

Minutes of Meeting

Chisholm Road Prison Project - Community Advisory Group

Meeting details

Meeting title:	Community Advisory Group	No:	14
Date:	Wednesday 17 June 2020	Time:	4pm – 5.06pm
Location:	Online		

Attendees

Community Advisory Group members: Justin Giddings (Chair), Corrina Eccles (community member), Barry White (community member), Leigh Bartlett (community member), Andrew Reaper (Assistant Commissioner Custodial Services, Corrections Victoria), Pat McCormick (General Manager, Marngoneet Prison), Marlene Morison, (General Manager, Chisholm Road Prison), Michelle Wood (Executive Director, Barwon South West Region), Corinne Cadilhac (Deputy Secretary, Justice Infrastructure and CEO of the Community Safety Building Authority)

Other attendees: Alex Wigmore, (Senior Project Manager, CSBA), Peter Southwell (Project Director, CSBA), Peter Flaherty (Director, Public Affairs, DJCS), Andrew Green (Manager, Project Communication, DJCS); Peter Chater (Project Director, John Holland)

Invited guests: The Hon. Ben Carroll (Minister for Corrections) [departed 4.45pm], the Hon. John Eren (Member for Lara), Ashlea Bright (Adviser, Minister Carroll), Mick Rowell (Commander, CFA), Mick McGuinness (Assistant Chief Fire Officer, District 7, CFA), Rohan Luke (Deputy Chief Officer, South West Region, CFA), Melissa Rabey (Social Procurement Manager, JHG)

Apologies: Councillor Kylie Grzybek (Deputy Chair), Councillor Anthony Aitken, David Withington (community member), John Brne (community member), Marylyn Pettit (community member), Leanne Rayner (Sergeant, Lara Police Station),

Meeting overview

Item 1. Welcomes and introductions and Item 5. Opening and previous minutes

The Chair opened the meeting and minutes from the 22 April meeting were endorsed.

Item 2. Minister Carroll addressed Community Advisory Group (CAG)

- Referenced Corrections in news recently – indigenous incarceration rates.
- Commended professionalism and dedication of Corrections Victoria, especially during COVID-19. Praised frontline staff and management for running a highly regarded Corrections system.

- Acknowledged the CAG input in supporting the project's success.
- Referred to Community Safety Building Authority's involvement in the construction of a new facility at Maribyrnong.
- Recognised John Holland's valuable work on the Chisholm Road Prison Project, especially during uncertain economic times, further giving the opportunity for people to turn their lives around with the 'Out For Good' initiative.

Recognised the Chisholm Road Prison Project as a great success and thanked everyone for the service and work; all in this together, with the community.

Item 3. Construction update

John Holland (JHG) provided the following update:

- Presented aerial shots of civil works, construction of access roads, 'golden sun moth' habitat and installation of utilities.
- Acknowledged bad weather from February to May, recognised recent positive weather change
- Construction progress:
 - Initial building areas bulk excavated and building pads constructed;
 - Commencement of concrete works and in-ground services;
 - Commencement of cell block accommodation buildings. Modular cells currently being constructed off-site and set to arrive in early July; and
 - Contractors have been appointed for structural steel, masonry, roof cladding, doors and window works.

COVID-19 measures incorporated for construction (Action now closed) – John Holland

John Holland provided a summary of the systems and processes undertaken to minimise the risk of COVID-19, such as:

- Split supervision team; and
- Temperature checks undertaken once a week (optional for staff on site, compulsory for delivery drivers and visitors).

Social procurement update (Action now closed) - Melissa Rabey, Social Procurement Manager, John Holland

- \$16.3 million allocated for social procurement, including indigenous disadvantage and Local Jobs First policy.
- Subcontractors and trades to help with supporting targets. Engaging local community and through GROW.
- Corrina's valuable work recognised with introductions to local Aboriginal businesses.
- JHG pursuing opportunities to engage former prisoners.
- Awarded civil contract to Civilex, which works in partnership with Wamarra.
- G21 Opportunities for Work, supporting disadvantaged Victorians and facilitating introductions which will help beyond the current contract.

- Ahead on targets for disability opportunities due to the significant amount of work. Referred to instances of people not disclosing mental health disabilities. Success results in employing those who may have struggled to obtain a job in the past couple of years.
- No issues foreseen from COVID-19 with meeting local content requirements.

Item 6. Fire readiness (Action now closed) – Peter Chater, Project Director, John Holland

- Land clearance does not pose additional risk to neighbouring farmers
- Response plan measures:
 - Building and fire preparation
 - Trained chief wardens and fire wardens
 - Each building to include nurse call stations
 - Temporary outdoor, weatherproofed emergency stations including fire extinguishers, blankets and radios
 - Planned evacuations and scenarios
 - Emergency evacuation lighting.
- Bushfire readiness:
 - Water trucks – two available for civil contractors with hoses and water cannons
 - Purchasing 1000 litre towable trailer. Available to respond along Chisholm Road in case of any grass fires, including for adjacent farmers
 - Met with CFA at Lara, encouraging a visit every two months. Noting road access points will change
 - Procuring a troop carrier to aid in remote parts of site in wet weather, further ability to facilitate ambulance evacuations
 - EPA air quality levels to be followed
 - Monitoring any nearby bushfires
 - Number of vehicles fitted with fire extinguishers and first aid kits.
- Rohan Luke (Deputy Chief Officer, South West Region, CFA) – expressed comfort with the work that has been carried out by John Holland, and the preparations in place.

Item 7. Community feedback

- John Langley – resident on Chisholm Road (feedback provided to Peter Flaherty).
 - Concerns of traffic prior to 7am
 - Amount and size of John Holland signage on site.

ACTION 14.4: Signage to be presented at next meeting for further discussion.

- Corinne Cadilhac offered the opportunity of a visit to the construction site prior to the next CAG meeting. As numbers will need to be kept to a minimum, to assist with social distancing and ease of escort around the site, the invitation will be limited to CAG members only. ACTION 14.5: Invitation to be sent in the next few weeks for CAG members site visit.

- Leigh Bartlett – North Shore Football Club. Enquiry re social procurement, particularly Northern Futures. Discussion over the next two weeks regarding White Cards and creating a connection with the club.

Item 8. Other business

- Justin Giddings – **(now Action 1)** – Stockpiling permit – deferred for next meeting.
- Rohan Luke **(Action now closed)** - local response preparations
 - Lara currently serviced by CFA
 - From 1 July – formation of Fire Rescue Victoria. All firefighters from MFB and career firefighters from CFA to join
 - Integrated fire stations/ brigades will be separate entities but co-located
 - No change in how responses are managed. CFA will support FRV
 - Looking to maximise service capacity further down the track.
- Barry White referenced community concerns regarding second proposed location for a fire station
 - Rohan Luke response – initial planning has been complete. Working with City of Greater Geelong and conducting environmental review. Believe location addresses broader community risk profile. VCAT process and COVID-19 may cause delay. Some engagement with community so far with more to come.
- Barry White asked about the total prison population for the entire precinct, including staff.

ACTION 14.6: Andrew Reaper (Assistant Commissioner Custodial Services, Corrections Victoria) to confirm prison population for the precinct, including staff, at next meeting.

- The Hon. John Eren (Member for Lara) thanked all for making a tremendous contribution towards this significant project.
- Minister Carroll provided further positive feedback on Chisholm Rd Prison Project progress, and specifically the contributions of the CAG to the project.
- CAG agreed the Minister’s visit was welcome and valuable.

ACTION 14.7: DJCS to include in forward plan for CAG an annual invite to Minister.

Item 9. Close and next meeting date

The Chair closed the meeting at 5.06pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 19 August 2020.

Actions from June meeting

Action 14.1: CAG members representing City of Greater Geelong Council and Traditional Owners to confirm appropriate permits had been acquired by neighbouring landowners to stockpile spoil from the construction site

Action 14.2: Barry White to make contact with the Lara Chamber of Commerce and reconfirm its interest in providing a speaker as soon as the chamber's breakfast meetings recommence

Action 14.3: (ongoing) Corrections Victoria to provide updates on the naming of the new prison as appropriate

Action 14.4: John Holland to present signage for discussion at next meeting

Action 14.5: DJCS to arrange invitation to be sent in the next few weeks for CAG members' site visit, inc. PPE requirements

Action 14.6: Andrew Reaper to confirm prison population and staff numbers for the precinct at next meeting

Action 14.7: DJCS to include in forward plan for CAG an annual invite to Minister

Actions closed at June meeting

Action: John Holland provided information relating to its fire readiness plan

Action: Country Fire Authority (CFA) representative attended Community Advisory Group (CAG) to discuss CFA preparations to support the new facility

Action: John Holland confirmed that issues relating to COVID-19 would not affect its social procurement activities or that of its subcontractors