

Fair-go for Footscray Rail Residents

Bulletin : 26th October 2010

- ▶ FFRR meeting tomorrow - usual time and venue!
- ▶ Notice of Intention to Acquire (NOITA) received
- ▶ Noise and livability issues
- ▶ Appointment of social welfare worker
- ▶ Support for people wanting purchase
- ▶ RRL community reference group to be created
- ▶ New designs for Footscray and Sunshine Stations
- ▶ Work Package C: Footscray to Sunshine Alliance released
- ▶ Meeting dates – mark on your diary!

▶ *FFRR meeting tomorrow*

At 7:00pm Wednesday 27th October at the usual place, Senior Citizens Centre, 130 Buckley St.

DoT representatives will not be at this meeting. We will probably again work in two groups – one for those being acquired and the other for those staying on.

▶ *The formal 'Notice of Intention to Acquire' received*

The formal 'Notice of Intention to Acquire' went out on the 18th October to the 78 homes and commercial properties slated for acquisition. We think it's very important for us to stay together and share the information as much as possible, to make sure we all receive the fair deal from the Department. We want to be sure that all those facing acquisition have now engaged a lawyer – this is vitally important.

▶ *Noise and 'livability' issues*

For those staying on, it is time now to focus our efforts on noise and other key 'livability' issues. The Minister for Planning required as part of his planning approval that a noise impact management report needs to be completed within four months. This provides us with the opportunity to do our own research on how railway noise is managed in other Australian states and overseas.

▶ *Appointment of social welfare worker*

DoT stated at the our last meeting that they are intending 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. Maribyrnong council was suggested, but according to DoT, this idea was not too popular with several residents they've spoken with. Another suggestion is that the position might be hosted at the Footscray Community Legal Centre (located at the 72 Buckley St). We're waiting on a response from the legal centre about this possibility. Does anyone have any other suggestions?

► ***Support for people wanting purchase***

Residents on the northern side of the line were informed verbally by DoT that their request to be included in the offer of purchase was not accepted. For those residents who want to continue the push for this offer, we need to discuss what assistance the FFRR group as a whole might provide.

► ***Details of RRL community reference group released***

Four days after DoT told us that a community reference group (CRG) was under consideration, the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Anthony Albanese, announced the creation of the a CRG for the RRL project and provided the terms of reference. Although the establishment of a CRG is welcome, we are very disappointed that we didn't receive any notice from DoT regarding this – we just happened to find it on RRL website.

Disappointingly too, the CRG will not be for just this section of the RRL project, but will include all municipalities affected by the project (Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Maribyrnong, Brimbank and Wyndham). The CRG will have an independent chairperson and will comprise one senior council representative and one community representative from each of the municipalities. Nominations for the community representative positions will closed on 12th December.

► ***New designs for Footscray and Sunshine Stations***

On the 20th October, the Minister for Transport, Martin Pakula put out a media release on a new design plan for Footscray station. The new design appears to involve a major reworking of the just recently built footbridge, including the installation of escalators. The government is jumping quickly before the election to head off negative comment about the current footbridge. The footbridge has been widely criticized for its steep stairs and ineffective roof. There was also a serious safety problem identified early on with reflection from the bridge causing problems for train drivers. It beggars belief that the original station redevelopment project and the RRL project have been so poorly coordinated that the original station plans will be abandoned and the expensive new footbridge rebuilt almost before its paint dries.

► ***Work Package C: Footscray to Sunshine Alliance released***

The 'Work Package C - Footscray to Sunshine Alliance Request for Proposal' has been released. This is the document that goes out to the various companies interested in bidding for the construction contract.

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

Future resident meetings are every fortnight, 7:00pm on Wednesdays at the Senior Citizens Centre at 130 Buckley St - don't forget to pencil in these dates on your diary.

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