

18 December 2024



# Meeting Minutes

## Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	29/11/2024	Time	10:00am - 12:00pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	8 of 2024
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Sean Larkin

## Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative
Mia McMahon (MMc)	Community Engagement Manager, Spark	Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative
Mike Lowrie (ML)	Head of Delivery, Symal	Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative
John Van Delft (JV)	Community Representative	Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative
Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative	Milan Dhruve (MD)	Southern Roadworks Project Manager (SPARK)
Nic Morton (NMo)	Senior Communications & Stakeholder Relations Advisor, NELP	Hamid Peimany	Advisor Community Engagement (SPARK)
Sean Larkin (SLa)	Graduate, Communications & Stakeholder Relations, NELP	Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Senior Communication & Community Relations Manager, Burke to Tram Alliance (BTA)
Sam Doyle (SD)	Interface Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, NELP	Helena Vun (HV)	Advisor Communications & Stakeholder Relations, MRPV
Leah McGuinness (LM)	Whitehorse City Council		
Andrew Mangan (AM)	Manningham City Council		

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Michael Hobbs (MH)	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Manager, NELP
Joe Carbone (JCa)	Community Representative

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Ivan Zareskij (IZ)	Senior Community Engagement Advisor	Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council	Bruce Plain (BP)	Community Representative
Nick Moore (NM)	Community Representative	Bec Stewart (BS)	Community Engagement Advisor
Shaun Leane MP (SL)	Member of Parliament		

## Agenda

Agenda	Lead
Welcome, minutes & outstanding business	Jeni Coutts (JC)
2024 Highlights	Jamie Ledwidge (JL) Hamid Peimany (HP)
North East Link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tunnel construction update</li> <li>- Upcoming works in 2025</li> <li>- Community engagement update</li> </ul>	Mia McMahon (MMc) Hamid Peimany (HP) Nic Morton (NMo)
Eastern Freeway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What's coming up</li> <li>- Community engagement update</li> <li>- Building your new Bulleen Road</li> <li>- Upcoming traffic changes</li> <li>- Piling works</li> <li>- Sentinel Removal</li> <li>- Community and Business Engagement</li> <li>- What we're hearing from the community</li> </ul>	Jamie Ledwidge (JL) Mike Lowrie (ML) Michael Hobbs (MH) Helena Vun (HV)
Other Business	Jeni Coutts (JC)

## Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 5-10	RM expresses discontentment towards lack of action on improving lighting at Burke Road.	SD	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Lighting not able to be repaired due to age. Will be replaced as part of the Eastern Freeway Upgrade - Burke to Hoddle package. Item to be moved to long term actions to be updated
SC24 6-2	JLe to follow up with RM to make sure he receives the Eastern Freeway disruption update	JLe	29/11/2024	CLOSED	RM has been added to the distribution list
SC24 7-1	JLe to investigate legal requirements disabled car park space parking times.	JLe	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Spoken to during the presentation.
SC24 7-2	JLe to investigate if speed limits can be reduced on the project to limit emissions.	JSD	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Issue outside the project's scope and is determined by DTP.
SC24 7-3	GJ requests research on the effects of sustained noise levels on student education and potential mitigation options available, such as noise-cancelling headphones	JLe	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Spoken to during the presentation.
SC24 7-5	JLe to investigate the purpose of what looks like a pop up bike lane near the Bulleen Road Bridge.	JLe	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Updated provided during the meeting.
SC24 7-6	JLe to investigate safety measures for cyclists on the shared path diversion onto Winfield Road	JLe	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Update provided during the meeting.

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 7-7	GJ would like further information provided on the decision to only have one shared user path and not a separate walking and cycling path along the Koonung Creek Trail.	MH	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Item discussed in the previous meeting.
SC24 7-8	JLe to update group of final location of sentinel sculpture	JLe	29/11/2024	OPEN	Update to be provided Q1 2025.
SC24 7-9	MH to investigate the space and safety elements at the bend on Heyington Avenue Bridge	MH	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Item discussed in the previous meeting
SC24 7-10	NMo to report back to the group on the actions taken to address the issue of trucks staging on Thompsons Road	NMo	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Update provided to members on 28/10
SC24 7-11	Project to investigate the attendance of a DTP rep at CLG meeting	SD	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Update provided by SD
SC24 7-12	MH to explain traffic signalling arrangements at the intersection Thompsons Road and the Eastern Freeway (eastbound)	MH	29/11/2024	CLOSED	Verbal update provided 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	MHi to advise if this may be possible as part of the Freeways package

No	Owner	Topic	Status
		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.	
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
S5-1	MH	Will Templestowe Rd will be duplicated as part of the intersection being signalised	MH to advise once information is available
S6-4	MH	MH to provide GJ details of Shared User Path (SUP) works as requested below Breakdown of SUPs including kms of new paths and those that are simply being replaced, eg: existing path destroyed and relocated replacement paths. Further information also requested on shared path removal, specifically the shared path on the west side of Bulleen Road Bridge, (there are no north bound bike lanes across the interchange between to connect the on road north bound bike lanes leaving vulnerable road users to mix with heavy vehicles, or to be significantly delayed by at least 8 call buttons. A shared path would provide the only safe and direct north bound crossing.	MH to advise once information is available
SC24 1-3	MH	AL has requested that feedback received and mitigations (including for PTV operator) that were put in place for the Bulleen Road stage two closure be shown after these works	MH to advise once information is available
SC24 3-1	JLe	JV wants to know more about what plants will be planted and if it will be tube stock.	JL to present on what species will be planted once that information is available.
SC24 3-2	MH	GJ raised the issue of traffic light times being too long at the primary school crossing	MH to investigate
SC24 5-10	SD	Update to be provided on replacement of Eastern Freeway lights that are not currently operational.	SD to advise once information is available.
SC24 6-8	MH	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

## Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2025	14 April 2023	Presentation on Motorway Control Centre	MMc	Presentation to be given when information is available
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

## 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>
Nic Morton (NM)	<p><b><u>Outstanding actions Updates</u></b></p>
Michael Hobbs (MH)	<p><b>SC24 5-10 (CLOSED):</b> SD Lights are not repairable due to discontinuation of the required components. They will be replaced as part of the Eastern Freeway Upgrades Burke to Hoddle package. DTP continues to monitor the area from a safety perspective, noting that any safety or lighting assessment factors in vehicle headlights.</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JL)	<p><b>SC24 6-2 (CLOSED):</b> MH RM has been added to the distribution list.</p>
Sam Doyle (SD)	<p><b>SC24 7-1 (CLOSED):</b> JLe Within the Park and Ride disabled spaces, there will be all-day parking, with a legal requirement to have at least 1 disabled parking space for every 100 spaces. As for the Drop and Go zone, the number of spaces is yet to be decided, but each space will have double the allocated time of a regular car space.</p> <p><b>SC24 7-2 (CLOSED):</b> SD The project must design and build the roads to a certain speed limit. Any decision to change the permanent speed limit of a road is outside the project scope and is determined by DTP.</p> <p><b>SC24 7-3 (CLOSED):</b> JLe To reduce the impact of noise on schools near the project, we are holding regular meetings with schools, providing ongoing 8-week work look-aheads, and sharing environmental monitoring reports to maintain transparency. We are also conducting frequent noise monitoring to ensure levels remain within acceptable limits and implementing</p>

Owner	Action
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mitigation methods, such as noise blankets or alternative work practices, where possible to further reduce noise. Notes as well during frequent monthly meetings with Belle Vue Primary school, this issue hasn't been raised.

**SC24 7-5: (CLOSED):** JLe The barriers have been installed in preparation for the closure of the footpath on Bulleen Road bridge (in the presentation).

**SC24 7-6: (CLOSED):** JLe The project has installed line marking for cyclists and signage, including Variable Message Signs (VMS) along the route, and has undergone a safety audit.

**SC24 7-7: (CLOSED):** MH The new shared user paths will be at least 3m wide, providing space for both cyclists and pedestrians, with secondary paths along the Koonung Creek Reserve and Valda Wetlands. However, there is insufficient space along certain sections of the corridor for separate paths.

GJ and FF have strongly expressed their disagreement with this decision. GJ particularly wishes to highlight that she believes the path width is not future-proofed, given that she anticipates an increase in traffic volume.

**SC24 7-8: (OPEN):** JLe No update to provide yet and will be addressed in Q1 2025.

**SC24 7-9: (CLOSED):** MH Design is unable to be changed as outlined in the UDLP.

**SC24 7-10: (CLOSED):** NMo Update provided to members on 28/10

**SC24 7-11: (CLOSED):** SD Stated that we are working on securing the appropriate DTP representative for issues relevant to DTP at future meetings. He highlighted however that having a DTP member present at every meeting is not feasible, as it could distract from the NEL project and lead to overlap with DTP-related matters. **SC24 7-12: (CLOSED):** MH It is an adaptive intersection and in real time will give green light time to wherever the largest traffic volume is.

Jamie  
Ledwidge  
(JL)

**2024 Highlights**

Hamid  
Peimany  
(HP)

HP and JL: As per presentation.

JC: Do you have programs that encourage workers to use local shops? HM: Highlighted workforce promotions, including discount offers for the Veneto Club, Manningham Hotel and Healthy Vibes. Also mentioned initiatives like the "Spend and Win" campaign, where workers spending over \$10 at a local shop can enter a monthly lucky draw to win a \$50 voucher.

Hamid  
Peimany  
(HP)

**North East Link**

HP: As per presentation

Milan  
Dhruve  
(MD)

**Tunnel construction update**

MD: As per presentation

Owner	Action
	<p>FF: Asked for clarification on the location of the ventilation structure in relation to the Veneto Club. MD: confirmed that the ventilation tower will be situated in front of Trinity Grammar School and Marcellin College school grounds.</p>
<p>Hamid Peimany (HP) Mia McMahan (MMc) Milan Dhruve (MD)</p>	<p><b><u>Upcoming works</u></b></p> <p>HP, MMc, and MD: Presented on the upcoming works for 2025, including the planned Bulleen Road re-alignments, road closures, and how we will support the community and businesses throughout the year.</p> <p>JVD: Enquired whether, with the planned changed traffic conditions will it be possible to turn right into the Veneto Club when heading southbound on Bulleen Road. MD: confirmed that this turn will still be possible.</p> <p>FF: Asked whether the Koonung Creek will remain an open-flowing creek under Bulleen Road or will it be piped. MMc: Clarified that a bridge will be used to cross over the Koonung Creek Trail, and the creek will only be temporarily diverted, not piped.</p> <p>FF Requested a copy of the 2025 construction activity plans when available. SD confirmed that these will be made available to members of the CLG.</p>
<p>Hamid Peimany (HP)</p>	<p><b><u>Community engagement (NEL)</u></b></p> <p>HP: As per presentation FF: Wishes to understand how many complaints received were related to noise and dust in the last 6 weeks. HP stated that out of 46 complaints, 17 complaints (37%) were related to noise and 10 complaints (21%) were related to dust, the majority of the dust complaints were relating to dust on the road.</p> <p><b>JC: asked for the project to address mitigation methods for reducing dust in the area (Action).</b> HP highlighted that dust complaints have decreased since the construction of the SEM box and the use of water trucks on the road.</p> <p>JC: requested information on the attitude of residents after we respond to and resolve their complaints. HP explained that it's difficult to identify a consistent pattern in how residents feel once their concerns are addressed. However, overall, the sentiment is generally positive after complaints are resolved.</p> <p>HP also noted that the complaint resolution process is audited by a third party to ensure that matters are being handled appropriately. MMc added that we also check in with sensitive residents every 6 months as a project team and provide them with a project lookahead.</p>
<p>Jaimie Ledwidge (JLe)</p>	<p><b><u>Eastern Freeway</u></b></p> <p>JLe: As per presentation</p>
<p>Mike Lowrie (ML) Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)</p>	<p><b><u>Construction Update</u></b></p> <p>ML: As per presentation.</p> <p>ML: Highlights during the presentation the efficiency of the project team in quickly restoring working conditions after a major weather event on-site.</p>



Owner	Action
	<p>JC: What plans does the project have in place to manage a flooding event? JLe: The project has a flood management plan that ensures all equipment is removed from flood-prone areas. The plan also helps to restore site functionality as quickly as possible.</p> <p>GJ: Would like to know if a bus shelter will be installed on the newly relocated city-bound on-ramp off Bulleen Road. JL: Yes, a bus shelter will be included. However, it's important to note that the bus stop is not part of the final North East Link design.</p> <p>ML: Notes during the presentation as we approach the shutdown period, we will implement additional dust mitigation measures. This will help reduce the amount of dust experienced by residents, especially when site presence is lower. Additionally, the traffic team will be on-site to ensure smooth traffic flow on the Eastern Freeway.</p> <p><b>GJ: How much land taken for the North East Link project will be returned to the Freeway Golf Course after project completion? (Action)</b></p> <p>OS: How much land will be returned along the Koonung Creek Trail? JLe: All but about 30% of the land in Koonung Creek Reserve near the freeway, will be returned as part of the final design.</p> <p>FF: Will works be carried out only during the day, or will there be nighttime activities as well? JLe: The majority of major works will take place during the day. However, when necessary, some works will be carried out at night to minimise disruptions to residents and commuters.</p> <p>FF: Are there overnight accommodation facilities for staff at the Koonung Creek Trail? JLe: There are no accommodation facilities on-site.</p> <p>FF: How much land around Doncaster Park will be returned to the community once the project is complete? MH: The majority of the land will be returned to the community after the project's completion.</p>
<p>Jamie ledwidge (JLe) Mike Lowrie (ML)</p>	<p><b><u>Super Ts</u></b></p> <p>JLe and ML: As per the presentation.</p> <p>ML: During the presentation notes each 'Super T' is 2 metres high, about 50 metres long, and weighs between 100 to 130 tonnes. Over 100 will be used to help form the road for the Bulleen Bridge.</p> <p>JLe: Also notes the 'Super Ts' will be the largest ever used in Victoria.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>GJ: Would like to know if the 'Super Ts' will be elevated off the ground? ML: Yes, they will be elevated as part of the Bulleen Road bridge.</p> <p>ML: Also notes that the 'Super Ts' are manufactured in Victoria, in Kilmore.</p> <p>FF: How will the 'Super Ts' be transported to the site? JLe: They will be transported via designated routes and at scheduled times, in coordination with VicRoads.</p>
<p>Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)</p>	<p><b><u>Upcoming traffic changes</u></b></p> <p>JLe: As per presentation.</p> <p>JLe: During the presentation, it was emphasised that commuters heading towards Doncaster on the Eastern Freeway should move into the left-hand lane as early as possible if they plan to exit onto Bulleen Road, due to the traffic changes.</p> <p>GJ: Queries whether the shared user path outside Belle Vue Primary School will have a greater separation between traffic and the school? JLe: Confirms that this will be the case in the final UDLP design.</p>
<p>Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)</p>	<p><b><u>Piling works</u></b></p> <p>JLe: As per video in the presentation.</p>
<p>Jamie Ledwidge (JL)</p>	<p><b><u>Sentinel Removal</u></b></p> <p>JLe: As per video in the presentation.</p>
<p>Jamie Ledwidge</p>	<p><b><u>Community and Business engagement update (Eastern Freeway)</u></b></p> <p>JLe: As per the presentation.</p> <p>FF: Seeks to understand why noise complaints are so high. JLe: Explains that the removal of noise walls along the Eastern Freeway has led to residents hearing traffic noises they haven't experienced before, which has contributed to the increase in complaints. It is also noted that, since the Eastern Freeway is located in a creek bed, building higher temporary noise walls would not necessarily resolve the issue.</p>
<p>Jeni Coutts (JC)</p>	<p><b><u>Other Business</u></b></p> <p>JC: Asks if there are any further questions?</p>

Owner	Action
	OS: Asks whether Leonis Avenue Shared User Path is going to be re-opened next week? JLe: Confirms it will be
	JC: Closed the meeting, noting that the next scheduled meeting isn't until 2025.

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 8-1	JC requests for the project to showcase our mitigation methods for reducing dust in the area (Action).	HP	7/02/2025 TBC	OPEN	
SC24 8-2	GJ How much land taken for the North East Link project will be returned to the Freeway Golf Course after project completion?	JL	07/02/2025 TBC	OPEN	