

In the matter of the Westgate Tunnel Project

Planning Panels Victoria

Proponent: Western Distributor Authority

JOINT STATEMENT – ARCHITECTURE, URBAN DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE

10 August 2017

1 INTRODUCTION

This Joint Statement refers to the matters relating to architecture, urban design and landscape design for the West Gate Tunnel Project (Project), as outlined in the following sections of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and the Development and Urban Design Plans dated May 2017:

- Environment Effects Statement – Chapter 6 Urban Design
- Environment Effects Statement – Development and Urban Design Plans
- Environment Effects Statement – Map Book
- *Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Technical Report (point added on request of Kerstin Bauer)*

Upon instruction from the West Gate Tunnel Project (Project) Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) a conclave for architecture, urban design and landscape design was convened on 10 August 2017. All experts in the disciplines of architecture, urban design and landscape appearing before the IAC (on behalf of various parties) were invited to attend the conclave.

The IAC received expert witness statements from the following experts:

- Roger Wood (of Wood March Architecture, expert witness for the Western Distributor Authority), dated 2 August 2017. Expert in urban design.
- Deiter Lim (of Tract Consultants Pty Ltd, expert witness for the Western Distributor Authority), dated 1 August 2017. Expert in landscape architecture.
- Steve Schutt (of Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd, expert witness for the City of Melbourne), dated 1 August 2017. Expert in landscape and open space.
- Geoffrey London (of UWA School of Design, The University of Western Australia, expert witness for the City of Melbourne), dated 2 August 2017. Expert in urban design.
- Chris Procter (of Ethos Urban, expert witness for the City of Melbourne), dated 2 August 2017. Expert in urban design.
- Kirsten Bauer (of ASPECT Studios, expert witness for the City of Maribyrnong), dated 2 August 2017. Expert in urban design and landscape architecture.
- Dr Ian Woodcock (of the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, College of Design and Social Context, RMIT University, expert witness for the Inner Melbourne Planning Alliance), dated 1 August 2017. Expert in urban planning and urban design.
- Justin Madden (of Arup Pty Ltd, expert witness for Ashe Morgan), dated 2 August 2017. Expert in architecture and urban design.

2 CONCLAVE

The conclave was held on 10 August 2017 at the office of Wood Marsh, Port Melbourne. The conclave was attended by the following experts:

- Roger Wood (RW)
- Deiter Lim (DL)
- Geoffrey London (GL)
- Chris Procter (CP)
- Kirsten Bauer (KB)
- Dr Ian Woodcock (IW)
- Justin Madden (JM)

Steve Schutt could not attend the conclave.

Consistent with the instructions of the IAC, the conclave broadly addressed the following matters:

- The key issues identified by participating experts including any issues relating to methodology, assumptions, results and interpretation of results
- The facts and opinions agreed and not agreed in respect of each issue and the reasons for any disagreement
- Identification of the relevant experts to the particular issue.

The purpose of this joint statement is to summarise the issues raised during the conclave and to set out matters upon which the conclave attendees agree or disagreed. It does not duplicate background explanations or arguments relating to individual issues that are contained in individual expert witness statements.

3 OVERVIEW OF ISSUES

The conclave covered the areas of architecture, urban design and landscape design.

The key issues raised by experts in the conclave together with recommendations to the IAC (where relevant) are presented in Table 1. The issues/recommendations are not presented in an order of priority except where specifically stated.

Table 1 – Joint Statement of Issues and Recommendations

#	Issue category	Description of issue	Recommendation	Relevant Experts to the issue	Status (Agreed or Not agreed)
1	Maribyrnong River environment	<p>The current crossing infrastructure option of the bridge, ramp, portal and overhead roads does not satisfactorily respond to the significance of the river and adjacent land use and future development of the Port of Melbourne, market sites, etc.</p> <p>Ramps and bridge are too low, compromising the river environment.</p>	<p>From an urban design viewpoint and to provide future proofing of the port and surrounds, it is recommended (in order of preference):</p> <p>1) To move the tunnel further east (extending the tunnel) to a more appropriate location to ensure future proofing of broader area; or</p> <p>2) To remove the ramps altogether.</p>	GL	Agreed
				CP	Agreed
				KB	Agreed
				IW	Agreed
				JM	Agreed
				RW	Not agreed. This is outside the project scope and I don't have enough information at hand to comment.
2	E-Gate and Wurundjeri Way Extension	<p>The future mixed use urban renewal potential should not be compromised. The proposed Dynon Road connection and the Wurundjeri Way Extension will seriously compromise the potential development of E-Gate and Arden-Macaulay areas as mixed use developments, and seriously damage the existing environments in North Melbourne and West Melbourne and the urban innovation district in Carlton.</p> <p>There is concern that during the course of WGT construction (6 years) other development within E-gate may be delayed until WGT is complete. Consideration should be given to limiting the disruption on the site throughout the course of the project.</p> <p>The existing condition and future ambitions and opportunities</p>	<p>From an urban design viewpoint and to provide future proofing of this urban renewal precinct it is recommended (in order of preference):</p> <p>1) To remove the Dynon Road connection; or</p> <p>2) To consider alternative options to Wurundjeri Way extension, for instance a boulevard at grade; a tunnel.</p>	GL	Agreed with following changes to point 1) and 2) of Recommendations: <p>1) Delete ‘;or’ and replace with ‘;and’</p> <p>2) Add ‘, or its removal from the project’ after ‘a tunnel’</p>
				CP	Agreed with following changes to point 1) and 2) of Recommendations:

#	Issue category	Description of issue	Recommendation	Relevant Experts to the issue	Status (Agreed or Not agreed)
		of Moonee Ponds Creek should not be compromised.			<p>1) Delete ‘or’ and replace with ‘and’</p> <p>Add ‘, or its removal from the project’ after ‘a tunnel’</p>
				KB	Agreed
				IW	<p>Agreed with following changes to point 1) and 2) of Recommendations:</p> <p>2) Delete ‘or’ and replace with ‘and’</p> <p>3) Add ‘, or its removal from the project’ after ‘a tunnel’</p>
				JM	<p>Agreed with following change to point 2) of Recommendations: Add ‘inclusive of links through to Docklands’ after ‘boulevard at grade’</p>
				RW	<p>Not agreed. This is outside the project scope and I don’t have enough information at hand to comment.</p>

#	Issue category	Description of issue	Recommendation	Relevant Experts to the issue	Status (Agreed or Not agreed)
3	Staging and sequencing of major construction	Potential implications with other major infrastructure projects (such as Metro Tunnel), and the effects on local communities and road networks. WGT could result in delays to the development of e-Gate and the Arden-Macaulay area.	<p>1) Consider a global approach to other major infrastructure projects (such as Metro Tunnel), and the effects on local communities and road networks. This may include the need for strategic staging/sequencing of construction work.</p> <p>2) The development should not delay development of E-Gate and the Arden-Macaulay urban renewal area.</p>	GL	Agreed
				KB	Agreed
				IW	Agreed
				JM	Agreed
				RW	Not agreed. This is outside the project scope and I don't have enough information at hand to comment.
4	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)	It is unclear as to why Urbis as the author of the LVIA conducted for the EES has not submitted an expert witness statement and is not involved with this conclave.		KB	Agreed
5	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)	Inadequacies were noted in the methodology adopted for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.		KB	<p>Agreed with following change to 'Description of issue':</p> <p>Add 'Overall assessment was poorly executed.' after 'Visual Impact Assessment.'</p>
6	Landscape and Public open space	There is a declaration of public open space, however currently there is no clarity in the EES documents provided as to who will take ownership and management of the proposed open space areas.	These matters should be discussed and confirmed with the relevant stakeholders as early on in the design process (preferably by the end of	KB	Agreed
				DL	Agreed

#	Issue category	Description of issue	Recommendation	Relevant Experts to the issue	Status (Agreed or Not agreed)
		The landscape design for the public open spaces will undergo relevant stakeholder consultation and the design will be amended to suit the objectives of the governing stakeholder. The level of quality design and extent communicated across the EES documents will not be diminished.	preliminary design) to provide the best outcomes for the community.		
7	Landscape and Public open space	There is concern over the accessibility of public open space (particularly to the Maribyrnong River waterfront) from Shephard Bridge to the Mackenzie Road on-ramp and impacts to Button Creek.	The design should allow for fully accessible public open space from Shephard Bridge to the Mackenzie Road on-ramp and should include the rehabilitation of Button Creek to provide full accessibility to the Maribyrnong River waterfront. Negotiations with the Port of Melbourne should be undertaken as early on in the design process (preferably by the end of preliminary design) to provide the best outcomes for the community.	KB DL	Agreed Agreed with the following changes to 'Description of issue': delete 'particular' and '()' in first paragraph as well as the following changes to 'Recommendation': add 'landscape' before 'rehabilitation'
8	Noise Barriers	There are discrepancies in the EES documents as to where all the noise walls are to be located.	It is recommended that all public open spaces, including all waterways should receive sufficient noise mitigation.	KB	Agreed

Architecture, Urban Design and Landscape Design Expert Witness Conclave – Joint Statement

By signing below, each named expert has endorsed that this document is a true summary of the discussion held and points agreed between the experts of the conclave.



Roger Wood



Deiter Lim



Geoffrey London



Justin Madden



Chris Procter



Kirsten Bauer



Dr Ian Woodcock