

# Fair-go for Footscray Rail Residents

## Bulletin : 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010

- ▶ DoT to attend tomorrow's FFRR meeting
- ▶ The RRL community reference group to be established
- ▶ Other discussion with DoT
- ▶ Planning Minister is now due to make a decision on EES referral
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### ▶ *DoT to attend tomorrow's FFRR meeting*

As agreed at our last meeting, we have invited Kimberley Dripps and other DoT representatives to our meeting tomorrow (on 13th Oct) to field questions from residents.

Please have a think in advance about your most pressing concerns. We won't have a lot of time and we need to give everyone a chance to put their questions. This session will need to be fairly tightly organised to ensure that everyone gets a go.

At this stage, we need to concentrate on specific detail rather than general concerns. If we put general comments and questions to DoT, we will receive only general answers - all of which we have heard already many times over. Where possible, it would be good to have very specific issues aired in this meeting. If you are comfortable about discussing your specific issues at the FFRR meeting, this will help ensure that we are all being told the same things.

### ▶ *The RRL community reference group to be established*

Nick, Kim, Rhiannon, Jocelyn and Noriko had a meeting with Kimberley Dripps and an engineer from DoT on 30<sup>th</sup> Sep to clarify what actions DoT intends to take in response to our submission and to discuss how residents and DoT might work together throughout the life of the project.

Kimberley promised to establish an RRL community reference group (CRG), based on the the Westlink model. The Westlink CRG was established to facilitate community input into the identification, development and assessment of project alternatives and the preparation of the planning and consultation study. The group s chaired independently by Jeni Coutts (a communications consultant) and includes community, industry and council representation. The committee meets regularly every four to six weeks.

It is a mystery as to why a CRG was not established for the RRL project at the very beginning of the process.

According to the follow-up conversation with Kimberley, the details of how the RRL CRG will be formed etc has not been drafted by DoT, but we will keep pushing to make sure this happens soon.

### ▶ *Other discussion with DoT*

Kimberley Dripps, also mentioned that DoT intends to appoint a welfare/advocacy officer to take care of residents needs throughout the project. FFRR has been asked by DoT for suggestions on where this position might be hosted (eg at Maribyrnong council, or another local social welfare agency). Kimberley also confirmed that, for those whose homes will be acquired, the cost of buyers advocates to find a new home will be covered.

Apart from those above, we clarified that DoT has **no intention** of implementing any noise abatement measures at all – as per the terms of the ancient Victorian railways Act.

Nor will they push for an increase in the “prescribed amount” to apply for interest free or modified governmental loans, which is set at a maximum of \$500,000 under the terms of the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act (LACA). The advice from DoT on this is that we should take up the issue with the Attorney General!

### ► **Planning Minister is now due to make a decision on EES or no EES**

20 business days has past since the Environmental Effect Statement (EES) referral was submitted to the Minister for Planning. In response to a query from FFRR, DoT responded with: “There is a target timeframe of 20 business days. The actual timeframe may vary depending on the circumstances and complexity of the case. Once the Minister for Planning has made a decision on the need for an EES for RRL - Section 1, his decision and the reasons for this decision will be made available on the Department's website at [www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning/ees](http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning/ees)”.

We have been checking the site but it's not shown there yet as of 11<sup>th</sup> October. At this moment we are just hoping the Planning Minister includes issues raised by residents in the “conditions” if he decides that no EES required. Once his decision is made, we can discuss further action.

### ► **Loss of parking issues**

The local Footscray Traders' Association has express its concerns at the loss of parking under the proposed RRL plans for Footscray station. The RRL team has made no effort to approach the local traders' groups and the information only came to light when Grant Miles, the President of the Trader's Association requested an urgent meeting with the RRL team.

### ► **Mark on your diary! Meeting dates**

The future meeting dates as follows, fortnightly on Wednesdays at Senior Citizens Centre at 130 Buckley St - don't forget to pencil in these dates on your diary.

Wed, Oct 13th - 7pm

Wed, Oct 27th - 7pm

Wed, Nov 10th - 7pm

Wed, Nov 24th - 7pm

Wed, Dec 8th - 7pm

Wed, Dec 22nd - 7pm

**Stay tuned for further bulletins. Support your neighbours and community by sharing any useful information with others via these bulletins and the group email list.**

**[www.ffrr.footscray.org](http://www.ffrr.footscray.org)**

