

# Chisholm Road Prison Project

Summary of Community Advisory Group

## Meeting details

<b>Meeting title:</b>	Community Advisory Group	<b>No:</b>	1
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 10 October 2018	<b>Time:</b>	4pm – 6pm
<b>Location:</b>	Marngoneet Correctional Centre (Boardroom Administration Building), 1170 Bacchus Marsh Road, Lara		

## Attendees

**Community Advisory Group Members:** Justin Giddings (Chair), John Brne (community member), David Withington (community member), Allan Miller (community member), Nigel Bird (community member), Barry White (community member), Leigh Bartlett (community member), Jeff Cahn (community member), Rod Wise (Deputy Commissioner, Corrections Victoria), Leanne Barnes, (Executive Director, Barwon South West Region), Leanne Rayner (Sergeant, Lara Police Station), Councillor Kylie Grzybek (Winderemere), Councillor Anthony Aitken, (Winderemere).

**Additional:** Minister for Corrections, Chris Owner (Senior Advisor), Louise Baring (Communication Manager, New Builds), Sara-Jane Delaney (Senior Communications Adviser, New Builds).

## Apologies

**Apologies:** Corrina Eccles (community member), Marylyn Pettit (community member), Garry Jackson (Program Director, New Builds) (sent delegate Dijana Dragovic).

## Meeting overview

### Introduction

The Chair welcomed the group and thanked them for their attendance and membership on the Community Advisory Group (CAG). Members individually discussed their backgrounds and interest in joining the group.

The Minister for Corrections

### Project update

The department conducted a presentation giving an overview of the project. The presentation included the below overview:

- The project will deliver an estimated economic benefit of \$173 million to the Greater Geelong region and help support jobs across manufacturing, construction, engineering and the steel sector.
- The new prison will create more than 650 ongoing jobs with roles including prison officers, psychologists, teachers, administration, maintenance staff and allied health professionals.

- There is a commitment in the build to include 92 per cent of local content and maximise the use of locally milled steel.
- It is deemed a 'strategic project' under the Local Jobs First Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPPP).
- The department has had discussions with GROW who are working to address disadvantage in high unemployment areas (including Colac, Norlane/Corio and Whittington) on how they may be involved on the project. There is a one per cent employment target (of works' total estimate labour hours) to persons identified by GROW in high unemployment area.

The presentation included an update of the project's progress so far:

- **Building Surveyor** to be appointed soon.
- **Acquisition** of the site is continuing.
- **Re-zoning and planning approval** process commenced.
- **Utility Authorities** - in early discussion regarding power, sewage, water, telephone, roads.
- **Site surveys** have commenced with Bushfire Hazard Site Assessment and Feature and Level Survey completed.
- **Ecological Survey**- Biodiversity assessment completed
- **Cultural Heritage**
  - Meeting with Regional Aboriginal Party occurred on September 2018 – next meeting scheduled for the end of October 2018
  - Standard assessment to be completed mid October 2018
- **Geotechnical and Soil Contamination**
  - Preliminary Investigation completed – June 2018
  - Field Investigation completed – September 2018
  - Hydrology assessment to be completed mid October 2018.

### Terms of Reference

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The Community Advisory Group Terms of Reference (ToR) were tabled with the group who confirmed they had reviewed them prior to the meeting.

The department gave an overview ToR and highlighted that the role of the group was to:

- act as the conduit between the community and the department and government, and
- ensure information sharing and opportunities for open dialogue and engagement with local community.

The ToR were endorsed by the group and confirmed through the Chair.

### Correctional Facility Plan

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The development of the Facility Development Plan for the project was discussed and the department provided an overview of what would be included.

The department confirmed the development of the plan forms part of the requirements of Planning Scheme and will:

- include an assessment of potential community, economic and environmental impacts.
- meet the statutory requirements of Schedule 9 to move the land to Special Use Zone allowing the build of a prison.

- outline specific issues raised by local residents and the CAG (both through consultation processes and CAG meetings).

A discussion was held on what the role of the group was to inform the plan. The department confirmed the plan needs to reflect the issues the community identifies, for example visual impacts, noise or lighting impacts. The department then needs to outline a response in the plan on how it would address community issues raised.

### **Updating name of project**

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The department requested input from the group on the name of the project. It is currently being called 'Prison Precinct Expansion Project'. The following suggestions were put forward by the department:

- Chisholm Prison Project
- Grant County Prison Project
- Hovells Creek Prison Project
- Plains Prison Project.

The group agreed to proceed with the suggestion of the Chisholm Prison Project as a proposed name but add the title 'Road' to provide context. The other suggestions were not endorsed.

The group agreed to provide additional suggestions out of sessions and vote at the next meeting.

The group also discussed what the name of the new facility will be. There were varying views amongst the group with some members expressing that they did not want the facility name or project name to reference the town for fear it will have detrimental impacts on tourism and the areas reputation.

Suggestions for a name of the facility will be shortlisted in consultation with the community and the group at a later stage in the project and will go to the relevant Minister for selection and approval.

### **Community Feedback**

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Community feedback on the build of the new prison was discussed. Each member of the group noted any feedback they had from the community thus far.

Key issues that were raised included;

- Lighting of the facility and ensuring it does not cause a significant visual impact on the nearby residents
- Noise from the facility
- Impact on traffic
- Impact of potential increased demand on emergency services, for example local police
- Potential upgrades to existing infrastructure, including Peak School Road from a dirt road to a potential gravel road.

The group discussed the impact the facility and construction would have on traffic particularly considering other changes occurring nearby such as the installation of safety barriers.

The Council expressed interest in revisiting water usage from the Black Water Treatment Plant for the new facility.

Other discussion from the group regarding community concerns and impacts related to the brightness of lighting and noise. This is of particular interest as there is new housing being built in the area.

The group was interested in reducing environmental impacts of the facility and the landscaping.

The impact that a prison in a local community was raised and that research had been conducted on the social impacts living near a prison has on communities.

A potential tour of a prison was put to members to see if there was interest in gaining further insights into prison operations. It was agreed that a tour of the Marngoneet Correctional Centre would be organised for the next meeting.