

Responses to Moorabool Shire Council questions about spoil management on the West Gate Tunnel Project

Community Consultation

1. Have you developed a consultation plan that includes community, teachers and parents of Bacchus Marsh Grammar, irrigation district/farm owners and immediate neighbours?

The concerns of the local community are important to Maddingley Brown Coal (MBC) and the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) parties, and we will continue to engage key stakeholders and the local community to ensure we hear their concerns and they are informed about the MBC proposal.

Our engagement will include the opportunity to hear directly from MBC and the WGTP parties. We understand the community has a lot of questions, and we are planning one-on-one meetings with key community groups and nearby growers and businesses, and will make ourselves available to the local community at local events such as the market, and via a dedicated enquiries hotline.

We have met with Bacchus Marsh Grammar School and briefed the principal on the proposal, and will continue to make ourselves available to the school community.

We also hope to work with council to identify opportunities where we could partner to support valuable community initiatives should the MBC proposal for spoil management proceed.

2. Will the community opinion make a difference to the proposal?

While the planning amendment is being sought under the provisions of Section 20 (4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the concerns of the local community are important and will be considered as approvals are sought, both by the applicant and the decision-maker, the Minister for Planning.

MBC has been operating in Bacchus Marsh for more than 30 years and values its relationship with and place in the local community.

MBC and WGTP parties welcome the opportunity to continue to work with Council to further understand the needs of the community and explore potential partnership opportunities to support the local community.

3. What is the proposed alternate route during the strawberry/cherry festival that closes the Avenue?

During this time, trucks would take the route via Hopkins Road, Greigs Road and Parwan Exford Road for inbound and outbound truck movements

4. Have you developed a consultation plan that outlines the potential health impacts of PFAS and the other contaminants and how these will be mitigated?

As part of MBC's proposal, MBC and WGTP parties have been working closely with the EPA to ensure all relevant controls would be in place on the MBC site to meet the strict environmental and health requirements. This would ensure any soil containing PFAS doesn't present a risk to human health or the environment.

MBC and the WGTP parties welcome the opportunity during consultation to discuss any concerns regarding potential or perceived public health and safety risks with the community and the stringent controls that would be in place to protect the community.

5. Will the community have the opportunity to read the technical assessments?

Key findings from technical reports will be shared during engagement to assist with explaining the proposed MBC disposal solution.

While detailed briefings will be offered to community members and stakeholders, full copies of the technical reports will not be made public as the MBC proposal is part of an ongoing competitive process.

6. We understand there is a community meeting organised for next Tuesday, will there be project representatives at the meeting on Tuesday?

We acknowledge the invitation that has been provided to the project parties. As discussed when this was raised during our meeting with council, we believe our planned community consultation through targeted briefings, attendance at various local community events and community information line are the most effective ways to provide the community with the opportunity to understand the proposed solution and provide feedback. As such, we will decline the invitation.

Soil Contamination

1. If the soil is classified Category A or B (highly contaminated) will additional mitigation be triggered and what will that be?

We expect to find low levels of PFAS during tunnelling, which will be well below the approved Category C classification of waste MBC is already licenced to receive.

In the very unlikely event that spoil cannot be disposed of at the MBC site, it will be taken to an approved facility for disposal or treatment in line with EPA requirements.

2. What is the process for leachate management and the proposed use of this excess water?

Specialised drainage systems would be in place to collect any water that comes from the soil into EPA-approved, lined ponds that aren't connected to the groundwater system.

The water management systems are designed to ensure any water from the soil does not make its way into the groundwater system. It will meet all EPA requirements and will be the subject of regular ongoing maintenance and EPA monitoring.

Water that doesn't naturally evaporate would be used solely for dust suppression within the approved containment area for PFAS contaminated soil or the licenced land fill area, in accordance with EPA approvals. It will not be used for dust suppression on any other areas of the MBC site.

3. What contaminants will be screened for once on site? EPA classification, PFAS, asbestos and what else?

All soil that arrives on site would be sampled and tested to determine its exact classification and how it needs to be safely disposed of in line with EPA requirements.

Pre-analysis testing has already taken place along the area where the tunnels will be built. This analysis indicates the only contaminant that is potentially present for the vast majority of tunnel spoil is PFAS, and that's what it will be tested for.

A limited number of specific areas have been identified as potentially containing other contaminants and soil from these sites will be test for other contaminants. Any spoil found to contain any other contaminant will be disposed of at a licensed landfill in line with EPA requires.

4. With the 24/7 proposed operational hours - can you please confirm the additional amenity impacts - lights, air quality, noise at night etc - how will this be mitigated?

We expect there to be minimal amenity impacts to locals as a result of the on-site operations - no dust or odour, and minimal noise. To further reduce the impact from the 24/7 operations, the following measures would be in place:

- Constructing earth walls up to 5m high around the site to buffer the operation from the neighbouring residents and businesses
- Dust suppression methods
- Noise mitigation
- Use of a different approved truck route at night that avoids passing residential houses

Ongoing audits and monitoring will ensure community amenity will be protected. There will also be a dedicated community enquiry and complaints hotline which members of the community can call to report complaints.

Net Community Benefit

1. What is proposed to achieve net community benefit?

We understand that major projects can have an impact on local communities, and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss partnership opportunities with Council to ensure the project can give back to the local community of Bacchus Marsh should the MBC proposal for spoil management proceed.

Such partnerships would require further discussion with Council to be tailored to the local community's needs.

MBC is proposing to enter into an agreement with Council to provide an appropriate payment for road dilapidation to ensure funding is provided to Council for maintenance of local roads impacted during the project.

2. Is there a proposal to offset the community and economic impacts?

As above, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this in more detail with Council.

3. What is proposed to improve the entrance to Bacchus Marsh on the Geelong road? Increased tree planting? Pick up rubbish?

As above, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss these projects/initiatives with council.

Planning Process

1. Has a socio-economic impact assessment been carried out?

A standalone socio-economic analysis has not been undertaken, however socio-economic impacts are being considered in relation to priority areas of the proposal.

Socioeconomic impacts are being assessed as part of the traffic impact assessment in relation to businesses adjacent to the truck routes including potential for impacts on the Avenue of Honour.

2. When will Council be provided with the technical impact assessments so that we can review provide feedback?

Due to the competitive process currently underway, we are not able to provide commercially sensitive material contained in the technical assessments. MBC and the WGT project parties have requested the opportunity to provide detailed briefings with Council representatives to discuss the reports and their findings.

Council is encouraged to seek a briefing from the EPA Victoria, which is the independent regulator for the management of spoil.

3. Will there be a complaints management procedure and primary contact for this project?

If relevant approvals are sought, a dedicated community enquiries hotline would be established for the community if they had any concerns about on-site operations at MBC.

The WGTP community enquiry line is also available for any other questions specific to the project.

4. What is the strategic justification of using the facility for this purpose?

MBC is a designated State-Significant Waste Hub that is licenced to receive industrial waste. Following testing in the area where the tunnel will be built, it's expected that low levels of PFAS will be found in the soil, which is well below the classification of waste MBC is already licenced to receive.

Given MBC's expertise in handling materials of this nature, the location and geology of the site with buffers from the neighbouring community and the rigorous monitoring and reporting requirements that would be in place, the MBC site would allow the safe management of WGTP soil with minimal amenity impact to the local community.

5. Please provide an update on the proposed timelines of the process

Tunnelling for the WGTP is expected to take approximately 18 months. At this stage, due to the ongoing competitive process, timelines have not been made public.

Road Infrastructure

1. On the occurrence of a truck rollover and/or accident, what emergency plan will be implemented? Have emergency services been briefed about the contaminants? How will the safety of our community on the roads been guaranteed during this time?

The WGTP parties have a heavy vehicle management plan, which includes provisions in the event of a crash or other incident. Emergency services attend WGTP- specific traffic management meetings, in which truck routes are discussed and their feedback documented and considered.

The CFA and EPA have been consulted during this planning process.

2. As part of the dilapidation deed, will MBC take responsibility for road upgrades and prompt repairs of the roads during the project?

MBC recognises the impact the additional truck traffic will have on local roads, and would enter into an agreement to either directly undertake maintenance and/or to compensate Moorabool Shire Council for road maintenance and upgrades required as a result of the project. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this in more detail with Council.

3. As Council roads will be used, when will we see the traffic impact assessment be provided to Council infrastructure engineers for review?

MBC and the WGTP parties have requested the opportunity to provide detailed briefings with Council representatives to discuss the technical reports and their findings.

4. Has traffic modelling and a road safety audit been completed?

A detailed Traffic Impact Assessment, including a road safety audit, has been completed, and a dilapidation assessment will be undertaken prior to the vehicles using the truck routes.

Environment

1. Parwan Creek flows into Werribee River which flows in to food bowl - how will this impact (both real and perceived) be mitigated?

MBC is proposing a robust solution for the management of any soil containing PFAS, including a protective liner and specialised drainage systems to capture any water from the spoil. This solution is

designed to ensure that there is no impact from the spoil that would be received by MBC to water entering the Parwan Creek.

EPA requirements will require ongoing rigorous monitoring and reporting by an independent EPA Auditor.

2. Does MBC intend on cleaning the river and providing some revegetation and weed management in an attempt to improve the area?

This has not been proposed at this stage, but as part of engagement with council, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss potential support for initiatives such as this.