



Community dialogue - meeting #10

Hi-Quality – Bulla Spoil Processing Facility

Meeting details

Date: 9 November 2021, 5.00pm to 6.30pm

Venue: Online (via Zoom)

Attendees:

Community representatives	
Chris O'Neill	No Toxic Soil Campaign
Graham Williams	Sunbury Residents Association
Heather Dodd	Local resident
Michael Osborne	Sunbury Business Association

Project representatives and guests	
Amy Watson	Partner, Forge Communications (Hi-Quality)
Anthony Havers	Director Communications and Engagement, West Gate Tunnel Project
Lance Ingrams	Regional Manager, Victoria, Hi-Quality Group

Facilitator	
Todd Beavis	Founder and Principal, i.e. community

Apologies:

Anthony White	Controller, Sunbury SES
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Purpose

The meeting was held to continue the dialogue between Hi-Quality and community representatives in relation to the establishment of the Bulla Spoil Processing Facility to collect, treat and dispose of material from the tunnel boring machines on the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Agenda

Item	Discussion lead
Actions from last meeting	Todd
Construction update	Lance
MTIA/WGTP update	Anthony
Next steps on the community dialogue	Todd
Upcoming engagement activities	Todd
Upcoming meetings	Todd

Actions from last meeting

Hi-Quality to coordinate response from all project parties to requests and actions discussed under "Addressing community expectations" by next meeting.

- Hi-Quality advised there had been significant discussion between the project parties in response to the expectations discussed and agreed at the last meeting, noting that Anthony would provide further information as part of the MTIA/WGTP update.

Hi-Quality to confirm instructions to all contractors that secondary entrance to the site is only to be used for light vehicles.

- Lance advised that he had spoken to the major contractors and had been advised that while primarily for light vehicles, the entrance is being used for some deliveries, such as water and lime, where access was required to the Sunbury end of the site. He is seeking further information about what risk assessments have been undertaken by the contractors to ensure safety.
- Community representatives raised concerns about safety, noting that there had been a double fatality along that stretch of Sunbury Road a couple of years ago. They also noted that the entrance was in poor condition, with water pooling at the gate.
- Lance advised that as a safety measure, all vehicles are required to turn left into and out of the entrance so that vehicles are not crossing lanes. He committed to providing an update on the safety assessments that have been undertaken and the condition of the entrance at the next meeting.



Due to time constraints, discussion on the next steps for the community dialogue was carried over to the next meeting.

- Todd noted that this was on the agenda for later in the meeting.

Release of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP)

- Todd advised that this item was added to the agenda following a request by Chris following the last meeting and reminded all community representatives that they are welcome to put an item on the agenda for discussion.
- Anthony advised that the TMP is still going through the approvals process and that once approved he would arrange for representatives from the Department of Transport (DoT) to attend the dialogue to talk through the TMP and the assessment of Bulla Bridge, and that copies of both documents would be provided to the group.
- When asked when this would be, Anthony advised that it would be as soon as possible and that the project is conscious that it needs to be before the trucks start transporting the material from the tunnel.
- Community representatives requested that it be provided before it was approved so that the community has the opportunity to provide input, noting that they are best placed to provide the local knowledge on traffic conditions in the area. Anthony advised that input from the community had been taken into account in the development of the TMP, including the consultation undertaken as part of the Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) approval process.
- Community representatives questioned whether this was the case, noting that they had not seen or been involved in any consultation of the TMP. Anthony advised that the views of the community had been expressed through the ongoing consultation undertaken by Hi-Quality and that the TMP was developed with input from the regional DoT team who have knowledge of the local area. Todd advised he would share the engagement report provided as part of the PSA process as it had been some time since it was submitted.
- A community representative asked that the request to be consulted on the TMP before it is finalised be noted and that this is another example where the project had not listened to the community.

Construction update (Lance)

- Lance advised that the weather had been a challenge of late, with significant periods of rain and wind impacting construction. He advised that while it had caused some delays, they are still working towards having the first phase of the construction by mid-January and the containment cell completed by the end of June.
- He advised that the water treatment plant had arrived and was being constructed and that the liners for the pre-treatment ponds were being installed.
- He said that while the construction is slightly behind schedule, they are working to bring it back into line and that hopefully the weather would hold up, noting that further significant rain was forecast in the coming weeks.



MTIA/WGTP update (Anthony)

Addressing community expectations

Response provided by the West Gate Tunnel Project:

The Project acknowledges the commitments requested by the Sunbury and Bulla communities at Hi-Quality's Community Dialogue meeting in September. The requests are currently being considered by all project parties, Hi-Quality, and the local MP, to see what can be done.

Once the final details of The Project's work with Hi-Quality are finalised, a specific Community Dialogue Meeting will be held to give an update on the project, provide a response to the requests made by the community, and answer any of your questions.

- Anthony advised that there had been significant discussion about the expectations amongst the project parties and talked through the statement provided. He noted that it was a significant list with a range of actions that needed to be coordinated across various areas of government, Transurban and the CPB John Holland Joint Venture (JV). He advised that they are working through it, noting that Josh Bull had spoken to Hume City Council about the request for a public toilet.
- The community representatives acknowledged that it would take some time and are happy to wait for the items to be discussed in detail at a future meeting, provided this was done before the transport of the material from the tunnel commences.

MTIA research

- In response to recent questions asked on social and by the community representatives, Anthony advised that the government regularly undertakes research on major projects to understand local concerns and information needs. He confirmed that Hi-Quality had not been involved in the research. He advised that he would be happy to arrange a briefing with the group once the report was finalised.
- A community representative said that it was appreciated that people are being asked for their views and asked if an unredacted report would be released so we can see what people actually said. Anthony advised that while the report would not be released, he will come back to the group and share the findings and what actions will be taken in response.
- At this point, Chris shared a dash cam video taken in October of a truck driving dangerously around a bend on Sunbury Road, noting that this happens regularly and that it was just lucky that someone with a dash cam was there to record it. There was no suggestion that the truck in the video was related to Hi-Quality. He advised that road safety is a real concern for the community and there are serious concerns that there will be a fatal accident. He noted that the community has placed a camera on Bulla hill and that they expected to capture more examples of dangerous driving by trucks.
- Amy advised that the project is acutely aware that road safety was a major concern and was a key focus of the project parties, advising that as soon as a contract is signed with the JV that we would have representatives come to talk about transport and road safety.

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- A community representative raised an issue about rubbish along Sunbury Road, noting that it appears to be coming from trucks going to Hi-Quality. Lance advised that trucks are inspected as they enter the weighbridge to see if there has been any issue with the load. He advised that if the registration number of trucks driving dangerously or loads were not secured properly were provided, with supporting evidence, that he had no hesitation banning them from using the Sunbury Eco-Hub. He noted that he had done this on a number of occasions.

Next steps on the community dialogue

- Todd talked through the proposed next steps for the dialogue, noting that the process had evolved in recent months, with agreements around the review and distribution of notes and attendance by project parties as two examples.
- He advised that the plan is to develop a draft Terms of Reference outlining the role and function of the group for review and input by dialogue members. Central to this would be to formalise the purpose of the dialogue, noting that there had been questions in the past as to whether it was considered as a form of engagement.
- The group then discussed the purpose of the group, with the following points raised:
 - Still appears to be a forum where the community is told what has happened, rather than being consulted before decisions are made
 - The dialogue is an opportunity for the community to be provided with advance notice of upcoming activities and to hear from the project parties and relevant experts
 - It provides a conduit between the project and the community to have questions answered and share information
- The representatives raised that they are sceptical that they are being listened to and that the process was having any impact. Hi-Quality representatives advised that the project parties are paying attention to the feedback from the groups, citing Anthony's attendance and the upcoming engagement activities and meetings as examples.
- Discussion then turned to expanding the group, with Todd noting that consideration had been given to inviting other representatives that are impacted in some way and had a demonstrated interest in the project. He asked the representatives if the group had any suggestions.
- Following some discussion, noting the challenges of finding people who have a strong interest and would want to participate, the Friends of Emu Creek and the Terminate Tulla Toxic Dump Action Group were put forward. It was noted that the Friends of Emu Creek are not very active and that the Tulla group may not be relevant. Todd asked the group to give it further consideration and we would be happy to receive further suggestions.



Upcoming community engagement activities

- The following activities were discussed:
 - The works notification for the intersection upgrade which is scheduled to go out by Saturday 13 November, with works planned to commence from 20 November.
 - Community pop-ups to provide information about the project, capture feedback and concerns and respond to questions from the community. Todd advised that potential locations included Sunbury Village Market on 11 December and Sunbury Square. The group was asked for their input on potential locations or events where the project could be out and about in the community. A few ideas were discussed, with Bunnings and Sunfest In March as the two best opportunities identified. It was noted that many activities had been cancelled due to COVID. Todd asked the representatives to let us know if they become aware of any opportunities and they will be considered.
 - The following proposed schedule for Community information sessions was discussed, noting that they had yet to be locked in by project parties.
 - Dec: CPB John Holland JV/MTIA - focus on transport, truck routes and management, testing
 - Jan/Feb: VicRoads/DoT - Focus on road infrastructure, truck routes
 - Mar/Apr: EPA Victoria - Focus on approvals process, levels of PFAS contamination, environmental protection
 - The group agreed with the schedule outlined, with one representative noting that consideration needed to be given to school holidays in January.

Agreed actions

- Hi-Quality to provide updates on risk and safety assessments for use of the secondary entrance and the condition of the entrance.
- Department of Transport to provide a briefing on the TMP once approved, along with the assessment of Bulla Bridge, with copies of both documents being provided.
- Hi-Quality to share the engagement report provided as part of the PSA approvals process.
- Hi-Quality to enquire about holding a pop-up at Bunnings.

Upcoming meetings

- Nov/Dec: specific meeting to discuss response to community expectations, date and time to be confirmed.
- It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 7 December, with consideration to it being in person. It was also agreed that future meetings would be extended to one and half hours as this was typically how long they ran for.