

Chisholm Road Prison Project

Community Advisory Group meeting summary

Meeting details

Meeting title:	Community Advisory Group	No:	7
Date:	Wednesday 29 May 2019	Time:	4.00pm to 6.00pm
Location:	Marngoneet Correctional Centre (Boardroom Administration Building), 1170 Bacchus Marsh Road, LARA		

Attendees

Community Advisory Group members: Councillor Kylie Grzybek (Wunderemere), John Brne (community member), Barry White (community member), Jeff Cahn (community member), Leanne Barnes (Executive Director, Barwon South West Region), Garry Jackson (Program Director, New Builds), Dijana Dragovic (Deputy Program Director, New Builds), David Withington (community member), Leigh Bartlett (community member), Rod Wise (Deputy Commissioner, Corrections Victoria), Marylyn Pettit (community member).

Additional: Louise Baring (Communication Manager, New Builds), Leah Fensham-Brown (Manager, Environment and Sustainability).

Apologies:

Justin Giddings (Chair), Corrina Eccles (community member), Leanne Rayner (Sergeant, Lara Police Station), Nigel Bird (community member) and Councillor Anthony Aitken (Wunderemere).

Meeting overview

Previous minutes

Previous minutes were endorsed and all action items complete.

The department confirmed it would email an electronic copy of the updated Terms of Reference.

Deputy Chair

Councillor Kylie Grzybek was endorsed as Deputy Chair by the Group.

Barwon Prison Tour

It was noted by members of the group that the tour of Barwon Prison that occurred in March was highly valuable. Members who attended thought it was an excellent opportunity to see inside a maximum security prison and gain insights into the processes and operations of a prison.

Sustainable design- outcomes from workshop

At the CAG meeting on 23 January, members were asked to rank sustainability aspects such as energy consumption and climate change, water consumption, biodiversity, workforce wellbeing and satisfaction, landscaping and quality and longevity of design.

At this workshop CAG identified that key areas of importance including light pollution, workforce composition and wellbeing, landscaping and urban design. Traffic management was listed as an additional item of importance which is not a sustainability component.

Consultants reviewed the input from the CAG against the initial assessment to determine the final materiality score.

This helped inform the Sustainability Management Plan for the project and associated objectives and targets, which will subsequently inform the schematic design and detailed design of the new prison as progressed.

Ratings were updated to incorporate the input from CAG members, particularly an increase in the weight of the landscaping, urban design, light pollution and the workforce composition and wellbeing.

Draft objectives were presented to the group as follows;

- Objective 1: Broaden the definition of sustainability for major corrections projects
- Objective 2: Minimise greenhouse gas emission now and in the future
- Objective 3: Minimise potable water consumption
- Objective 4: Optimise safety and comfort for all users
- Objective 5: Minimise impact to surrounding community and environment.

CAG members supported the draft objectives and noted participation in the workshop as a positive experience.

Victorian Budget 2019/20

The department confirmed the Victorian Government announced it is allocating more than \$1.8 billion in the Victorian Budget 2019/20 to open more than 1600 new beds and new prison infrastructure across the State.

This means an additional 548 beds have been allocated to the Chisholm Road Prison Project.

The department outlined;

- the additional funding is required as a part of the government's commitment to ensure our prison system is equipped to meet demand.
- prison system has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years, which has been predominantly due to a significant increase in remand prisoner numbers
- new beds will keep pace with forecast demand
- the footprint of the prison will not change as space was allocated to allow for future planning for the next 5 to 10 years
- this will mean an increase in jobs for the precinct, both construction and staff related jobs.

CAG members provided feedback on the announcement as follows;

- additional beds will likely impact on the local community, predominantly relating to traffic management
- size of the new facility- some members of the group have concerns it will be Victoria's largest maximum security prison
- positive step to see an increase in jobs for the region and local community, both construction and ongoing roles the additional bed numbers will create
- a key priority for the community is social procurement and ensuring that the social procurement targets set with GROW can be met and any barriers disadvantaged people may face to employment, such as transport, can be reduced
- CAG members would've like to know this before it is seen in the media.
- Preventative and early intervention should've been a greater focus in the budget and also to help people transition out of prison and back into the community.

The department confirmed it was working closely with GROW to meet the social procurement targets.

In addition to this, there are a range of community programs that the department have in the region to help support prisoners to transition back into the community.

Community feedback and community issues/concerns and community engagement opportunities

Traffic management

Main concern from the community is the traffic management to and from the site.

Members highlighted the importance of;

- Once the Managing Contractor has been appointed, it is imperative that they develop a Traffic Management Plan in partnership with the department to reduce any impacts on the local community.
- The Managing Contractor instructing trucks to follow specific routes and to make arrangements that take into consideration likely impacts on the local community.

Community engagement opportunities

CAG members felt there were moderate levels of concern that didn't warrant a community information session (at this stage).

In partnership with the department levels of community concern will be monitored and a session (if required) may be held in the future.

It was agreed that an eNews Project Update should be sent out to the community and a link shared to members so they can pass it on in their networks.

Correctional Facility Plan

The development of the Correctional Facility Plan and appendices were presented to CAG members who were provided a hard copy for their review.

The Facility Plan was updated to reflect the additional bed numbers, along with any relevant assessment reports, including the Traffic Impact Assessment Report.

CAG members were encouraged to provide feedback on the Facility Plan and any assessment reports or technical documents that they had a particular interest in.

Project Update

Design

- Design of the new prison is still in progress with works continuing on the detail design, including design that incorporates the additional 548 beds.

Managing Contractor Procurement

- Tender evaluations for the Managing Contractor are still in progress with the appointment expected to take place in the coming months.

Planning

- Planning approvals are still in progress with a range of assessment reports and technical documents have been prepared for the Chisholm Road Prison Project Correctional Facility Plan which is now with CAG members for review to obtain a planning permit for the new prison.

Emergency management planning

- Meetings are continuing to occur with emergency management agencies to plan for the new prison, including with representatives from Victoria Police, CFA and Ambulance Victoria.