



Community dialogue

Hi-Quality - West Gate Tunnel Proposal

Meeting details

Date: 21 April 2021, 4:30pm to 5:30pm

Venue: Hume Global Learning Centre, 44 Macedon Street, Sunbury

Attendees:

Community representatives:

- Chris O'Neill - No Toxic Soil campaign
- Graham Williams - Sunbury Residents Association
- Heather Dodd - Neighbour
- Michael Osborne - Sunbury Business Association

Hi-Quality

- Lance Ingrams - Regional Manager, Victoria

i.e community

- Todd Beavis - Principal (facilitator)

Purpose

The meeting was held to open a dialogue between Hi-Quality and community representatives in relation to the proposal to treat and reuse soil from the West Gate Tunnel, following ongoing calls for greater community consultation. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for Hi-Quality to meet with members of the community in person to provide an update on the proposal, answer questions and obtain input into further engagement activities.

Agenda

The key items for discussion were:

- Introductions
- Update on the proposal
- Questions
- Community engagement.



Key points of discussion

- Status of the approvals process and potential impacts of decision to pursue legal action by Hume City Council.
- The position of Hi-Quality's proposal in relation to other potential sites - all three have required approvals from the Minister for Planning.
- The significant investment Hi-Quality has put into the proposal and longer term plans for the site if the proposal does not proceed.
- Decision on the tender is likely to be made in the next six to eight weeks.
- Lack of clear credible information available to the community about the project, (inconsistent) information coming from a range of sources, causing confusion in the community.
- That the decision is hanging over the community, no clear process or timeline, constantly changing and dragging on. When is enough, enough?
- Main concerns remain the risk of PFAS contamination, traffic and safety on the roads and, in particular, potential spillage on the roads. Including the readiness of the local CFA and SES to respond.
- All agreed that more needed to be done to inform and engage the community, following a good discussion, the following actions were identified for further consideration:
 - Ongoing dialogue with community representatives
 - Minutes of the meetings be provided for distribution to their respective community groups
 - Consideration to be given to expanding representation, including project partners (Transurban, John Holland/CPB Contractors), CFA and SES
 - A more structured and public facing Q&A process
 - Representatives could gather questions for response
 - Possibility of an online/recorded Q&A session with Lance
 - Further development of the online engagement platform (www.hiqualitysunbury.com.au)
 - A more interactive Q&A process - where the community can ask for further clarification
 - Identification of who is answering the questions
 - Further promotion so people know where to find it
 - 'Pop-up' activities at key community gathering points
 - Opportunity for the community to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal.