

Fair-go for Footscray Rail Residents

Bulletin : 6th August 2010

- ▶ Deadline for written submissions! (Thursday 19th Aug)
- ▶ Submission-writing workshop (Wed 11th 7:00-9:00pm)
- ▶ If you can't get to the Workshop...
- ▶ Information from RRL project
- ▶ Residents meetings

▶ **Deadline for Submissions**

We now need to get a move on with our written submissions. This is our chance to lodge our views, comments and questions as part of the formal project planning process. Anyone directly or indirectly affected by the RRL project can send in any number of submissions. You can send your own individual submission, as well as group submissions with neighbours and wider community groups.

The Dept. of Transport has provided no guidelines or templates for submissions, other than to say that we can write on any issue regarding the RRL project. This might range from issues about the direct impact of the new rail line on you, your family and your home, to broader issues around the impact on Footscray and our community. Submissions will be used for planning construction and for the project's 'Environmental Effects Referral' and 'Project Area Designation' (the location of the tracks and the land to be acquired and affected).

Submissions must be lodged **before Thursday 19 August**. Once the submission stage is over, many of the project plans will be locked in and we will have less chance of influencing any changes. The whole process is rushed and unfair in many respects, but it is still important that your views are heard through this submission process. (Whatever the official time-lines and processes, we will continue to make our voices heard in other ways too - the submissions process won't be our last word!).

▶ **Submission-writing Workshop**

Please join other affected residents next Wednesday evening for a big '**Submission-writing Workshop**' on **Wednesday 11th August**. We will gather together to help one another write individual and group submissions. This is a hands-on session - not a meeting. By the end of the session, we aim to have a huge stack of submissions ready to deliver.

Even if you have already written your own submission, please come along to help other residents in writing theirs. You can also contribute to group submissions. Most of us are unfamiliar with submission writing and we could all use a helping hand. We will also have legal people and other expert advisers there to help out. We will have warming tea and coffee available and some light snacks to keep us going!

▶ **If you can't get to the Workshop**

Please try to make it to the workshop, but if you can't get along next Wednesday, you should still lodge your own submission directly. Your letter doesn't have to be long or perfectly written. Include pictures and sketches if they help make your point. Here are some examples of points you might include:

- Your suggestions for changing the track positioning to minimise impact on your home and others.
- Queries or suggestions about any other options available (underground tunnels, etc).
- Suggestions for other broad solutions, such as the electrification of current diesel lines.
- Increased noise levels and the impact on your home or place of work.
- Impacts of construction (night work, bridge construction, duration of work, etc)

- Inadequate consultation, information and time for responses from those affected.
- Whether you wish to have your property acquired, or not.
- Whether you wish to have all or part of your property acquired.
- Outline of any special needs you may have (nursing ill family members, language issues, etc).
- Your concerns about the risk of being forced out of Footscray if you have to give up your house.
- Your attachment to your home and community, and the importance of these connections to you.
- Greening measures, heritage retention and public art along the track.
- Testing for and management of contaminated soil/dust during construction.

This is just a simple list of suggestions only. You can include anything you believe is relevant to the RRL project and its impacts. Submissions should be marked 'submission' and sent to:

*Mr Corey Hannett, Executive Director
Regional Rail Link, Department of Transport
PO Box 2797, Melbourne VIC 3001
(Submissions can also be sent by email to: rrl@transport.vic.gov.au)*

► **Information from RRL project**

- RRL team is preparing the 'information pack' (answers to our list of 75 questions) to be delivered to affected residents early next week (9th Aug).
- They are focusing now on identifying commercial tenants affected by the project.
- Residents may receive a 'Notice of intention to enter'. These will be arriving in the mail over the next few days. Note: this does not indicate either that your property will or won't be acquired.
- RRL finalising letters to property owners who were offered the 'buy-out' options. (the 'islands' on both sides of Victoria St - including the houses houses and shops on the east side (the canvas shop and the four shops adjacent to it on Victoria and Buckley Streets). These letters may be delayed a little because they have to go to the Minister's office for signing).
- RRL engineers are working on the 'Northern Alignment', with the possibility that this may result in fewer houses being acquired. The final alignment has not been decided and all affected property owners will be notified at the same time as soon as the alignment is known.

► **Residents (FFRR) meetings**

The 'Fair-go for Footscray Rail Residents' group met on Wednesday at the usual location - the Senior Citizens Centre, 130 Buckley St - to catch up on developments since our meeting with the Minister and to plan next steps. We had some very useful input from two lawyers from Slater and Gordon and it was apparent from the concerns raised that people are desperate for solid information. We hope the information packs coming to us will answer some of the uncertainty, although this information is coming very late in the process. The main outcome of the meeting was the decision to focus effort now on getting our submissions in.

Future meetings: Maribyrnong council has provided us with use of the meeting room at the Senior Citizens Centre for each Wednesday through August (maybe more, if we need it). Please pencil in these dates to your diary:

- Wed 11th - 7:00pm (submission-writing workshop!)
- Wed 18th - 7:00pm (update meeting)
- Wed 25th - 7:00pm (update meeting)

**Stay tuned for further bulletins. Support your neighbours and community by sharing information via these bulletins, the group email list and web site www.ffrr.footscray.org
Fair-go for Footscray Rail Residents!**