

Submission Cover Sheet

North East Link Project EES IAC

300

Request to be heard?: yes

Full Name: Katherine Jackson
Organisation: Bulleen Templestowe Junior Football Club
Affected property: Bulleen Park Ovals 2&3
Attachment 1: EES_NELP_Submis
Attachment 2:
Attachment 3:
Comments: Uploaded

EES Submission re: NEL project impact on Bulleen Park and the Bulleen Templestowe Junior Football Club

Submitted by Kathy Jackson

Parent and Committee Member: Bulleen Templestowe Junior Football Club

Monday 3rd June 2019

I have been involved in the Bulleen Templestowe Junior Football Club, The Bullants, since 2012, where I now have two daughters playing girl's football.

We became involved in the Club as it was one of the pioneering Clubs in our local league, the YJFL, to embrace girls only football. After trying another local Club, we chose to move to BTJFC due to the inclusive nature and community spirit we experienced at the Bullants. This Club has been a big part of my family's life over the past seven years and will continue to do so for at least another 3 years while my daughters play girls football there.

After viewing various articles, documents and presentations over the past few months, I understand that the NELP will have a huge and potentially devastating impact on our Club due to the location of our home ground at Bulleen Park. As a direct consequence of this, there may be significant negative impacts on my family.

The main concerns relate to the construction stage which will potentially take at least 64 months.

- At present it takes us approximately 5-10 minutes to travel the 2km get to Bulleen Park from our home. According to the details in the EES, this trip may extend out to over 30 minutes to get there, but more than likely be up to 45 minutes when *leaving* Bulleen Park due to changed traffic conditions and traffic congestion due to the NELP construction.
It is unrealistic to expect us to travel these times to play sport & train at our local club.
- I have huge concerns about child safety with these traffic conditions, and the expected frequency of large trucks using the roads throughout the day, if kids are expected to play sport and train near a major construction zone.
- Whilst hard to quantify, the noise pollution, emissions and dust pollution associated with such a behemoth project will likely impact everyone in the near vicinity. On a personal note, as I suffer from severe asthma, this is of particular concern to me. As a Committee member, I can be at Bulleen Park for up to 8 hours on a Sunday assisting at the Canteen and then watching both my girls play football. The dust will most definitely affect my asthma in an adverse way.
- The Bulleen Park precinct also provides a safe environment for learner drivers to develop confidence in the early stages of learning to drive. We regularly take my older daughter to Bulleen Park to get her hours up and improve her skills and awareness as she learnt to drive, and we would anticipate doing this for my younger daughter who would get her Learners permit during the construction. There are very few similar areas locally that would enable this.
- The large tract of land surrounding Bulleen Park is like a 'pocket of the country' in the suburbs. The park is home to a huge array of native wildlife. We want to encourage our children to get out into the open spaces and experience hearing and seeing the local birds and animals. It is important that they can do this in their 'backyard', in such close proximity to their home, without having to travel hours to get to the country to have the same experience. The construction phase will decimate this local area and push out the local birds and animals, with devastating effects on the local environment.

I would also like to officially endorse the submission from BTJFC President Nic Moore, as it outlines significant threats to the football club that could potentially see the demise of this fantastic junior football club.

If there are too many hurdles to jump to get to your local footy club, to train and play, it is obvious people will look elsewhere for a club so their kids can play sport. Convenience is a major factor when parents decide which club to join. The other factor is friendship groups. Once one friend leaves based on their parent's decision to move clubs, it effectively creates an avalanche of players moving away. This may ultimately result in the BTJFC not being able to field teams.

As a Committee member I know how much the Club relies on the Canteen at Bulleen Park to financially support the Club's operating activities. If the Club loses the ability to make money not only at the weekly game days during the season, but also the 3 major age group carnivals and YJFL finals that the club hosts every year, it will result in a drastic reduction in monies raised. Add to this, the risk of losing financial sponsors whose businesses operated out of the Bulleen Business Park around Kim Close, and ultimately this will affect the Club's financial viability.

As girls footy continues to build in momentum, it is important that not only my girls, but all of our current players feel comfortable and confident in a supportive club environment where they can play girls-only footy. Not all clubs have a well-developed, girl's specific program as the BTJFC does. I have been involved in the development of girls footy at the Bullants and the club is renowned for the strong, dedicated program it offers. In order for this sport to continue to grow and attract new players, it is important for all the girls who are currently at the club and potential new players to know the club is viable and secure in its tenure.

In summary, please accept my personal concerns about the impact of the NELP on not only family, but the wider community, including our junior football club, the Bulleen Templestowe Junior Football Club.

I implore the NELA to review the concerns and seriously consider the impacts before they make their final decisions.