after these works	MH to advise once information is available
SC24 3-1	JL	JV wants to know more about what plants will be planted and if it will be tube stock.	Closed – Verbal update provided during meeting and information is also available online
SC24 3-2	MH	GJ raised the issue of traffic light times being too long at the primary school crossing	Closed – Crossing are still occurring without any issue
SC24 6-8	MH	That a meeting be scheduled upon the completion of the Doncaster Park and Ride UDL to include a PTV representative	Pending Doncaster Park and Ride approval
SC25 1-5	JL	Will provide a presentation on noise walls, covering the impacts and the noise levels the community is currently experiencing	JL to present once information is available

## Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2025	14 April 2023	Presentation on Motorway Control Centre	MMc	Closed – Presentation given 7/02/2025
Q1 2025	14 April 2023 – Re-raised 18/10/2024	MHi to present further information on managing the flood plain in Freeway package design	MHo	Presentation to be given when information is available
Q1 2026	7 February 2025	Plants and vegetation to be planted around the Motorway Control Centre	RV	To be presented at a future meeting

## Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p><b>Welcome and introductions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledged apologies</li> <li>Acknowledgement to country conducted</li> </ul>
Michael Hobbs (MH)	<p><b><u>Outstanding actions Updates</u></b></p> <p><u>Short term actions</u></p> <p><b>SC24 8-1:</b> HP highlighted the dust mitigation measures in place to reduce dust in the community, including purpose-built sheds to help contain dust from construction, concrete or asphalt roads at work sites, wheel washing, and covering trucks carrying dirt before they leave site. Dust and rock are covered, sprayed, and monitored during transportation. Water is sprayed on open stockpiles, and street sweepers are used on roads to minimise dust, with regular dust level monitoring at key locations.</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	
Sam Doyle (SD)	
Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p><b>SC24 8-2:</b> MH stated that the project team cannot provide a final freeway golf course boundary at this stage until the project is completed as it will be subject to how construction unfolds and final field surveys. They highlighted the UDLP, which is available online, for more indicative boundaries.</p>
	<p><u>Long term actions</u></p> <p><b>S8-1 (2021):</b> MH stated that the project is constructing ball net fencing.</p> <p><b>S5-1:</b> Out of project scope.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p><b>SC2024 3-1:</b> MH Preferences that fast-growing indigenous plants are the plants will be planted along the Koonung Creek Trail and highlights that continuous planting and re-vegetation is occurring throughout the duration of the project. MH also notes that all of this information is available in the UDLP</p> <p>JV suggested that additional communication materials be prepared and made widely available to the public. SD noted this request. GJ wanted to understand what can be done to improve the vegetation before the project reinstates the land along the Koonung Creek Trail. MH responded that current vegetation is being planted in local council areas, and the project is aiming to replant as close as possible to the project area.</p> <p><b>SC2024 3-2:</b> MH confirmed that crossings are still occurring without any issues being reported.</p> <p><u>IEA Report – Delivery time</u></p> <p>SD noted email feedback from RM regarding publishing timeframes for IEA summary reports. Advised that the project is working with relevant stakeholders to publish the IEA reports as quickly as possible. Reiterated that these are historic documents and audits continue every month regardless of whether the reports have been published. Noted that this year the project will work to provide more timely presentations about focus areas covered by the audits, such as the presentation on dust management today.</p>
<p>Ben Scott (BS)</p>	<p><b><u>North East Link – Construction Update</u></b></p> <p>BD: As per presentation.</p> <p>JV: Raised concerns about questions brought up during the recent community forum meeting at the Veneto Club and expressed disappointment that the project team did not attend.</p> <p>GJ: Also highlighted that many of the questions raised during the forum were based on misinformation, and a project representative could have helped clarify these issues.</p> <p>SD: Acknowledged the feedback and explained that there are already multiple forums through which the community can engage with the project team, including liaison groups, resident meetings, pop-up sessions, and the hubs in Watsonia and Balwyn North.</p> <p>SD: Requested that JV and any other members who have questions from the community forum to send them through to the NEL team for a response.</p> <p>JC: Asked about the progress of the project. BS: Confirmed that the project is on track for a 2028 opening.</p>
<p>Mia McMahon (MMc)</p>	<p><b><u>Upcoming works in 2025</u></b></p> <p>MMc: As per presentation.</p> <p>NM: Asked whether access will be maintained for schools and businesses along Bulleen Road during full closures. MMc: Confirmed that patronage access will be maintained at all times for Bulleen Park.</p>

Owner	Action
Richard Vasta (RV)	<p data-bbox="331 275 1433 309"><b><u>Motorway Control Centre – Future presentations (Requirement)</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="331 315 1433 349">RV: As per presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="331 405 1433 472">RV: Noted that they are in the process of finalising the plants and vegetation to be used in the area and will present this information once finalised (future presentation).</p> <p data-bbox="331 528 1433 595"><b>GJ: Asked if EV chargers will be incorporated into the design, given that around 200 employees work at the Manningham Control Centre. (Action)</b></p> <p data-bbox="331 651 1433 719">NM: Asked if the design for the Yarra River Wetlands is finalised. MMc: Confirmed that it is finalised and available online and in the UDLP.</p> <p data-bbox="331 775 1433 864">NM: Inquired whether parking will be available at the Yarra River Wetlands. MMc: Stated that there is no parking as part of project scope, but shared user paths are being built to connect the community to this land.</p> <p data-bbox="331 920 1433 1010">FF: Asked for more information on the floodgates. RV: Explained that the gates, located near the Carey and Marcellin sites, will lower during a flooding event to prevent the tunnel from flooding.</p>
Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p data-bbox="331 1070 1433 1104"><b><u>Dust mitigation</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="331 1133 1433 1167">HP: As per presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1245 1433 1279">HP: Addressed action SC24 8-1.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1346 1433 1485">GJ: Noted that dust along the Koonung Creek Trail was particularly noticeable on hot and windy days. MMc and JL: Acknowledged that some dust is inevitable in construction projects, but the EBTA and NEL teams increase dust mitigation methods on hot and windy days.</p>
Mia McMahon (MMC)	<p data-bbox="331 1608 1433 1641"><b><u>Worker Parking</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="331 1648 1433 1682">MMc: As per presentation</p> <p data-bbox="331 1738 1433 1888">NMo: Stated that parking has become an issue for residents with an increase in workers parking in local streets, such as Rocklea Road and Golden Way. Highlighted the Construction Compound Plans on NEL's website that say off-street parking will be provided for workers and that parking on residential streets won't be permitted, noting that the plans were signed off by the Minister for Planning.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>SD: Took on notice to provide an update regarding the Construction Compound Plan.</p> <p><b>NMo wishes to understand what is being done to address these requirements per the Construction Compound Plan (Action)</b></p> <p>GJ: Asked if the council can put restrictions in place to help reduce the impacts of worker parking.</p> <p>AM: Responded that the council is continuing to work with Spark to explore potential options.</p> <p>NMo: Inquired whether the Manningham site is at full capacity in terms of workers using the site. MMc: Clarified that the site is not yet at full capacity and will accommodate additional workers when construction of the Manningham Control Centre begins later this year.</p>
<p>Hamid Peimany (HP)</p>	<p><b><u>Community Engagement</u></b></p> <p>HP: As per presentation.</p> <p>JV: Asked if the information is being made available in bilingual language options.</p> <p>MMc, MH, and SD: Responded that for all communication materials, a translation service is available through the call centre. The project also provides interpreters at major events to engage with community members who do not speak English. Additionally, residents who speak English as a second language are door-knocked to ensure they have access and understand the information.</p>
<p>Jacinda Shen (JS)</p>	<p><b><u>IEA Report Presentation</u></b></p> <p>JS: As per presentation</p> <p>NMo: Queried the current open non-compliance regarding project cars parking in residential streets and asked why this matter is still unresolved. JS: Acknowledged that the matter is still open and clarified that it pertains to the northern area of the central package (Lower Plenty) and is not related to the current parking issues in Bulleen.</p> <p>NMo: Asked whether another non-compliance for parking in Bulleen can be expected. JS: Responded that it is not possible to predict what findings the independent auditors may uncover.</p> <p>NMo: Inquired how these actions are closed out. JS: Explained that Spark goes through each finding line by line with the auditors, who then scrutinise and investigate the accuracy of Spark's statements on each issue.</p>
<p>Jamie Ledwidge (JL)</p>	<p><b><u>Eastern Freeway – Burke to Tram alliance: Construction Update</u></b></p>

Owner	Action
	JL: As per presentation.
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	<p><b><u>2025 works update</u></b></p> <p>JL: As per presentation</p> <p>GJ: Enquires when will Estelle Bridge re-open? JL: It is scheduled to re-open in November 2025.</p> <p>JV: Why are you only adding 6 new car parks to the Doncaster Park and Ride. MH: While only six additional Park and Ride spaces are being added, the project is constrained by local building requirements on the number of spaces that can be added. However, we have also added an additional 370 parking spaces at Bulleen Park and Ride. This upgrade at Doncaster is essential to provide buses with a direct connection to the Eastern Freeway when entering and leaving the site.</p> <p>MH: Notes that have been minimal complaints received so far on the closure of Doncaster Park and Ride after a successively communicated campaign about the closure.</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	<p><b><u>Community Engagement</u></b></p> <p>JL: As per presentation</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	<p><b><u>Dust Management</u></b></p> <p>JL: As per presentation</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)	<p><b><u>Noise Management</u></b></p> <p>JL: As per presentation</p> <p>GJ: Notes the temporary noise walls are shorter than the originally built ones, and residents have expressed a desire for the new walls to be installed as soon as possible, before the completion of the project. JL: Acknowledged that the removal and installation of temporary noise walls has led to an increase in noise complaints. JL will provide a presentation on noise walls, covering the impacts and the noise levels the community is currently experiencing.</p> <p><b>GJ: Asks if the material that the temporary noise walls are made out of re-usable? (Action)</b></p>
Michael Hobbs (MH)	<p><b><u>Bulleen Park Upgrade</u></b></p>



Owner	Action
	MH: As per presentation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p><b><u>Other Business</u></b></p> <p>JC: Opened the floor for members to speak if they had any further questions.</p> <p>JCa: Complimented the engagement done with sporting clubs along the Eastern Freeway but noted that the removal of vegetation has increased the heat experienced by participants at these clubs, sometimes causing play to be suspended. JCa requested that the project look into additional shading options. JLe and MH: Noted this</p> <p>GJ: Suggested that someone who represents the Chinese community be included in the SCLG to better represent their interests.</p> <p>GJ: Also suggested that installing signage with arrows and wayfinding signs to help cyclists follow detours along the Koonung Creek Trail and Bulleen Park and Ride would be very helpful. <b>(Action)</b></p> <p>NMo: Raised concerns that with the large amount of work around Bulleen Park, tenant clubs are starting to fear for their future, as the construction could negatively impact their ability to attract new participants and retain existing ones. MH: Noted that that the project is in regular contact with Bulleen Park user groups to provide information and assistance where practical. Also highlighted the community grants program which has been available to the groups and will have further rounds coming up.</p> <p>FF: Mentioned the signage and dust issues faced by commuters along the Koonung Creek Trail as an issue they would like addressed. JLe: Noted this</p> <p>JC: Closed the meeting, noting that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 21 March.</p>

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC25 1-1	GJ: Will EV chargers be incorporated in the design for the Manningham Control Centre?	RV/MMc	21/03/2025	OPEN	

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 8-2	GJ: Will the temporary noise walls be made from re-usable materials?	JL	21/03/2025	OPEN	
SC24 8-3	NM: Provide information about worker parking requirements in the Construction Compound Plans	MMc	21/03/2025	OPEN	
SC24 8-4	GJ: Suggests installing arrows and wayfinding signs to help residents navigate the Koonung Creek trail detours	JL	21/03/2025	OPEN	