

Community dialogue - meeting #13

Hi-Quality – Bulla Spoils Processing Facility

Meeting details

Date: 15 February 2022, 5.00pm to 6.30pm

Venue: Online (via Zoom)

Attendees:

Community representatives	
Anthony White	Controller, Sunbury SES (apology)
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)
Lance Ingrams	Regional Manager, Victoria, Hi-Quality Group

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

Purpose

The meeting was held to continue the dialogue between Hi-Quality and community representatives in relation to the establishment and operation 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
Updated Terms of Reference and working together	Todd
Community issues and feedback	Representatives
Project / construction update	Lance/Amy
Engagement and communication	Todd/Amy
Next meeting	All

Actions from last meeting

Action: Hi-Quality to consider how it communicates about the removal of PFAS during the treatment process to ensure that the community is aware that there may be residual PFAS and/or other contaminants in the material that is put into the containment cell.

- Amy confirmed that this would be considered in future communication about the treatment process and the facility.
- A community representative advised that the issue of other contaminants in the soil had been discussed at the recent meeting with the EPA. They advised that it had been a bit confusing, with the EPA representative explaining that only PFAS contaminated soil would be put in the containment cell. This had raised the question about what if the soil contains other contaminants?
- Lance advised that the soil would be tested following the treatment process to remove the PFAS to determine where it would go. If the soil contained only limited levels of PFAS and other contaminants as expected, it would go to the containment cell being constructed for the project. If it received a higher classification due to the remaining contaminants, it would go into the existing EPA licensed landfill on the site or, if it exceeded Hi-Quality's licence conditions it would be taken elsewhere.

Action: Hi-Quality to look at how the treatment process and other information of interest to the community can be better communicated through social media.

- Amy advised that Hi-Quality is producing two videos, one providing a construction update and the other explaining the water treatment process, that will be able to be shared on social media. She said that Hi-Quality would continue to look at opportunities to share information via social and asked the

representatives to let us know if they have ideas for further communication and that Hi-Quality would be happy to pull it together.

Action: Hi-Quality to raise concerns once again about the design and operation of the intersection with the Department of Transport and Major Roads Projects Victoria (MRPV), asking for assurance that the issues would be rectified before trucks start arriving at the facility.

- Hi-Quality representatives advised that they are having ongoing discussions with the other project parties and the road authorities about the intersection, however, it is unlikely that the left-hand turning lane would be constructed prior to commencement of operations.
- A community representative put forward the idea that the traffic lights could flash amber during the night when the facility was not in operation.
- It was generally agreed by the representatives that action was needed to improve the operation of the intersection, or the traffic issues would become a real problem once trucks from the tunnel started arriving at the facility.

Action: Hi-Quality to revise the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) based on the feedback and discuss the group's expectations with the other project parties.

- Todd advised that the group's feedback in relation to the inclusion of the other project parties in the TOR needed to be agreed to by the parties, as Hi-Quality is not in a position to make commitments on their behalf.
- A community representative requested that the proposed amendments and response from the project parties be shared with the group. Hi-Quality advised that it was appropriate that the project parties be given the opportunity to consider the request from the group and the response be provided with their input.

Action: Community representative to share engineer's report on the assessment of Bulla Bridge with the group.

- A community representative advised that the report had been shared with the other representatives.

Action: Community representatives to share feedback on the Terms of Reference

- This action was completed following the last meeting.

Updated Terms of Reference (TOR) and working together

- Given the TOR had already been discussed, discussion focussed on how the group is working together and if any improvements could be made to make the process more productive.
- Feedback from the representatives was that the process was working well and that their networks are aware that they can raise any questions or concerns about the project or the facility with the representatives.
- Some representatives shared that there seemed to be a level of apathy in the community, not just about this project, but more generally.
- This led to a conversation about what the State Government and other project parties are going to do to engage the community and ensure the benefits are delivered to Bulla and Sunbury. Once again, the representatives expressed their frustration by the lack of response from the other project parties and the government.
- A representative requested that visuals be provided at future meetings as part of the construction update.

Community issues and feedback

- A community representative advised that a resident on Sunbury Road had raised concerns about double white lines that had been painted meaning that they could no longer turn right out of their driveway, asking if this had been included in the Traffic Management Plan (TMP).
- Lance advised that he doesn't recall it being in the TMP and that he would look into it and get back to the representative.
- Graham advised that the Sunbury Residents Association (SRA) is holding a Sunbury Community Briefing with Elected Representatives on Thursday 17 February and that all are welcome to attend.
- Todd raised a safety concern from Winslow Constructors who are building the Sunbury Road Upgrade. He advised that someone has been placing A4 yellow signs saying "Toxic Zone" on temporary road signage and asked that the representatives raise this as a safety issue if discussion comes up in the community.

Project and construction update

- Lance started by agreeing that it would be good to provide visuals and drone footage at future updates.
- He advised that good progress had been made across all areas of the site and that the facility would be ready to commence operations on 1 March.
- Hi-Quality advised that while stage 1 of the construction of the facility would be completed to accommodate first trucks, construction would continue on the holding bays and other components of the facility through to June next year.
- A representative asked that Hi-Quality provide an update in writing explaining what works would be completed for stage 1 and that construction would continue past the commencement of operations. It was agreed this would be provided in the next few days.
- A representative asked if Hi-Quality would accept trucks from the tunnel if a contract with the CPB John Holland Joint Venture (the JV) had not been signed. Lance advised that while he is working to get the

contract finalised as soon as possible, it is possible that trucks could arrive at the site without the contract being signed.

- A representative raised the fact that material from the tunnel had already been excavated as part of the commissioning process for the tunnel boring machines and asked if this soil would be coming to the facility. Lance advised that he would like to come to the facility, however, it was up to the JV.
- Discussion then turned to the impending announcement of the contract with the JV, with Hi-Quality representatives advising that it is likely before the next dialogue meeting in mid-March. Hi-Quality advised they would inform the dialogue members as soon as possible once the contract was signed and are happy to convene a meeting of the dialogue if that is what the representatives wanted. The feedback from the group was that there was no need for a special meeting unless the contract contained something unexpected.

Engagement and communication

- Todd provided a brief update on the listening posts held at Sunbury Square last week. He advised that the experience across the two days was quite different. On Thursday, while there were relatively low numbers, it seemed to provide a good snapshot of the range of views about the project in the community.
- Discussions were had with people who were not aware of the project, through to those who were strongly opposed. He advised that there was a clear middle group that, while expressing concerns about the soil coming to Sunbury, were interested in understanding the safeguards that have been put in place to protect the community and the local environment.
- Whereas the experience on Friday was very different. Once the fact that Hi-Quality representatives were at Sunbury Square had been communicated on the No Toxic Soil Facebook page, many of the people who visited wanted to express their opposition to the project and were less interested in engaging in a conversation.
- This led to a brief discussion amongst the representatives who expressed surprise that some people are still not aware of the project and that the focus of the community is shifting from outright opposition to ensuring the community benefits from the project.

Agreed actions

- Hi-Quality to raise the suggestion that traffic lights could operate on amber overnight in an effort to address concerns about cars needing to stop when no trucks are entering or leaving the facility.
- Hi-Quality to provide visuals as part of future construction updates and to arrange a site tour for the representatives.
- Hi-Quality to enquire about the concern raised by a resident about the double white lines painted on Sunbury Road on Bulla hill.
- Hi-Quality to provide a written update on the completion of stage 1 of the facility for representatives to share with their networks.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 March.