

## MEETING MINUTES

*Date created: 1 June 2018*

<b>Subject</b>	Community Liaison Group meeting		
<b>Venue</b>	Olympia and Hawdon Rooms Level 4, 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough	<b>Date</b>	18 May 2018
		<b>Time</b>	10am – 12noon
<b>Chair</b>	Mike Marasco		
<b>Coordinator</b>	Gemma Boucher	<b>Tel</b>	1800 105 105
		<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:Gemma.boucher@northeastlink.vic.gov.au">Gemma.boucher@northeastlink.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Attendees</b>	Katie Watt, Sebastian Motta, , Gemma Boucher, Kim Jordan, Jennifer Howard, Ashley Onori, Noel Treacy, Mike Marasco, Peter Harris, Jonathan Risby, Gabrielle Callahan, Frank Vassilacos, Anitha Vismanathan, Jeff Green, Sandra Massimini, Peter Harris, Michelle Giovas, Clare Davey, John Francis, David Bailey, Bruce Plain, Tina Garg, Lynne Baker, Fred Buono, Charley Wolmore, Cam Giardina, Mahesh Kaudal, Aunty Gail Smith, Jeremy Richards, Allan Hunter, Andrew Kelly, Simon Exon, David Hall, Dennis O’Connell		
<b>Apologies</b>	Matt Maguire, Zoe Cassar, Andrew Sharp, Jane Waldoock, Michael Crossman		

Item	Agenda	Actions
1	<p><b>Introduction and key interests</b></p> <p>Mike opened the meeting, welcomed all present and outlined some basic principles for CLG meetings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective knowledge of the group is superior to that of an individual</li> <li>• Need for cooperation and mutual respect</li> <li>• Allow for diversity of opinion</li> <li>• Group must deal with group business rather than wandering into unproductive or political areas</li> <li>• Maintain good relationship between group and NELA staff and among group members</li> </ul> <p>Group members individually introduced themselves and outlined who they represented and/or their interest in the project.</p> <p>Mike outlined the purpose of this first meeting to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members are familiar with the EES process and the project timelines</li> <li>• Distributing and explaining the template designed for community and business representatives to notify NELA of issues raised with them</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Project timeline, Environment Effects Statement process</b></p> <p>Katie Watt: presented an overview of the EES process as well as the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (<b>EPBC</b>) process. Outlined the opportunities for community input at two key points of the EES process:</p>	<p>NEL (GB/AO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send CLGs the link for comment on the EES scope.</li> </ul>

- Scoping document will be on public exhibition for 15 business days
- EES will be on public exhibition for 30 business days

In response to a number of questions:

- The 100 day election promise relates to releasing a request for an expression of interest (EOI) from contractors. The tender process would follow the EOI and would not be closed until after the Minister for Planning's assessment of the EES has been completed.
  - Public Private Partnership (PPP) model adopts a performance based approach. We define the Environmental Performance Requirements (**EPRs**), i.e. the outcomes the project needs to achieve rather than how it is going to do it. This allows the builders to bring in innovation for ways to design and build the project.
  - The CLG won't be involved in the evaluation of the tenders as this is a confidential process. The CLG will however assist with identifying issues to be assessed in the EES and captured in the EPRs, and the tenders need to respond to the EPRs.
  - The EES determines if a project should proceed and how it should proceed. The community and stakeholders will be invited to make written submissions to the Minister for Planning on the EES when the documents are on public exhibition in 2019.
  - Following receipt of planning approval, it is expected there will be subsequent plans that will require approval by the Minister for Planning. As has been done on other recent major projects, the Minister for Planning requires these documents to be displayed for public comment prior to approvals. Some of these documents will be based on the preferred tenderers design and the community will therefore be able to make comments on the preferred tenderers design.
- Send link to EES produced for West Gate Tunnel and Melbourne Metro Rail as an example of negotiables and non-negotiables and EPRs.
  - Send link to more information on EES process through DEWLP website.
  - Communicate when information is released regarding expanded EPBC study zone.
  - Share latest community engagement report when released.
  - Discuss the risk assessment process we're going through in one of the next CLG sessions.

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- All tenders are submitted to NELA. It is the North East Link Authority's role to assess tenders and this includes assessing contractor innovation in the tender.
  - No-go-zones are non-negotiables, e.g. avoiding Bolin Bolin. The CLG can provide commentary to NELA about additional items to be considered for inclusion in the no-go zones.
  - MMRA had about 127 environmental performance requirements. It's not necessarily about the number, it's about making sure EPRs are robust and address all the outcomes to be achieved in relation to potential impacts that could arise from the project.
  - The EES informs the EPRs - that's the work we're doing right now. Our specialists will come up with EPRs for each of their different disciplines – noting there are 18 discipline studies.
  - The EPRs will provide flexibility for plans to address issues specific to a final design adopted.
  - We cannot predict exactly how the contractors will deliver the project however through the EES assessments we can provide guidelines for managing impacts through the EPRs, e.g. construction notification, duration of disruptions.
  - The Technical Reference Group (**TRG**) reviews the technical adequacy of all the reports. They are independent from NELA and established by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.
  - By the next round of community engagement we will have a clearer picture of construction support areas
  - A vegetation offset site refers to a significant patch of remnant vegetation which can be used as an offset if a vegetation type is to be impacted. The area must be protected and maintained.
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- Outside of EES requirements, the North East Link Authority is collaborating with Wurundjeri and working with elders on understanding the cultural value of the project area and mapping of cultural values.
  - Melbourne Water is working on the Yarra River Strategic Plan, that will be taken into account and provide another opportunity to work with Wurundjeri.
  - NELA is considering the principles of the Act and how they are being applied to the project. One of the principles of the Yarra River Protection Act is to achieve a net environmental benefit. The approach to assessment of a net environmental benefit is being considered.
  - The Urban Design Strategy for North East Link will outline the objectives and principles to be addressed in the final design. It will consider the principles to be applied to different design elements that reflect the local area. We will come back to this group for updates on this process.
  - People can make comments on the EES scoping requirements when they are released, which is expected to be in the week of 21 May.
  - The EES will cover both construction and operation. In a project like this the impacts will be largely during construction.
  - We will have another group similar to this to discuss possible construction approaches.
  - Both surface and tunnelling vibration studies are being considered.

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**3 Community engagement**

Gemma Boucher: presented on community engagement including timeline - an ongoing process. There are community engagement activities and events but we are constantly taking feedback.

NEL (GB/AO)

- Provide terms of reference and result of discussions coming from
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- Overview of stakeholder groups and workshops and how these feed into the project.
  - Overview of feedback from recent engagement.
  - Overview on upcoming engagement – street meetings, workshops and youth engagement.
  - Templates provided will help community representatives who may not have the tools available to respond to questions and issues from their communities. These will be filled in ahead of community and business representative meetings each month.

In response to a number of questions:

- There is public transport representation on the TRGs.
- While there is no public transport working group, we will look into potential workshops and CLG sessions
- We've been working for Transport for Victoria (TforV) who set the requirements for the Doncaster Busway. Rail would supersede a busway if a rail line was built. TforV determines that there is not currently a need for rail.
- Relocation of the Bulleen business precinct is a separate process to address outside the CLGs.
- While the project provides improvements for public transport, it is a road building authority and as such that is its scope. Requests for additional public transport improvements should be addressed at a political level.
- Busway decision was made by state government and put in our scope. That discussion is for TforV. TforV will be invited to attend a CLG meeting and discuss how they work with us.

TDGs. Provide CLGs with ongoing broad feedback of outcomes.

- Make public transport a key item for a future CLG meeting.
  - Ensure future meetings cover social impact matters.
  - Arrange for a representative from Transport for Victoria to attend CLG meeting to address how they work with NEL.
  - Provide confirmation around process for using community representative feedback templates.
  - Circulate templates to all CLG members – community and business reps to use and others for noting.
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Additional comments from CLG members:

- From City of Yarra's point of view, councillors want reassurance that the busway doesn't make costs larger for future rail. City of Yarra are likely to request that it is proven that it will be made possible/ affordable in future.
- Futureproofing is needed. We don't want to increase the cost for rail in the future because of the way the project is delivered.
- Want to be involved in social impact. This is what we want to talk about, not just the road.
- Feedback from community sessions included concerns about noise, air emissions, freeway being built through existing homes, congestion, funds away from future public transport projects.
- Communities come directly to councils with questions, so these should be passed on to NELA and also be addressed.

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**Meeting schedule for 2018**

- Overview of the difference of meeting types.
- Community and business representative meetings are in place to take the pressure off addressing specific community questions at the large meetings.

- Circulate meeting list and list of topics (keeping in mind these are flexible)

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Colin Brooks MP dropped in to introduce himself to members. He believes this forum will be very useful for making decisions. Members of Parliament are very keen respond to community members and make sure their concerns are taken into account.

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**Close**

Mike Marasco - close of meeting

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