

Youth Justice Redevelopment Project

Summary of Community Advisory Group - Meeting One

Meeting details

Meeting title:	Community Advisory Group	No:	1
Date:	Monday, 19 June 2017	Time:	4pm to 6pm
Location:	Duncans Road, Werribee		

Attendees

Community Advisory Group Members: Justin Giddings (Chair), Barbara McLure, Marisa Berton, Lisa Heinrichs, Kim McAliney, Walter Villagonzalo, Peter Maynard, Natalie Walker, Peter Bitton (for Martin Allison), Annette Vickery, Richard Wittmack, Len Norman, Peter Ewer, Garry Jackson.

Other attendees: Minister for Families and Children Jenny Mikakos and Adviser; and project support staff (Dijana Dragovic, Vanessa O'Shaughnessy, Clare Gleghorn and Heidi Wearne).

Apologies

John Menegazzo, Martin Allison

Meeting overview

Opening

The meeting was opened by the Minister for Families and Children, Jenny Mikakos. Ms Mikakos highlighted the important role of the Community Advisory Group in contributing to a significant state project that will bring economic opportunities to Wyndham City.

The Minister also outlined the Government's broader focus and investment to improve the youth justice system and the Government's renewed focus on rehabilitating young offenders, while also ensuring the safety of the community.

Update on the project

The Department of Justice and Regulation provided an update on key project activity, including:

- Appointment of principal and security consultants is underway – these consultants will be involved in the design of the centre
- Melbourne Water site survey has been completed, and land valuation and subdivision processes are underway
- Phase one of the ecological survey is complete, with phase two to involve the engagement of an environmental expert
- A Reference Group made up of sector representatives and other experts is being established. This group will provide input on the operations and design of the youth justice centre, as well as rehabilitation programs etc.

- Upcoming activity will include work with a cultural heritage consultant, engagement with the Regional Aboriginal Party, and a community traffic management survey to be completed by VicRoads.
- Early works on the site are expected to begin in March-April 2018, with construction commencing in mid-2018.
- The department is looking to best practice examples nationally and internationally to inform the design of the centre - the presentation included examples of modern justice facilities in Australia and abroad to provide context.

Terms of Reference

- Draft Terms of Reference were presented, which outline the roles and responsibilities of Community Advisory Group members.
- The Chair asked members to carefully review the Terms of Reference and provide feedback to the project team before the next meeting. Initial feedback from members was that more detail should be provided in the Code of Conduct to ensure all members are clear about their role.

Youth Justice Facility Development Plan

- The Department of Justice and Regulation outlined the Youth Justice Facility Development Plan that the Community Advisory Group will help to develop. The plan will help guide the design and development of the youth justice centre, and will include a number of environmental and other issues and considerations.
- An example plan, put together for the Ravenhall project, was reviewed and discussed.
- Questions were raised about whether the Youth Justice Facility Development Plan will include an emergency management plan, how water flows will be managed on the site, connection to utilities, environmental ratings and the involvement of community groups/programs in landscaping and beautification of the exterior of the youth justice centre. These will be considered as part of detailed design.
- Concerns were raised about birds that fly in a flock in the area at certain times of the day. The observation will be considered and the department confirmed similar issues have been effectively managed at other facilities.
- There was discussion around how many apprentices will be employed by the project and the percentage of indigenous workers to be employed.
- Up-to-date artist's impressions/designs will be provided once the principal consultant has been selected.
- The possibility of a local skills audit was discussed as a step in preparing the local workforce to apply for youth justice roles within the new facility, and related jobs. This idea will be pursued further at future meetings.

Community information and engagement

- An overview of community engagement activity to date was presented, and potential community engagement opportunities and support for Community Advisory Group members were tabled for discussion.
- Community Advisory Group members endorsed the idea of providing community information sessions in Little River and Werribee.
- It was acknowledged that the April community information sessions held in Point Cook - while well received – were held at an inconvenient location for some residents. It was explained that the Government had committed to holding information sessions before Easter and was restricted by venue availability.
- It was decided to hold the next Community Advisory Group meeting in Little River to provide an opportunity for local residents to meet members.

- A further targeted expression of interest process will be proposed to the Little River community at the Little River session on Monday, 24 July for consideration. This change will necessitate further edits to the Terms of Reference.
- A site visit will be arranged for Community Advisory Group members, so they can help to address confusion among community members about the location of the youth justice centre site near Cherry Creek.

Key meeting outcomes

- The Community Advisory Group will meet on the second Monday of each month, with the exception of the next meeting which will take place on Monday, 24 July.
 - The next meeting on 24 July will be held in Little River and will be followed by a session with the Little River community.
 - A further targeted expression of interest process will be proposed to the Little River community at the Little River session on Monday, 24 July for consideration. This change will necessitate further edits to the Terms of Reference.
 - Community Advisory Group members to send feedback on the Terms of Reference and to submit expressions of interest for the role of Deputy Chair ahead of the next meeting.
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