

# Community dialogue - meeting #17

## Hi-Quality – Bulla Spoils Processing Facility

### Meeting details

*Date:* 19 July 2022, 5.00pm to 6.30pm

*Venue:* Online (via Zoom)

*Attendees:*

Community representatives	
Anthony White	Controller, Sunbury SES
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)
Anthony Havers	Director Communications and Engagement , West Gate Tunnel Project
Lance Ingrams	Regional Manager, Victoria, Hi-Quality Group

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

## Purpose

This was the final meeting of the formal dialogue process 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
Welcome	Todd
Bulla Sunbury Neighbourhood Fund	Anthony Havers
Actions from last meeting	Todd
Project and construction update	Amy / Lance
Community update	Amy / Todd
Thank you!	All

## Welcome

- Todd welcomed the group to the final meeting of the Community Dialogue noting that the group had met 17 times, with the first meeting taking place in April 2021.
- He reflected that it had been a significant commitment by the community representatives and that they should be proud of the role that they had played in advocating on behalf of their community and what they had achieved, including their role in raising issues of concern and the establishment of the community fund.

## Bulla and Sunbury Neighbourhood Fund

- Anthony took the group through a presentation on the establishment and operation of the fund, it included:
  - An overview of the fund
  - Timelines for applications and announcement of successful recipients
  - Information about the funding streams - *Connecting neighbourhoods, Celebrating neighbourhoods and Transforming Neighbourhoods*
  - A description of eligible projects and parties
  - The assessment criteria.

- Following the presentation, Anthony said he was happy to answer any questions the community representatives may have.
- A community representative commended the government for providing the fund, noting that it was what the community had been asking for. They then shared a concern that the Bulla community is unable to access the funding given that there are no active incorporated not-for-profit groups in Bulla who would be eligible to apply.
- Anthony advised they are actively working with Council to support community groups to access the funding. He advised that Council will be involved with assessing applications and advising on community needs, as had been done in the inner-west.
- Concerns were raised by representatives about the application period, noting that six weeks is not enough time to plan a project, get quotes and arrange an auspice arrangement if required. They noted that the timing and process would most suit organisations that already had projects and grant applications prepared.
- Anthony advised that six weeks has been the standard application for other community funds for the West Gate Tunnel Project. He advised that groups did not require finalised and fully costed plans to apply. He also advised that if a group was having difficulty in organising an auspice arrangement they should contact the project for assistance.
- He noted that building and infrastructure projects would require the approval of Council to ensure all planning issues were addressed and that there were agreements in place to manage ongoing costs, such as maintenance.
- A representative asked if there would be further rounds of funding. Anthony advised that an assessment would be made once the first round was finalised, indicating there was potential for further rounds, particularly if the \$2 million was not fully allocated in the first round.
- Another representative raised that they had attended a recent information session on the Fund at the Hume Global Learning Centre, noting that it was helpful and that there was some discussion about Council's involvement in the Fund, commenting that Council and the community don't always see eye to eye. Anthony advised that, based on the experience of other community funds for the project, Council may be involved in some of the projects, but not all.
- A number of potential organisations and projects were raised by the representatives during the discussion. The representatives also advised that they were actively involved in a number of applications through their organisations.
- The group once again raised concerns that the application period was not sufficient for groups to put in an eligible application. Anthony offered the support of his team to work with the representatives, and any other community groups, to support them to make an application.
- He closed by thanking the community representatives for their feedback and that his team would be actively working with the community to support the application process.

### **Actions from last meeting**

- **Action:** Hi-Quality to share presentations from the meeting with community representatives
  - Completed
- **Action:** Hi-Quality to advise when the Community Dialogue members could visit the site.
  - Todd asked for availability for the site tour and advised that the aim was to do so in the near future.
- **Action:** Hi-Quality to follow up the request for a no engine braking sign in Bulla.
  - Todd advised that this had been raised with the Department of Transport and further follow up would take place following the meeting.

### **Project and construction update**

- Lance shared a presentation, starting with a facility update including:
  - All 59 bays have been constructed and approved
  - All ponds have been completed, with one awaiting EPA verification
  - Lining of the cell is 85% complete and will be completed in the next few weeks.
- He advised that they had faced difficulty in sourcing the wheel-bath and that a search was underway for a fabricator to build the bath.
- Also in relation to cleaning, he advised that there has been an increase in the number of staff (now four) working the wheel washing system before trucks exit the site.

### **Community update**

- Amy provided an update on road cleaning, advising that as of 11 July, Major Roads Project Victoria (MRPV) is undertaking all external cleaning of Sunbury Road as part of the upgrade works and that Hi-Quality is now focussing on internal cleaning to prevent material leaving the facility.
- Asked if they had noticed any change on the roads, community representatives advised that they had seen an improvement, however, the centre lines are very hard to see, particularly on wet foggy nights. Amy advised that Hi-Quality would raise it with MRPV.
- Next, an update was provided in relation to recent reports of trucks going through red lights at the entrance to the facility. Amy thanked the community representatives for reporting trucks that had run the lights and that it was a huge concern for Hi-Quality. She advised that Hi-Quality is reviewing cameras on a daily basis and reporting any concerns to the JV for action, noting that if drivers are at fault they are suspended and banned if there are repeat occurrences. She also shared that a notice has been issued to all trucks, reinforcing the need to come to a complete stop, and that action would be taken on any road safety breaches.
- The group was then provided with an update on internal cleaning processes. Amy talked through a map in the presentation showing the flow of traffic and enhanced cleaning processes.

- The last part of the update related to Hi-Quality's work with the community. Amy stepped the group through the key elements:
  - **Student placement program:** placements with local schools to support the next generation of workers in Sunbury and Bulla. Lance addressed the request for a local jobs mandate, advising that while Hi-Quality is focussed on local employment, it would not be possible to fill all jobs locally due to the challenges in the job market and the specialist nature of some roles.
  - **Supporting local organisations:** Amy provided an overview of the types of support Hi-Quality provides locally, including the provision of materials. She advised that Hi-Quality is looking to do more and advised the group that if they knew of a local community organisation in need of construction materials to let her know.
  - **Community giving program:** the group was informed that Hi-Quality is exploring opportunities to provide financial contributions to local projects via the Neighbourhood Fund (discussed earlier in the meeting).
  - **Broadening community engagement:** with the Dialogue coming to an end, the discussion turned to how Hi-Quality would be broadening engagement, including online forums opened to anyone who is interested.
- A general discussion on the community activities followed, with a representative suggesting that Hi-Quality may be able to work with the EPA given their monthly meetings, rather than creating another meeting for the community to attend. Another representative raised an opportunity for Hi-Quality to support Save Our Services Australia who are working to support ex service personnel navigate mental health issues.
- Finally, Amy advised that a community update would be sent out via the distribution list of registered parties on completion of construction.

### Thank you and close

- Todd closed the meeting with a brief recap of the dialogue process and once again thanked the community representatives for their commitment and advocacy on behalf of the local community.
- Lance thanked the group on behalf of Hi-Quality, reflecting that it had been a valuable process and quite a journey.
- The meeting was closed with the agreement that future meetings of the community dialogue would be held if needed and that Hi-Quality would continue to engage with the group.