

20240228
12:00pm – 1:30pm
MS Teams

Minutes

Medlow Bath Community Advisory Group

Chair
Attendees

Kate Walsh (KW) - Communications and Engagement Manager
Community Advisory Group Members:
Belinda Shipton (BS)
Carlene Martin (CM)
Halina Pochwyt (HP)
Ian Hehir (IH)
Jenny Storaker (JS)
Transport for NSW:
Andrew Fam, Project Manager (AF)
Brittany Aiken, Community and Customer Engagement Officer (BA)
Joanna Lesak, Deputy Project Manager (JL)
Kate Walsh, Manager Communications and Engagement (KW)
Katrina Dwyer, Acting Senior Manager Community and Customer Engagement (KD)
Matthew Davis, Senior Community and Customer Engagement Officer (MD)
Omar Ghattas, Project Manager Medlow bath Upgrade (OG)
Paul Polansky, Senior Manager Transport Technical Solutions (PP)
Tomi Vasilevski, Senior Project Manager (TV)
Van Bardzhamian, Project Director (VB)

Apologies

Abergeldie:
Carla Brookes (CB), Communications Manager
Devek Naidu (DN) Project Manager
Arenco:
Steven Williams (SW) Construction Manager
Alistair Lunn, Director West, Transport for NSW
Deborah Howell
Debra Brown
Narelle Morrissey
Nil

Conflict of Interest
Declarations
Endorsement of minutes
from previous meeting

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and endorsed.
Point 2 of minutes – was the cause of the runoff from silt –
Action: Abergeldie to investigate whether silt played a role in runoff.
Point 3 of minutes – commuter car park was still full of contractors, ongoing daily issue – JS discussed the possibility for one space to be held as a loading/unloading space and allow the rest to be for commuters only. KW acknowledged the issue remains and that other options will be investigated.
Action: Abergeldie and Arenco to investigate further measures to restrict workers parking in commuter car park.
Point 5 – KW reinforced the use of the hotline as soon as an issue arises, and the construction lines are 24 hours during nightworks.

CB indicated that the line goes straight through to the site supervisor who will be able to take immediate action.

Items

Item 1:

Advisory Group function

- KW refers to the Terms of Reference and the way the group is set to operate and outlined that the CAG intended to provide input on construction impacts and mitigations, not further road design changes.
- HP asked if the group will be consulted for any design changed.
- VB identified that there are no further design changes to be consulted on.
- KW explained it is not expected that CAG members will become de facto hotlines for the project, but it is okay if a resident would rather speak to members instead of project. Please don't wait for the next meeting to let us know about concerns, let us know as soon as practical.

Item 2:

Roadworks

- JS asked if retaining wall would help with noise mitigation.
- TV identified that the retaining wall is not higher than the highway and so it would not have an impact on noise.
- JS asked what can be seen that is higher than the road?
- VB identified there is nothing higher than the road.
- DN explained there is some formwork that can currently be seen, and one side of the road is more progressed than the other which can be contributing to this.
- HP asked how high the retaining wall is.
- VB explained a maximum of 2 metres above Railway Parade
- HP asked if there be plantings below the retaining wall.
- DN identified there will be.
- VB spoke on the type of plantings and landscaping that will be used, identifying that they will grow in time.
- HP asked about where the mature trees would be planted.
- VB explained the mature trees are the exotics and the two-metre-high ones will predominantly be used in the median outside the Hydro Majestic.
- CM asked if the tree choices would go to Council for approval.
- VB explained that Transport has consulted with the council and received their approval. We are currently ordering the selected trees.
- BS asked about how the water drain along the retaining wall would work.
- DN explained that once the retaining wall is completed, water will be captured from the highway at the top and diverted into the drainage network being constructed. The

water at the bottom of the wall will utilise the existing drainage network.

- DN identified they are working towards a traffic switch in June to push traffic towards the rail corridor to allow work to occur on the Westbound carriageway.
- BS asked if additional clearing is being done for the power lines?
- DN identified it would be and reminded that the location of utilities is done at the request of the provider.
- CM asked about sandstone capping on the retaining walls and what would face the rail line.
- DN identified retaining walls at railway side of highway are dark grey, in keeping with rail corridor requirements.

Action: Add sandstone wall to agenda for May meeting for further discussion.

- KW asked for clarification re what cut over entails and if there would be impacts to community during the cut over of utilities.
- DN clarified that cutovers are when services are transitioned from old utility infrastructure to new infrastructure. There will be interruptions and these impacts will be notified to affected residents by the appropriate authorities closer to the dates. These dates are not currently known.
- CM submitted a question left by DB regarding why the project was not landscaping a specific area on the eastern end of it.
- VB identified that the area in question is outside of the project footprint and is owned by BMCC. As such the project cannot work in this area.
- CM asked about when the utilities work around 40/41 Railway Parade will be completed.
- DN identified this work is with Telstra to complete.
- IH discussed an issue with signage coming into the project where an existing 60km/h sign is seen in between the 40km ahead VMS and the 40km/h roadworks sign. Can this be covered up as it causes confusion.

Action: Transport will investigate pre-existing 60km sign and determine how to make speed limit clearer.

- BS asked about the drainage channel near 16-18 Railway Parade and what runs here.
- VB and TV clarified that all the highway water will be captured by new drainage and diverted to the water retention basin in Medlow Park.
- Concerns regarding the culvert on Railway Parade becoming an issue during rain.

- HP raised safety concerns regarding the force of the flow of water, seeming lack of grate to stop someone being sucked into culvert.
- VB explained that the culvert is a council asset, and new drainage will significantly reduce the amount of water that reaches this culvert.
Action: Transport to speak to Blue Mountains City Council to arrange cleaning of the culvert on Railway Parade, safety concerns.

Item 3:
Pedestrian Bridge

- SW identified there will be a rail shut down in mid-March to allow for installing the suspended pre-cast features.
- IH asked when this work will be completed.
- SW identified that work is set to be completed on the station upgrade post-September with the lift commissioning.
- SW explained that the bridge will go up over a 4-month period in the later part of the year.

Item 4:
Bellevue Crescent
roundabout

- CM identified a concern about the amount of water that would be generated because of the additional lanes.
- VB explained that the drainage has been designed to accommodate this amount of water and we will see a difference when these works are completed.
- CM asked what trees are being removed.
- VB identified all the cherry trees will need to go to accommodate the utilities work that will occur as part of these works.
- VB identified, that for every tree we will remove we will replace the same. OG explained that we have ordered trees for replacement, they will be 100 Litre trees – approximately 1.5 – 2 metres high.

Item 5:
General business

- HP spoke regarding truck noise being increased at night and there is a certain point of the road on the southern end of town that appears to have a bump causing significant noise at this point of the road.
- Transport confirmed that there is a trench in this location, which will be permanently addressed when road is re-sheeted.
Action: Transport to review the trench with Abergeldie to see what interim rectification can be done to reduce noise.
- HP requested an understanding about the incident reporting policy, who does the project report to and what is considered a reportable event?
- TV explained this construction related issues are a matter for Abergeldie as the contractor, and that Transport has procedures around environmental incident response and reporting.

Action: TV will work with Abergeldie and provide information that outlines what is defined as a reportable event and which authorities obtain the reports.

- HP and IH raised that until there is certainty about the other parts of the wider project can there be traffic control in place or the closure of the newly constructed kerbside lanes.
- PP identified that there will be no closure of the new lanes and KW explained that traffic movements will be monitored when it opens.
- IH asked about who determines the requirements for speed cameras and red-light cameras.
- VB explained this is something that is considered by the Police and not Transport. KW mentioned that a website exists that community can submit requests for these types of things to be reviewed.

Action: Transport to share the link to website where members of public can nominate speed camera locations.

- JS asked about the lines that were incorrectly installed signalling a stop line instead of a pedestrian crossing at the Station Street lights.
- TV identified that the lines would come out and it is a pedestrian crossing as identified by the community.
- KW thanked the community for bringing this to Transport's attention.

Action: Transport to coordinate removal of additional lines at the Railway Parade intersection lights.

- JS discussed the lines painted on the installed zebra crossing were very faint and the contrast did not seem right.

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.

- JS asked about the stop sign at the Railway Parade intersection and questioned what it meant.
- BS identified it as a stop when lights are blacked out sign.

Action: Transport to investigate the sign at this location and confirm if it is a general stop sign or a traffic light blacked out sign.

- JS passed along thanks for listening regarding her concerns about the commuter car park and the signage at the lower part of the road and installing the signs to help the issue. Even though the issue remains, it is clear attempts are being made to rectify this.
- BS passed along thanks to Abergeldie for moving the site sign to allow for better vision coming out of Bellevue.

Item 6:
Bellevue Crescent site walk


- Site members walked through Bellevue Crescent and discussed the limit of the works, the tree removal, the need for the roundabout.
- Transport clarified that during consultation they received submissions from community members indicating they accessed the service station from the eastbound lane of the Highway for milk, papers etc.
- The Upgrade will increase safety by separating traffic with median treatments and new traffic signals at the Bellevue Cres and GWH intersection. This will preclude direct access to the service station for eastbound traffic.
- In response to this feedback, Transport proposed a U-turn Bay in Bellevue Crescent to allow motorists to safely change direction and access the service station.
- Further submissions and advocacy from community groups opposed the U-turn Bay in favour of a roundabout.
- Transport reviewed the design and agreed to provide a roundabout.


Next meeting

Wednesday 29 May 2024, Medlow Bath site compound

Actions Register

To begin, ongoing, delayed, completed

Date	Project	Action	Notes	Action status
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Abergeldie to investigate whether silt played a role in runoff.		Ongoing
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Abergeldie and Arengo to investigate further measures to restrict workers parking in commuter car park.		Ongoing
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.	Ongoing
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Transport to speak to Blue Mountains City Council to arrange cleaning of the culvert on Railway Parade, safety concerns.		Ongoing
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Transport to review the trench with Abergeldie to see what interim rectification can be done to reduce noise.	Transport is working with Abergeldie around possible mitigation measures that can be carried out to reduce the level and thus noise associated with the temporary surfacing over the trench.	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
20240228	Medlow Bath	Action: Transport to share the link to website where members of public can nominate speed camera locations.	https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/nominate-a-speed-camera-location	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> 	Ongoing

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.</p> <p>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.