

20240529  
12:00pm – 1:30pm  
96-98 Great Western Highway,  
Medlow Bath

## Minutes

### Medlow Bath Community Advisory Group

Chair  
Attendees

Alistair Lunn (AL) – Regional Director West

**Community Advisory Group Members:**

Belinda Shipton (BS)

Deborah Howell (DH)

Debra Brown (CM)

Jenny Storaker (JS)

Narelle Morrissey (NM)

Russell Brown (RB)

**Transport for NSW:**

Andrew McLuckie, Project Manager (AM)

Brittany Aiken, Community and Customer Engagement Officer (BA)

Joanna Lesak, Deputy Project Manager (JL)

Kate Walsh, Manager Communications and Engagement (KW)

Matthew Davis, Senior Community and Customer Engagement Officer (MD)

Paul Polansky, Senior Manager Transport Technical Solutions (PP)

Thomas Worley, Associate Community and Safety Partner (TW)

Van Bardzhamian, Project Director (VB)

**Abergeldie:**

Brent Knight, Project Manager (BN)

Carla Brookes, Communications Manager (CB)

Kellie Pittaway, Environment Manager (KP)

**Arenco:**

Luke Conrith, Communications Manager (LC)

Michael Di-Filippo, Construction Manager (MDF)

**Blue Mountains Council**

Sally Thompson, Project Officer (ST)

Apologies

Halina Pochwyt (HP) – CAG Member

Ian Hehir (IH) – CAG Member

Leigh Trevitt (LT) - TfNSW

Steven Williams (SW) - Arenco

Tomi Vasilevski (TV) - TfNSW

Nil

Conflict of Interest

Declarations

Endorsement of minutes  
from previous meeting

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and endorsed.

**Action Item 1: Runoff**

- KP explained that all data was inspected by herself regarding runoff across the project and site is 100% compliant according to plan.
- KP identified that the historical data used has not prepared for actuality and the rain events that have been observed (over 800mL of rain in 5 months) does not follow historic data.



- The plans are being actively and continuously reviewed and Abergeldie have brought in several specialists to ensure they are not exceeding allowed limits.
- KP mentioned that certain amounts of rain will create run-off, but Abergeldie are continuing to be proactive in managing this during rain events.
- BN mentioned that in the next few days a spray seal will be put down that will cover approximately 60% of the construction area, reducing the impacts of this.
- DH identified that sediment laden water had been seen running through the channel at Medlow Park and showed a video of this occurring.
- KP explained that because of the large amount of ground water present in the soil water usually continues to run for about 48 hours after the rain stops.

#### Action Item 2: Speed limit signage

- CAG members advised that the clarity on speed limits coming into Medlow Bath has greatly improved.

#### Items

##### Item 1:

##### Note about Landscaping

- MD spoke on behalf of LT regarding the plans for landscaping and that there are no new updates from the previous meeting.
- Landscaping will be better known as the construction progresses further and a contractor is selected to undertake the landscaping, which has not yet occurred.
- Should be in a better position to discuss landscaping at the next CAG meeting in August.
- VB advised that landscaping plans have been slightly adjusted to address works at the Eastern end returning the area to a more natural finish. Has not yet been finalised but will hopefully be able to update in the next meeting.
- DB mentioned that Transport have in the past mentioned changing the wall to make it less obvious and if there would be the opportunity for more plantings along the top.
- VB identified that the wall is about 150m long now, reduced from the original scope of 350m and that the levels will continue to come down and be less obvious as construction continues. The rising section will not be as pronounced in the finished product. There will be some trees but the majority of plantings here will be more bushy vegetation.

##### Item 2:

##### Noise and Vibration Management

- KP discussed how noise is mitigated across the project and spoke about how noise blankets function – referencing that they are ideal for noise travelling straight from point A to point B but not ideal to prevent noise at any distance.
- KP also discussed vibration management and how vibrations travel from a project site, being not only across the ground but underground as well. KP also mentioned that vibration can also be felt through sound as well.



- DB asked about the complaint raised in mid-May regarding deep vibrations felt and what may have been the cause of this. KP reviewed works on the day of the complaint and walked the site to locate the source, concluded it was not project related.
- DH mentioned very deep vibrations that were felt through people's floors and the feeling of ear vibrations like when you roll a window down in a car. KP identified that vibration is a difficult one to manage as large sections around the project area will potentially feel them but the response people have to them is very subjective. The modelling completed for the project suggests that big sections will feel them but they shouldn't result in damage as the equipment being used isn't large enough.
- JS mentioned that people who have noticed damage, how will the vibration affect them? KP stated that the vibrations shouldn't affect them. KP mentioned that there was a push by Abergeldie at the start of the project for residents to accept dilapidation surveys. These surveys are completed to measure any changes in houses from the start to the end of a project and any damage that is noted in the report conducted at the end of the project is investigated and rectified by Abergeldie. The methodology for this was very conservative and considered the heritage aspect of the town.
- DH asked about the distance from the project that dilapidation surveys are offered. KP identified it is approximately 150m from the work site.
- DH discussed that it has been mentioned that vibration will get worse as the project progresses into pavements and is concerned about the health of family and community. BS stated she could feel it every time a vibration roller is turned on or off, no damage has been noticed but the windows rattle whenever trucks go past. KP identified that the community will be feeling it, but wanted to provide assurance that vibration is constantly being monitored to ensure allowable limits are not exceeded at any time and that no damage is being caused. KP also mentioned that the methodology being used is always being reviewed and adapted as needed, for example, in response to vibration concerns from the work in Bellevue Crescent, Abergeldie have downsized the vibration roller being used in this area.
- BK provided a heads up that as the project moves into pavements in the coming months, there will be increased vibrations and likely for longer periods of time so if there are major concerns he wants to know about them now so they can see if these can be mitigated at all.
- BK also mentioned that Abergeldie can arrange rooms at the library if people need space to work while these works are happening. BS asked if they are private areas, KP confirmed they are private rooms at the library.



Item 3:  
Bus Stop

- DB asked about the long-term effects of noise after the project has been completed and are there any long-term mitigation measures in place. KW advised that the REF has a noise model and this model is completed at the end of the project to ensure the modelling was accurate, any differences are rectified at that time. RB asked if wind direction is considered during these assessments or if it is just a single check. KP explained that noise monitors are installed for a period of time to get a complete picture of the noise so all aspects are considered.
- The mural bus stop was assessed and VB discussed that it is not in great condition and it wouldn't be advisable to use it in its current form. VB discussed that there is the potential to use it in some form in the park and that Council has been approached to see if this is viable.
- ST mentioned she was excited to come to CAG today for this very reason, is there community interest in keeping it and will it improve the look and feel of the park to put it there? RB identified that it is cherished in the community and represents part of the history of the Hydro, to have it disappear would be a loss to Medlow Bath. DB mentioned she had approached Council a few years ago to see if it could be repainted as it is part of the community.
- JS asked if it could become a decoration of some sort.
- VB identified that one option would be to place a large awning structure over the top of the mural walls, making it an ornate piece and reflective of other work done in the mountains.
- NM mentioned that the value is in the mural itself and not so much the structure.
- DB asked if Transport could restore the mural. VB questioned if this meant redo it or clean it? AL identified that this would be the responsibility of the Council and the community as Transport could not fund this within the current budget for this project. ST identified that restoring murals is a very costly process. RB asked if it could be something that Council and Transport could work together on. AL identified that is why Council is present today as we want to work alongside them on this.
- DH discussed that the community would be interested in a stage/performing space in the park. ST identified that there are several complications in Medlow Park including an armillaria infection in the trees, which could result in significant tree loss through the park. There is a management program in place currently which at its conclusion may free up some space allowing for space to be identified for a purpose like this. There is a small team managing over 200 parks, and so a decision on this would take some time. An amphitheatre is not in line with the current scope of Council's project, but it can be ensured that the current plan doesn't preclude an amphitheatre.



Item 4:  
Roadworks Update  
(Abergeldie)

- DH asked if Transport would fund an amphitheatre. AL stated this would not be something for Transport, our scope is to return the mural to a public space, an amphitheatre is well outside of scope.
- DB asked if the community would be involved in the decision on where to place the mural. VB identified this is the primary purpose for ST being present. Transport has an idea to instal it near the toilet block using the walls as a bespoke structure, but we don't want to do anything outside of Council's urban design framework or their plans. AL confirmed that we will not do what Council/Community don't want. We will do what is selected that is within budget.
- ST stated that there is a clear appetite to keep the mural and that the park is the best location for it to go, also agreeing that near the toilet block makes the most sense. ST proposed it to occur in stages with Transport installing it in an agreed location and through future heritage grants Council may be able to have it repainted, there is no capacity to absorb it in the current park project.
- AL encouraged the group to write to Trish Doyle as she is in the best place to help with heritage grants.
- Action: ST to approach Council's Grants Officer to monitor for opportunities.
- Action: VB to work with Abergeldie to create an artist's impression about what we could achieve.
- Schedule of works for the next 3 months was shared and discussed by BK.
- RB asked if it is anticipated if water management will have any impact on the armillaria outbreak in the trees. KP identified that we don't anticipate any changes due to our work at this stage. Not clear on what would happen after the project is completed. DB explained an understanding that it moves through the root systems and rotting timber, KP agreed that is her understanding also.
- NM discussed if a guard can be placed near the sediment basin in case anyone comes off the road. BK advised that we are installing a batter there at a 3 to 1 slope, which is a much safer alternative. DH asked if the batter would be landscaped at all. BK advised it is to be determined. VB advised it would likely be grasses planted here. DB asked if they could be native grasses. Transport have taken on notice to provide information at next CAG meeting.
- Action: BK to provide an update on the batter near the sediment basin.
- Action: Transport to determine if native grasses can be used as planting on the batter near the sediment basin.
- Group discussed vision issues for people coming out of Bellevue Crescent onto the highway and concerns for the safety of road users. VB mentioned this could be resolved



by installing a no right turn out of Bellevue for the interim. This was agreed that it would be a good solution for the meantime.

- **Action: BK to investigate installing this signage**

- RB asked if the old drain near the sediment basin is defunct. VB identified that it is a Council asset and that Council currently has a grant to continue the drain further than it currently runs. BK identified that Abergeldie are connecting to this drain from the basin with control measures in place. RB identified that there are blackberries currently growing in the drainage channel. ST identified that Council's parks team are currently working through it and it would be timely to come in soon after completion of works in that area.

- **Action: ST to pass on to Council's Weed Management Team**

- JS asked about changes to bus stops during the switches and where she would park and access to the bus stop. VB explained that this will not change too much as we are required to maintain pedestrian and vehicle access. Access should be much the same to it is now.
- Schedule of works for the next 3 months was discussed by MDF.
- DH passed along a concern from a community member regarding lighting when walking from the station to the commuter car park at night. VB identified that there is not intended to be any additional lighting works as this section is accessible and DDA compliant and lighting was taken into consideration when designing the pedestrian bridge.

- **Action: VB to consider lighting and see if any additional provisions need to be/can be made.**

- DH mentioned the respect signage that was seen around the station and that there has been concern in the community regarding these signs. KW explained the circumstances that led to these signs relating to threats made against workers in their workplace and that no offense was meant by them. KW mentioned that the community are very pleasant and this is certainly not something directed towards the community as a whole, rather a WHS response to a specific incident.
- BS identified that respect should go both ways and that traffic control seems to prioritise construction traffic over residents. Transport have taken this feedback on board and will discuss. Abergeldie will also speak with their traffic controllers.
- MD read out pre-prepared responses to questions provided by DB on behalf of the community. Responses attached as an appendix to these minutes.
- NM raised a thanks to MD and the team for arranging the bollards to be anchored.

Item 5:  
Pedestrian Bridge Update  
(Arenco)

Item 6:  
Community Questions



Item 7:  
Upcoming events

- NM raised an issue with a waterboard hole that is a trip hazard.
- Action: BK to cover the hole until Sydney Water come out to properly fix the issue.
- KW asked about any upcoming events in Medlow Bath that we should be aware of so we don't impact them with our works.
- July (no exact date known) – Hydro Majestic 120 years celebration
- 19 October – Music in the Park
- 1 December – World Aids Day Commemoration
- 16 December – Carols in the Park

Next meeting

Wednesday 28 August 2024, Medlow Bath site compound




## Actions Register

To begin, ongoing, delayed, completed

Date	Project	Action	Notes	Action status
20240529	Medlow Bath	ST to approach Council's Grants Officer to monitor for opportunities.		Ongoing
20240529	Medlow Bath	VB to work with Abergeldie to create an artist's impression about what we could achieve with the mural.	Currently in progress. Hoping to provide an update at the next CAG meeting in August.	Ongoing
20240529	Medlow Bath	BK to provide an update on the batter near the sediment basin.	Works have started and should take approximately 6 weeks to complete.	Ongoing
20240529	Medlow Bath	Transport to determine if native grasses can be used as planting on the batter near the sediment basin.	Update to be provided in next meeting.	Ongoing
20240529	Medlow Bath	BK to investigate installing no right turn signage when exiting Bellevue Crescent.	Abergeldie have removed some 'gawk screens' to improve sight distance for oncoming traffic. If problem persists, Transport and Abergeldie to work together towards installing signage.	Ongoing
20240529	Medlow Bath	ST to pass on information about Blackberry bushes in the drainage channel behind the sediment basin to Council's Weed Management Team.		Ongoing
20240529	Medlow Bath	VB to consider lighting from the station to the car park and see if any additional provisions need to be/can be made.		Ongoing
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: TV will work with Abergeldie and provide information that outlines what is defined as a reportable event and which authorities obtain the reports.		Ongoing
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Transport will investigate the contrast of the zebra crossing on Railway Parade and taken any necessary action to ensure the lines are clearly visible.	Transport is working with Abergeldie to identify an alternative option within the pedestrian crossing standards that will ensure the crossing is more visible.	Ongoing
20231129	Medlow Bath	Investigate water runoff mitigation measures in place	Site inspections undertaken to review Erosion and Sediment Controls that were in place through worksites. Controls were established throughout the site in the form of sediment fence, sumps/sandbags and bales at low points, sandbag checks along water paths and soil binder placed where able. With the potential for more heavy rain, it was decided to place additional protection through ground cover (geofabric on a steep batter area), and additional sandbag checks put in place in the southern section of works between the highway and rail corridor to further slow the flow of water.	Ongoing
20240529	Medlow Bath	BK to cover the waterboard hole until Sydney Water come out to properly fix the issue.	Sydney Water has been contacted by Abergeldie and the issue has been logged with them, however no timeframe was provided for the fix. Abergeldie were advised they are not to touch a Sydney Water asset as anything done could lead to damage to the asset.	Complete
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Abergeldie to investigate whether silt played a role in runoff.	Abergeldie have confirmed that silt did not play a role in the runoff incident in question.	Complete
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Abergeldie and Arenco to investigate further measures to restrict workers parking in commuter car park.	Several methods have been tried, including installing signage to make it clear these spaces are not for contractor use. No further complaints have been raised. Will continue to be monitored throughout the project.	Complete
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Transport will investigate pre-existing 60km sign and determine how to make speed limit clearer.	Transport working with contractors to install series of signs confirming road work speed limit and resumption of normal speed limit once past scope of works.	Complete
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Transport to speak to Blue Mountains City Council to arrange cleaning of the culvert on Railway Parade, safety concerns.	Report has been made to Council for their action.	Complete
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Transport to review the trench with Abergeldie to see what interim rectification can be done to reduce noise.	The trench that was causing concerns within the community has been rectified and no longer raising issues.	Complete
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Transport to share the link to website where members of public can nominate speed camera locations.	<a href="https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/nominate-a-speed-camera-location">https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/nominate-a-speed-camera-location</a>	Complete



20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Transport to coordinate removal of additional lines at the Station Street intersection lights.	<p>Lines have been blacked out as an interim measure and will be formally repainted when line marking is completed at end of project.</p> 	Complete
20240228	Medlow Bath	Transport to investigate the sign at this location and confirm if it is a general stop sign or a traffic light blacked out sign.	<p>Signage is attached to lights, indicates a stop required if lights are out. Transport has installed a “left turn permitted” signage to clarify the intersection</p> 	Complete
20231129	Medlow Bath	Presentation to be shared.	Attached to minutes	Complete
20231129	Medlow Bath	Specific planting numbers / planting plans - provide visuals of what retaining walls will look like with landscaping	Presented at conclusion of meeting by Leigh.	Complete
20231129	Medlow Bath	Investigate relocating the Arenco toolbox meeting at 7am be relocated to ensure no commuter parking is taken up by workers.	Arenco continue to reinforce with workers that staff should not park in the commuter car park. Signage has also been installed to remind workers.	Complete
20231129	Medlow Bath	Provide cross section of the retaining walls	See addendum to the minutes from 29 Nov 2023.	Complete
20231129	Medlow Bath	Abergeldie to investigate placement of lighting to ensure they are not shining into people’s homes during night work.	Lighting during nightworks is being positioned to minimised impacts on residents.	Complete



**20240227 Response to Debra Brown regarding Business arising from the minutes of November 2023 meeting**

1. **Attendee names: 'Halina Pochwyt' incorrect spelling**  
Apologies. We will correct this in future minutes
2. **Page 6 of presentation: this shows the U turn bay and no roundabout at Delmonte. Is this the current design? Please provide current design**  
Updated design will be released to the community week commencing 26 February 2024 via community update. It is an item for discussion in the Medlow Bath CAG meeting of 28 February.  
Update from CAG meeting 28 February 2024: Design was shared, and CAG members were advised that the cherry trees would need to be removed and would be replaced with 100 Litre stock trees. Group undertook walk on Bellevue Crescent to discuss in situ.
3. **Item 1 of minutes: 'From a landscape design view, replanting in Railway Pde has been considered'. Where is this referring to?**  
Landscaping for Railway Parade is being carried out within the scope of the project boundaries. Transport's landscaping plan aims to provide a high level of visual amenity to local residents and will be undertaken when road and bridge works are finalised to minimise any further disruption to plantings.
4. **Item 1: 'We have no requests from landowners to provide additional plants...' We request that TfNSW be proactive and ask affected residents if they would like some plants or trees to help block light, noise and improve visual amenity. Also thus improving the streetscape of Medlow Bath.**  
Transport is unable to provide trees for planting on private property unless it is relation to direct property impacts and property adjustments. This would be an irresponsible use of Government funds.  
Transport's landscaping plan aims to provide a high level of visual amenity to local residents and will be undertaken when road and bridge works are finalised to minimise any further disruption to plantings.
5. **Item 2: 'From top of retaining wall to highway level will have trees to block noise 2m – 8m high.' Where is this? Where are the landscaping plans which show this and what are these trees?**  
As presented in the previous CAG meeting, Transport has included plantings wherever they can fit, and will use mature tree stock wherever possible.  
The exact tree species will be determined when we plant. We adapt our plantings to the time of year to ensure that new plants have the best possible chance of survival, and work with available stock of mature trees.  
The planting palette was provided and discussed extensively at the last CAG.  
Update - landscaping plans can be quite technical in nature. Community members are invited to visit the site office to view the plans, where the project team can explain them.
6. **Item 3: 'Abergeldie has not received complaints about lighting....'. Isn't the idea of CAG that we bring issues or concerns from the community to these meetings? Just because residents have not complained doesn't mean there is no problem and comments from the meeting should be taken seriously.**



Agreed. Abergeldie has undertaken and continues to review lighting during nightworks to minimise impacts on residents.

We encourage any residents with issues to contact the Project hotline so that we can modify the lighting during the shift.

7. **Item 3: Is the survey of residents about the proposed night work schedule being done?**

No, this will not proceed.

8. **Item 4: There still seems to be issues with parking by staff in commuter carpark. One resident recently emailed photos of number plates of the full commuter carpark. Apparently TfNSW/Abergeldie/Arenco could ID 3 vehicles that should not be parked there. This ongoing lack of respect by some of these workers, and by default their supervisors, for the local community, is quite disappointing. What action will be taken so that the commuter carpark is available for its purpose?**

Abergeldie and Arenco both continue to reinforce with workers that staff should not park in the commuter car park. Signage has also been installed to remind workers.

Update from CAG meeting 28 February 2024: Arenco and Abergeldie have been asked to review measures in place and determine further steps that can be taken.

9. **Item 6 Action: Water runoff – what is being done? Is this still only being investigated? What is the current state of the water runoff?**

As an action from the previous CAG meeting, Abergeldie undertook a site inspection to review Erosion and Sediment Controls that were in place through our worksites. Controls were established throughout the site in the form of sediment fence, sumps/sandbags and bales at low points, sandbag checks along water paths and soil binder placed where able. With the potential for more heavy rain, it was decided to place additional protection through additional ground cover (geofabric on a steep batter area), and additional sandbag checks put in place in the most southern section of works between the highway and rail corridor to further slow the flow of water.

Drainage associated with the upgrade will be finalised mid-2024, and this will capture highway water runoff and divert it to the water retention basin being built in Medlow Park.

10. **Item 6: Could we see the design for the highway drainage.**

Further diagrams illustrating the cross sections are very technical in nature. Team can refer to maps on walls to demonstrate. Transport will defer this matter to a meeting when Debra is in attendance so it can be explained fully.

11. **Item 6: What has Abergeldie done about the ‘day makers’ shining into houses?**

Please point 6 above.

12. **Addendum 1: The cross section is impossible to read or understand. Could you please provide for discussion clear images of cross sections of all the retaining wall areas?**

Further diagrams illustrating the cross sections are very technical in nature. Transport will defer this matter to a future meeting where Debra is in attendance so we can explain in person.