

Meeting minutes

WESTERN DISTRIBUTOR COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Date:	9 February 2017	Time:	5.30pm – 7.30pm
Place:	Maribyrnong Town Hall, 61 Napier St, Footscray	Meeting number:	Nine
Chair:	Jim Williamson	Minutes:	Emily Dooley

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Steven Wilson (SW)	Friends of Stony Creek (FOSK)
Michael Ingram (MI)	Kensington and North and West Melbourne
Simon Birch (SB)	Spotswood
Rosa McKenna (RM)	Spotswood & South Kingsville Residents Group (SSKRG) (proxy for Christine Harris)
Bert Boere (BB)	Brooklyn Residents Action Group
Philip Dearman (PD)	Maribyrnong Truck Action Group (MTAG)
Natalie Thomas (NT)	Maribyrnong City Council (proxy for Deidre Anderson)
Neil Whiteside (NW)	Brimbank Council
Craig Williams (CW)	Seddon
Vernon Terrill	Friends of Stony Creek (FOSK)
Stephen Zelez (SZ)	Hobsons Bay Council
Craig Rowley (CR)	LeadWest
Margaret O'Loughlin (MO)	Yarraville
Jessica Christiansen-Franks (JCF)	Footscray
Gary West (GW)	Project team
Emily Dooley (ED)	Project team
Sarah Altman (SAL)	Project team
Jim Carden (JC)	Project team
Lisa Ryan (LR)	Project team
Samantha Aitchison (SAI)	Project team
Victoria Jessop (VJ)	Project team

Liz Evans (LE)	Project team
Kathryn Norton (KN)	Project team

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Scott Ellerton (SE)	Concerned Locals of Yarraville (CLOY)
Christine Harris (CH)	Spotswood & South Kingsville Residents Group (SSKRG)
Dave Jones (DJ)	RACV
Deidre Anderson (DA)	Maribyrnong City Council
Emma Appleton (EA)	Melbourne City Council
Greg Cain (GC)	VTA

Agenda items

Time	#	Item detail
5.30pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies
5.35pm	2	Address previous minutes and actions arising
5.35pm	3	Short presentations by members <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simon Birch, Spotswood• Jessica Christiansen-Franks, Footscray
6.00pm	4	Project update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A brief update on what's been happening and next steps
6.15pm	5	Communicating the EES – group workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a community perspective on how we can best communicate the EES process and findings, to enable community participation in the process.
7.15pm	6	Other items
7.25pm	7	Meeting action summary and close

Minutes

Time	#	Item detail
5.30pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JW welcomes group• JW notes apologies as listed above• JW welcomes Rosa McKenna from SSKRG, Natalie Thomas from MCC, Vernon Terrill from FOSC and Lisa Ryan, the Western Distributor Authority (WDA) Director Planning and Property• JW welcomes Robin Miles to facilitate the group workshop
5.35pm	2	Address previous minutes and actions arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JW acknowledges that as the last CLG meeting was a site tour, that there were no minutes to address• JW seeks approval of minutes from meeting number 7 in November 2016• JW raises a change to be made to the minutes regarding rewording a sentence – no further changes required
5.40pm	3	Short presentations by members SB – Spotswood <ul style="list-style-type: none">• talks the group through the agenda for his presentation, outlines his background as a local Spotswood resident, property owner, engineer, and explains that he is completing a master's degree in Project Management• Explains that he has been involved with the project from when it was first announced because of the potential community impacts in Spotswood where he is a resident• Has attended the early community consultations, registered to receive project updates and was accepted as a CLG representative for Spotswood• Described how the local community engagement involvement has increased over time and that this is largely because of design changes and their potential impact• States that some residents felt they were caught by surprise by the five ramp options and the current ramp options has negative impacts without significant benefits for Spotswood• Highlights that there could be some potential opportunities for the local area as a result of the project• To increase engagement between Spotswood residents and the project, residents have undertaken mail outs and notices which resulted in a presentation from the Western Distributor team community members.• As a result of the increased engagement and meetings with local authorities and MPs an extra representative from Spotswood was elected to the CLG• Outlined some of Spotswood's key issues including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Impact to local amenity with the freeway widening becoming closer to Spotswood residents' homes and open spaces– Inadequate air monitoring and regulation– Impact to visual amenity along freeway– Visual impact of above ground ramps– Impacts from toll avoidance to local traffic flows– Access to, and safety of new cycling and pedestrian paths– Potential for voluntary property purchase

Time	#	Item detail
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community objectives for Spotswood include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Improve recreational and green space areas such as football ovals, and cricket grounds– Reduced noise level (residential and recreational) and improvements in noise barriers and ensure appropriate noise standards via the EES process– Maintain/improve air pollution from vehicle emissions– Encourage trucks to use tollways– A robust system to prevent heavy truck use on local roads– Minimise construction impacts– Community program fund for the life of the project to offset negative impacts• CR ask if the project can place noise walls alongside Donald McLean Reserve• GW acknowledges community requests for noise walls at sports fields and that there are a number of these alongside the West Gate Freeway. He advised that the application requires attenuation against residential only, however the project will consider whether any further noise walls are required• RM noted that there are also community concerns about the use of Simcock Avenue, as it is an important entrance to Spotswood for residents and they are concerned about traffic changes here. She noted that commercial building developments, a new mural and development of Scienceworks on land adjoining Simcock Avenue are in progress, with the potential to change the nature of this area from industrial to commercial and cultural• GW explains that the Reference design uses a short section of Simcock Avenue and that tenders and the project team are aware of council works in the area and planned developments• RM explains that Scienceworks is planning to develop and use the land between Hudson Road and Simcock Avenue• GW expects the team to be aware, having had discussions with Museum Victoria and that he would ensure this is the case <p>JCF – Footscray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides the group with the information about her background in Urban Design and previous experience with projects of this size, also expresses her passion in community engagement as an opportunity to do something good for the community - especially Footscray• Advised that she has visited many different local people and groups in the Footscray area, and that the Maribyrnong river crossing is something that people are concerned about• Raised the fact that traffic is not an issue she is hearing about with the people she is speaking to – more of the concern lies around what impact the bridge will have on the Footscray community• As part of her consultation she has visited the local arts centres, the Dream Factory, local parks and completed letterbox drops locally• The main feedback she has had from her community is that there are concerns around loss of public land, the number of on/off ramps from bridge, noise, construction and visual impacts• Outlined opportunities for the project with the community<ul style="list-style-type: none">– To mitigate construction impacts in a way that will ultimately enhance businesses and creativity in this area, as well as protect good quality connections along the river front

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Urban design – is it possible to invest funds into good quality urban design outcomes for the community• Explained that the local Footscray community do want to be involved in this area of the project – whether it's through design with local artists or helping keep the river front in use that would be beneficial.
6.10pm	4	<p>Gary West - Project Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advises the group that the project is currently working through the process with Tenderers to reach a preferred design and that there is no set timeline to a process of this magnitude• He assured the group that the project is working with three experienced consortiums who are being thoroughly assessed across all aspects of the project• The collective submission that the CLG put together as a group was feedback to Tenderers and they are across the key concerns and opportunities from the group• Advised that the project is busy continuing work to prepare the Environment Effects Statement• Explained that the project is continuing to meet with stakeholders such as councils, CEO's and community groups and advises that the project team met with Emma McLean kindergarten on Monday 30 January 2017• Explains that LR will speak about the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process
6.20pm	5	<p>Communicating the EES – group workshop</p> <p>Lisa Ryan, Director, Planning and Property of the Western Distributor Authority (WDA)</p> <p>speaks about the EES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduced herself in her role with the WDA and described her previous experience in town planning, road and rail projects• Outlined the statutory requirements of exhibiting an EES including advertising in newspapers, physical displays of the EES in council offices and libraries. Also provided an overview of possible complementary communications materials• Information factsheets• Stakeholder and community group meetings• Website information• Pop-up information session• Community information sessions• Outlined what the EES will comprise of. It will have four main volumes with supporting technical reports, attachments and a map book. The EES make up is as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Volume 1 – Background and supporting documents– Volume 2 – West Gate Freeway– Volume 3 – Tunnels– Volume 4 – Port, CityLink and city connections– Attachments– Technical Reports– Map book - an A3 coloured document which shows the actual design• Explained that as well as these there will also be a Summary Report, which provides an overarching summary of the EES

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Described to the group the size of the EES explaining that each volume is approximately 1000 pages.• Advised that there will be summary information for each section of the EES and that people will then be able to find more detailed information in the technical documents• Explained that Volume 1 of the EES will include the project description detailing the design, urban design as well as a summary of stakeholder communication and engagement that has taken place over the past two years – including that with the CLG. She also advised there will be a separate attachment on consultation.• Explained that Volumes 2 and 4 will assess the projects effects separated into three corridors and grouped into 5 themes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Introduction– Effects on transport– Effects on physical environment– Effects on health and amenity– Effects on community– Effects on heritage
		Group workshop – communicating the EES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The room is split into three groups with table facilitators and a scribe.• Table facilitators ask a series of questions to the members of their table – the overall responses are as follows:
		Q1 - Does your community know about the EES? And do they understand it's purpose and the process? What are the knowledge gaps?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is an awareness of EES but not a lot of understanding• Some people don't know if they should care about the EES and don't understand how important it is in the process• Some people are well versed in EES but others don't understand it at all and can't make sense of it from the information provided• People are somewhat unsure of the rigour of the EES process and don't understand why the Victoria Government don't support or promote this process• People know there is an EES happening but not really what that means or how they can be involved• Many people aren't paying attention because they don't realise there will be impacts for them• Level of awareness linked with level of interest/impact, people are more interested if they are more impacted• Most interested in the submissions process and timeframes and some see it as the way to be heard in front of the panel• People want to know what their involvement will achieve – i.e. will them making a submission change the project? i.e. what's the point of participating?• People understand that there are 17 specialist studies being looked at but not clear on what is being looked at within them
		Q2 - Based on previous communications materials and methods, what has worked well? And where can we do better?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pops ups were good and worked well, people liked being able to drop by and speak to members of the project team at a time that suited them

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People had an expectation of what the pop ups would be, a formal information session, and when they arrived it was different from what they expected – it's important in future to be clear about what the session involves • It was recognised that communicating complex content is challenging and the project team is doing okay at this • People need to be able to recognise their input? in the consultation reports and also be able to see the information that is most relevant to them first • Be upfront about impacts – don't just show benefits, glossy pictures / Warts and all information – people want to hear the bad with the good • There needs to be more visuals, graphics and information in bite sized chunks so it's easier to digest • Explain the consequences of decisions – i.e. if we do this, XYZ is the result – if we don't, ABC is the result. • Collect people's information so you know where feedback is coming from (i.e. what people in one suburb say vs other areas) • Need to think about providing information to a variety of ages groups through more internet advertising, social media like Facebook, and local paper advertising • Be clear and upfront about scope for change – if people go into the EES expecting major changes they will only be disappointed • Make sure information and graphics are accurate – i.e. don't show a picture with a noise wall if no noise wall will be built (pictures need to match the words) • Provide more big picture information so that we know what is happening outside of our area also <p>Are there barriers preventing people from participating in the EES? How can we make it easier?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantity of information – draw out technical information that is applicable to an area/stakeholder so they don't need to wade through the whole lot • Many CALD groups in the inner west and information needs to be targeted to these groups through councils and larger community groups • Some people can't find the right information on the website and also don't really know what they are looking for – needs to be a clear way to get to the Western Distributor website page and a latest updates page • Tap into existing networks that are there through community groups and councils to communicate information more easily • Complexity of information needs to be explained in layman's terms • Distribute information as early as possible to give people more time • Some people aren't sure the EES process will change anything, so don't feel the need to participate – if the project team was more upfront about impacts and what can/can't change through the process then they would feel as though they could be involved
7.20pm	6	<p>Other items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JW asks the group whether Thursday 9 March is suitable for the next meeting date – group agrees • JW raises that there will be lots to discuss in the coming months and asks the group if there are any other items for discussion they would like to talk about - no further matters were raised

Time	#	Item detail
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">SA lets the group know that the project is running a community engagement survey and there are copies on the bench for people to take and that the project will also send out a link to the survey online
7.30pm	9	Meeting close 7.30pm meeting closes

Actions

#	Action detail	Owner	Status
1	Send Melbourne Metro Rail map book link out to CLG members	Secretariat	Complete
2	Send project website link to members	Secretariat	Complete
3	Send community engagement survey link to members	Secretariat	Complete

Next meeting

Date:	Thursday 9 March 2016
Time:	5.30pm – 7.30pm
Place:	Maribyrnong Town Hall
Chair:	Jim Williamson

Minutes prepared by:	Emily Dooley
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Minutes approved by:	Jim Williamson
	
	2/03/17
	<i>Approval signature</i>
	<i>Approval date</i>

