

# **Brunswick Terminal Station Upgrade**

## **Community Reference Group Meeting 5**

6:00-8:00 15 September 2015

Brunswick Town Hall

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Apologies/ absent:**

Chris Black, resident, Merri Creek Residents' Group (MCRG)

Ray Radford, resident, Friends of Merri Creek

Craig Burton, resident

Ramon Collodetti, resident, MCRG

David Grant, AusNet Services

Liam Lenihan, Urban Planner, Moreland City Council

### **Attendees:**

Bruce Turner, Chair

Fatima Alisak, resident

Denis McCrohan, AusNet Services

Sandra Nielsen, AusNet Services

Kirsten Coster, Director, Planning and Economic Development, Moreland City Council

Phil Priest, Group Manager City Development, Moreland City Council

Darren Camilleri, Planning Coordinator, Moreland City Council

### **Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised of the apologies he had received (from Chris, Ray, Craig, David and Liam) and reported that Chris had advised that she was shortly to be moving interstate with her family and therefore was unable to continue her involvement with the CRG.

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

The Chair had circulated the Draft Minutes in accordance with the Terms of Reference for comment. No comments were received. The minutes of the previous meeting 21 July were adopted as a reasonable record. The minutes will be placed on Council's website.

### **Recent / upcoming activities at the BTS**

Sandra gave an update of recent and upcoming works. This included:

- Three transformers have been located on-site. These were transported on trucks and weigh approximately 140 tonnes each. The transformers are currently being installed on-site. They won't be operational for quite some time.
- The 22kV and 66kV buildings are almost complete.
- The outer 'leaf design' green panels have been partly installed and some positive comments have been received from local residents. Further architectural features as per the endorsed plans are to follow.

- Some shipping containers have been removed for operational purposes (i.e. space required). Noise blankets have been installed. The peak of the noisy works has now been completed. There is still some rock breaking required for trenches etc (roughly 2 metres deep). Noisy works do not occur earlier than 9 am and later than 3 pm with respite breaks to manage noise fatigue.
- The palisade fence on North section of King Street will soon be erected. Landscaping will follow. It is hoped the landscaping on King Street will be completed this year or early next year.
- The retaining wall to north has been completed. South retaining wall almost complete.
- The gas insulated switch gear still needs to be placed in the buildings.
- Door knocking of neighbours is continuing (approx. once a month).
- On schedule to complete the development October 2016.

Sandra acknowledged that local residents had been patient with the construction works. Fatima expressed frustration with the impacts on residents due to the cumulative nature of infrastructure works (e.g. gas, broadband) being undertaken in the area at the same time by a range of agencies, not just BTS.

Denis and Sandra outlined how the BTS works will taper off over time, in terms of impacts on surrounding residents, through the use of smaller trucks for deliveries and quieter cabling work, involving a lot of workers but not as much noise.

Phil noted that resident members of the CRG had previously asked about the temporary electric fence. Phil asked Denis when the temporary electric fence will be removed and a more permanent one installed on the retaining wall. Denis said that he would make enquiries and report back to the CRG.

**Action 5.1: AusNet Services to advise CRG at next meeting the timing of electric fence relocation.** (24/9/15 update: this is scheduled to occur mid-2016)

## Noise impacts/modelling update

This item was a carry-over from an earlier CRG meeting (Action 2.6 of Minutes 11 November 2014). The item was about managing noise impacts on the Darebin side due to a gap in the shipping containers at that side at the time. AusNet Services, Council and Fatima agreed this item was now obsolete given the noisiest works had been completed and many shipping containers removed from the site.

## Goat Track and other infrastructure improvements

Sandra reported that an on-site meeting had taken place in August with MCMC president (: Luisa Macmillan), Council representatives and AusNet Services. MCMC preferred the path to be a 'soft' material rather than concrete. The route of the path was agreed and a draft plan had just recently been circulated to Council.

That draft plan had been referred to Council's Open Space unit who were generally satisfied with the plans subject to some minor alterations (i.e. materials for the base of the path etc).

**Action 5.2: AusNet Services to circulate the draft plan to CRG members prior to next CRG and have this item listed at the next meeting.**

The Chair asked AusNet about 'other infrastructure improvements' as per the title of this item. Denis advised that the infrastructure improvements related solely to the goats track upgrade and looking at some form of historical interpretation in consultation with Council.

## Information Displays

Darren reported that David Grant had provided an example sign board to Council along with two suggested locations. These were on Alistair Street in front of the Soccer pavilion and near the junction of the bridge and the path along the Merri Creek. Council's Open Space Unit was supportive of the boards and locations. The CRG were also supportive of the above.

**Action 5.3: AusNet Services to lodge planning permit application for noticeboards.**

## History of the site

There was a brief discussion of the heritage report tabled at the last CRG meeting by Ramon Collodetti. Fatima said she thought acknowledgement of what was on the BTS site originally was a good thing.

Denis advised that the likely scope of this work would be to commission a heritage expert to research information for a heritage plaque(s). Kirsten noted that there might be an opportunity to link this in some way to the notice boards previously discussed.

Once a draft proposal is commissioned, it can be referred to Council's heritage advisor and the CRG for comments. Interpretation boards may require a planning permit.

**Action 5.4: Denis to take a proposal for engaging a heritage consultant to the AusNet Services Steering Committee and respond back at the next CRG.**

Fatima commented that she would have hoped that a company the size of AusNet Services, having an impact in a residential area to the extent that the BTS upgrade is having, would have come up with some 'big benefits' for the local community. She strongly acknowledged the goodwill with which the individual company representatives have attended CRG meetings, but said she felt the company as a whole was only offering 'crumbs' to the community.

## Emergency Management (follow up from last meeting actions and next steps)

Action 4.1 AusNet Services to confirm whether the current list of risks is complete.

Response: Denis advised that following a review of the relevant items on AusNet Services risk register, the items discussed at the last meeting covered the risks. Denis noted asbestos in soil was also included, however this matter has been finalised and the soil cleaned.

Action 4.2: MFB to review the BTS Fire Engineering Study (15 June 2015) and provide comments as appropriate to The Chair prior to the next CRG meeting.

Response: The Chair advised that the MFB have since notified him that it is not MFB's role nor are they permitted to comment on a private consultant report. Fatima expressed disappointment that there would be no independent report provided. It was noted that MFB representatives, who are governed by a duty of care, had received a copy of the report and did not raise concerns with the overall findings which were minuted in the July 2015 CRG minutes. Denis also noted that the Fire Engineering Report has been provided to the Government as part of the Advisory Committee process.

Action 4.3: AusNet Services to ask ESV if they are able to undertake a special review of BTS in relation to the applicable safety standards.

Response: Denis advised that AusNet Services had requested ESV to include the BTS site in their audit programme. He advised that ESV have agreed to include BTS in their audit programme which will be done when the development is completed.

### **Sharing emergency management information**

There was a discussion about how the information from the last CRG meeting in July could be shared. The Chair noted that the minutes of the July CRG meeting will be posted on Council's website. Information could also be placed on the noticeboards proposed as per the earlier item in these minutes. This could at least refer people to the website for more details.

Fatima suggested that if or when the Advisory Committee reported, this would be a good time for a community update from Council which could remind people about the CRG and advise what has been discussed at meetings, and help to reassure people on the safety measures. If the report is not released before the end of the year, she suggested an update before the end of the year would be helpful anyway.

### **Other Matters**

Given only one resident member was in attendance at this meeting, and at least one member (Chris) has resigned, everyone agreed that the future of the CRG should be an item for discussion at the next CRG.

**Action 5.5: 'Future of the CRG' to be listed as an item for the next CRG meeting.**

### **Next Meeting**

**6-8 pm, Tuesday 1 December 2015, Brunswick Town Hall**