

New Youth Justice Centre

Summary of Community Advisory Group Meeting Nine

Meeting details

Meeting title: Community Advisory Group	No: 9
Date: Monday, 26 February 2018	Time: 5.00pm to 6.00pm
Location: WestJustice Building, Level 1 / 8 Watton Street, Werribee VIC 3030	

Attendees

Community Advisory Group Members: Justin Giddings, Marisa Berton, Lisa Heinrichs, Kim McAliney, Walter Villagonzalo, Peter Maynard, Garry Jackson, John Menegazzo, Richard Wittmack, Natalie Walker and Les Sanderson.

Other attendees: Louise Barring.

Apologies

Amelia Seymour, Martin Allison and Peter Ewer.

Meeting overview

Opening

The meeting was opened by the Deputy Chair who thanked members for attending.

Community feedback and community issues

Werribee community

- There was feedback that as the location is closer to Little River, there are some members of the community that had lost interest in the facility due to the location.

Best practices in youth justice facilities

- Question was raised on how the operating model of the facility and the design would align with national/international best practice standards.
- The department confirmed there are a number of standards that the centre must adhere to.
- In addition to these standards, the department is taking into consideration the recommendations from the review into youth justice by Penny Armytage and Professor James Ogloff AM and key stakeholders who work with young offenders.
- The department confirmed it will circulate a copy of these reports.

Security issues - tree mounds

- A question was asked if the tree mounds would pose a security threat to the facility if someone could hide behind the tree to conceal themselves.
- The department confirmed that it did not pose a threat and that a number of security measures will be in place to ensure the safety of people travelling to and from the facility.

Visual impact statement

- The draft visual impact assessment was presented to members.
- Feedback was given that more detail needs to be included in the assessment to demonstrate how any impacts from the centre will be addressed and managed including additional imagery and wording to demonstrate what steps will be taken to minimise the visual impacts.

Name for the Youth Justice Centre

- The name of the youth justice centre was discussed, with the department noting that feedback from Koori Caucus members was that a significant Aboriginal name for the centre would be preferred.
- The department confirmed that CAG would have visibility of preferred names proposed by Koori Caucus and that a range of names, including 'Cherry Creek Youth Justice Centre' would be put to the Minister for consideration.

Youth Justice Centre Facility Plan

- Draft Youth Justice Centre Facility Plan was circulated in hard copy, noting that report assessments were to come.
- CAG members advised that the plan should be read in partnership with the assessment reports and would prefer the electronic version to be circulated once all reports are ready.

Project update**Design**

- Schematic design phase continues with further refinement of accommodation and other spaces in the facility.
- This includes design workshops with education and health specialists. A number of other workshops will be undertaken in the next phase.
- A workshop has been undertaken with Koori Caucus to discuss the Cherry Creek site, in particular the significance of the culturally sensitive areas identified as part of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and input into the design features of the Koori building.

Managing Contractor

- Negotiations are continuing with the preferred supplier for Managing Contractor.
- It is anticipated that the negotiations should conclude by end of February 2018.
- The request to the Treasurer to approve the appointment is expected to be sent from the Minister for Families and Children during March.

Building surveyor

- The Building Surveyor, Du Chateau Chun, are engaged and now working on the project.

Site purchase and transfer of land

- The Contract of Sale has been executed by both parties. Settlement will occur upon Melbourne Water obtaining Commonwealth approval to vary existing EPBC Act conditions that apply to the site.
- Department of the Environment and Energy (DEE) have advised that a response will be provided at the same time as the decision on approving the project under the EPBC Act.

Planning approvals

- The Minister for Families and Children wrote to the Minister for Planning on 13 December 2017 asking him to facilitate the necessary planning approvals for the project. A response is expected by mid-March 2018.

Environmental approvals

- Melbourne Water has advised that it's willing to sell native vegetation offsets to DJR to satisfy both State and Commonwealth offset requirements for the project, and is preparing a proposal for consideration.
- Biosis is continuing to seek other suitable offset sites from registered offset brokers in the event the Melbourne Water proposal is not suitable.
- DEE contacted the project team on 7 February 2018 advising that they still do not have a date on when the letter outlining the EPBC requirements will be provided to DJR. DEE have advised the project team that they'll provide weekly updates on the progress of our application.
- With the current delays, it is anticipated that the decision by the Commonwealth on approval under the EPBC Act is not expected until the 2nd quarter of 2018. This delay will impact on commencement of early services works but will not impact on the overall project program.

Cultural heritage assessment

- The department is working closely with the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) on the draft CHMP to manage and respond to requirements.
- Project team members and Biosis met the RAP on 25 January 2018 where they discussed and agreed on actions to address the concerns identified in the assessment.
- Revised CHMP has been re-submitted to the RAP for approval.

Ancillary Services

- The engineers are working on a proposal to operate the centre without gas, and therefore a gas connection may not be required.
- Further discussions between Melbourne Water, City West Water and the project engineers has been held on the sewerage services connection point. All parties have now confirmed the final termination point with environmental surveys being finalised for this route. Due to crossing a number of waterways, a CHMP will need to be undertaken prior to these works being undertaken.
- HDR/Aurecon have prepared a recommended design approach for the new access road and intersection with Little River Road and submitted it to both VicRoads and Wyndham City Council for comment.

Key meeting outcomes

- Next meeting to be organised for Karreenga prison for members to participate in a tour of the correctional facility.
- Assessment and management reports to be circulated to CAG members along with the Draft Youth Justice Centre Facility Plan.