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| **Date** | Tuesday 22 February 2022 | **Meeting No** | 31 |
| **Chair** | Jeni Coutts | **Time** | 7.30am – 8.30am |
| **Location** | Zoom | **Minutes** | Emma Keech |

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| **Members** | |  | |
| *Present*   * Jeni Coutts [Chair] * Nic Thomas, local resident * Malcolm Ninnis, local resident * Jonathan Forbes, local resident * Nadia Ford, City of Stonnington * James Bryan, City of Stonnington * Chimuka Mweemba, City of Stonnington * Graham Hoy, South Yarra Residents Association * Kathy Dalton, local resident * Tennessee Leeuwenburg, local resident | | *Apologies*   * Tom Howgate, local resident * Ruth Speedy, Toorak Road South Yarra Business Association * James Robinson, local resident * Paul Bellette, Café Republic * Christopher Blain, South Yarra Village Residents Group * Gillian Fraser, local resident | |
| **In attendance** | |  | |
| *Present*   * Jordan Turner, Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP) * Rob Mair, CYP * Jarrod Wadsworth, CYP * Kate Kearns, RNA * Zaid Diego, RNA | * Remy Fowler, Rail Network Alliance (RNA) * Sophie Eyob RNA * Lee Evans, RNA * Matt Brajkovik RNA * Tyson Garlick, Rail Project Victoria (RPV) | | * Paula Williams, RPV * Meagan Lechucki, RPV * Tyson Garlick, RPV * Sebastian Immaraj, RPV * Mathew Collum, RPV [Secretariat] * Emma Keech, RPV [Secretariat] |

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| 1. | Welcome and introduction |
|  | Welcome and introductions from Jeni Coutts (Chair).  Matters arising:   * Jeni Coutts welcomed members to the Community Reference Group (CRG). * Remy Fowler (RNA) informed the CRG of the merger between Rail Infrastructure Alliance (RIA) and the Rail Systems Alliance (RSA), now known at the Rail Network Alliance (RNA). |
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| 2. | Outstanding actions and issues register |
|  | Matters arising:   * The CRG discussed the Outstanding Actions and Issues Register, including:   + In relation to S24-4, RNA advised that it is working with the City of Stonnington to complete relevant safety and compliance checks prior to reopening Lovers Walk to the public. RNA will continue to provide updates as they become available.   + In relation to S26-1, RNA advised it is continuing investigations into the ‘rail squeal’ noise. Since the last CRG meeting, it has investigated and ruled out train weight, passenger load and curve alignment as possible causes of the noise. As part of the lubrication assessment undertaken in December 2021, RNA installed additional lubrication bars to the rails to grease the track during rail operations and will do a further assessment to review the impact of this lubrication.   + RNA asked the CRG for feedback on their recent experience of the ‘rail squeal’, and whether they have noticed any difference since the additional lubrication bars were installed in December 2021. Nic Thomas advised the rail squeal was still a problem, but that he had observed a reduction in the squeal when trains were operating at a lower speed. Graham Hoy advised that a regular 4.30am freight train from Hastings continues to cause a particularly loud squeal. RNA advised that previous investigations on speed as the cause of the noise were inconclusive, but that RNA will report the CRG feedback about speed to Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM). RNA confirmed it will continue to investigate the issue.   + In relation to S29-1, RNA reported on whether the reduction of vegetation and the replacement of batters with vertical concrete walls has increased noise for residents in proximity to the Frankston/Dandenong lines. RNA acknowledged that while the changes made to the area are compliant, it is possible the changes have altered the perception of the noise for the residents due to the reflection of the sound off the hard surfaces. RNA noted that removal of trees or foliage is unlikely to have a measurable difference in noise level and does not expect that additional planting would make noticeable difference. Tennessee Leeuwenburg and Malcolm Ninnis requested RNA investigate options for sound dampening, noting there has been a marked increase in rail noise from the Sandringham Line as well as the separate issue of the ‘rail squeal’ on the Frankston/Dandenong Line. RNA acknowledged the change in the lived experience and agreed to investigate the feasibility of sound dampening options and provide an update to the CRG at a future meeting.   + Jonathan Forbes and Nadia Ford (City of Stonnington) asked RNA to provide further detail about baseline data used to assess the noise impact, including both volume and frequency. RNA advised that it has a number of data sets from before commencement of works (2016). RNA will include a presentation on the data in the next update on the issue for the CRG. |
| 3. | Presentation from Project Contractors |
|  | Presentation by Matt Brajkovik (RNA) on the RNA construction update.  Presentation by Jarrod Wadsworth (CYP) and Rob Mair (CYP) on the CYP construction update.  Presentation by Remy Fowler (RNA) on the communication update.  Matters arising:   * CYP noted that delivery of the first rail sections has commenced in the western end of the Metro Tunnel Project, requiring noisy overnight rail occupations. CYP flagged that when these works commence in the east later in the year and will cause noisy, late-night disruptions. * Nic Thomas raised concern about the recent vibrations from rollers packing down soil in the siding reserve area,and asked for advice about the timeframe for completing these works. RNA conservatively estimated there would be six more weeks of this work and advised it would pass the feedback about vibration onto the site team. * Jonathan Forbes requested an update on the outcome of Development Plan Amendment consultation process regarding remediation works in the Osborne Street reserve. CYP confirmed that the plan for the remediation works was approved by the Minister for Planning in late 2021. CYP agreed to follow up and provide Jonathan with additional details on the final approved plans. * Jeni Coutts asked when RNA would be able to provide an update on the designs for the South Yarra Sidings Reserve. RNA advised that it plans to commence planting of vegetation in April 2022, and it will provide an update at the next CRG Meeting. Tennessee Leeuwenburg asked for additional information about the planting schemes to be used along the rail corridor. RNA confirmed it will provide Tennessee with this additional information. |
| 4. | General feedback and items for future discussion |
|  | Matters arising:   * Nic Thomas reiterated concerns about the increased general rail noise and rail ‘squeal’, and requested further investigation and mitigation of the noise. Nic also requested planting of taller trees, and for advice on timeframes for completing the South Yarra Siding Reserve vegetation and the Osborne Street bridge works. RNA advised that it plans to begin planting in April 2022, however t was noted this timeline could be impacted by potential delays due to public holidays and supply issues arising from COVID-19. CYP advised that the completion of the Osborne St bridge is contingent on completion of CYP works, so it will not be completed until CYP has demobilised from the site towards the end of the project. * Nic Thomas asked for advice on when the William Street pocket park will be opened to the general public. RNA advised that it is working with the City of Stonnington to finalise safety and compliance requirements before reopening the pocket park. * Jonathan Forbes raised concern about graffiti on the rail corridor and queried who is responsible for graffiti-management on the rail corridors during operations. City of Stonnington advised that MTM is responsible for graffiti management on the rail corridor. * Graham Hoy requested RNA review the path of the street sweeper that runs up the western end of Arthur Street. RNA confirmed it will discuss this further with Graham offline. * Kathy Dalton noted her support for previous comments made by Nic Thomas regarding the need for planting of taller trees on Osbourne Street. * Jeni Coutts requested CYP provide a project wide update at the next CRG meeting. |
| **5.** | **Meeting close** |
|  | * The Next meeting is on Tuesday 5 April 2022, 7.30-9:00am, and will include a project-wide update (presented by CYP) and an update from Andrew Roberts, Urban design and Landscaping lead (RNA). |

**OUTSTANDING ACTIONS AND ISSUES REGISTER**

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| **#** | **ACTION / ISSUE** | **OWNER** |
| **S31-1** | CYP to provide a project wide update at the next CRG meeting. | CYP |

**NOTE** - The scope of the outstanding action S29-1 is expanded to include investigation of feasibility of sound dampening along the rail corridor, and presentation of noise and frequency data (including baseline data from before works commenced) to the CRG.