

North East Link Community Information Session



Scott Walker - Director City Development

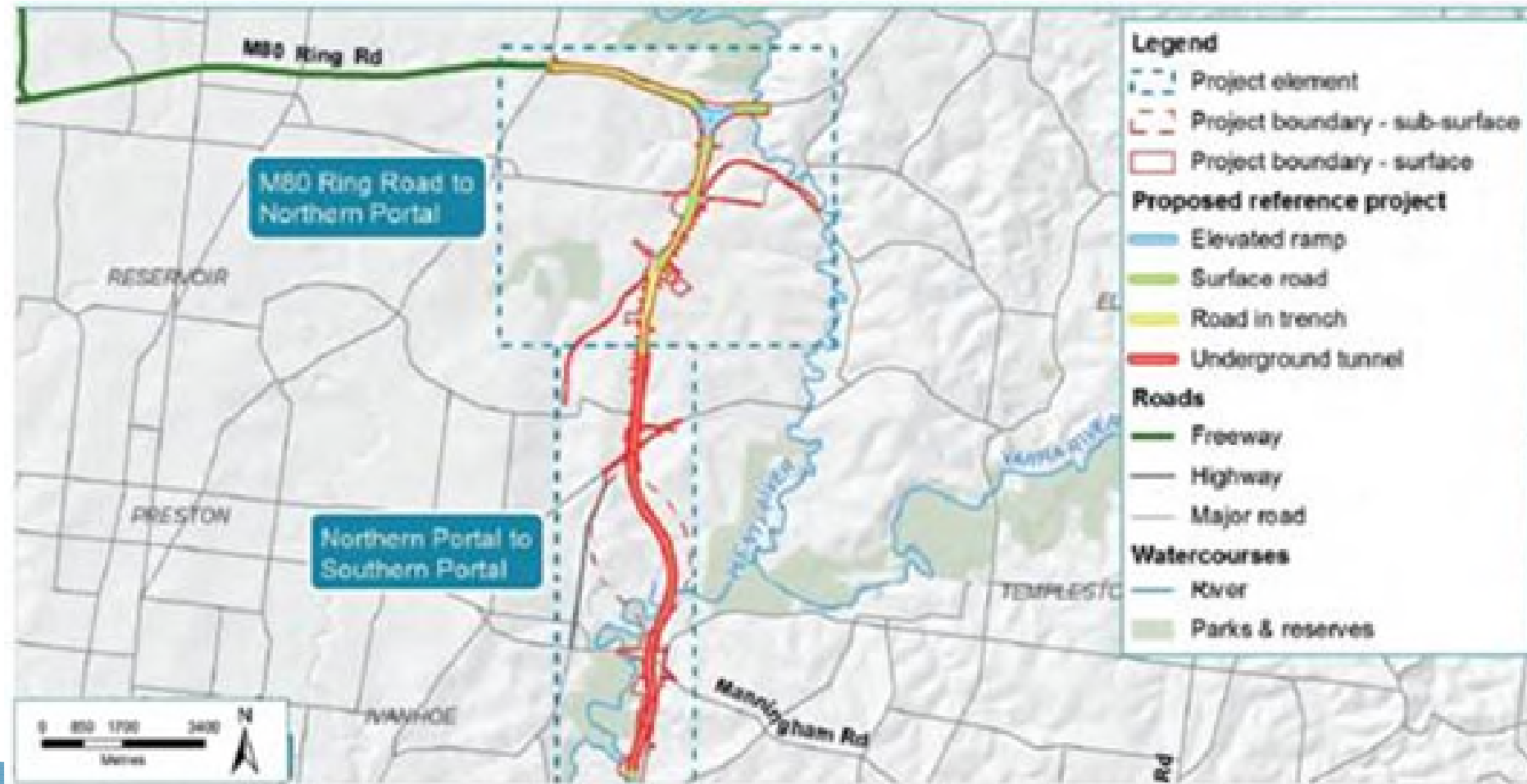


AGENDA

- 1. Current status of the project**
- 2. Council's legal challenge**
- 3. Advocacy**
- 4. Other Transport needs**
- 5. Current and future North East Link Early Works**
- 6. Questions**



What is the North East Link?





Project timeline: current status

Timeline for North East Link Project

2019

EES process:
Hearings to IAC
recommendations

Late 2019

Minister for
Planning decision

2020

Planning and
other approvals
received
Early Works begin

Late 2020

Successful
tenderer to be
awarded contract
and final design
developed

2021

Detailed Design
Continues &
Major
construction
works start

Banyule Council Position Statement: 2019

‘Council continues to work on behalf of its community to advocate for changes to the North East Link project that protect our natural environment, preserve our local neighbourhoods, avoid dividing our community, minimise health impacts and provide for real solutions to the transport issues in the north including improved cycling and walking facilities and a reduction in through truck movements on local roads. Also, improved local outcomes for all other State Government transport projects that impact Banyule.’

OCTOBER 2019



Council's Legal Challenge to approval process



- Manningham, Whitehorse & Boroondara have withdrawn legal challenge
- Legal advice indicated diminished chance of success due to:
 - a recent Supreme Court decision
 - Banyule being stand alone Council
- Council has settled the case for better community outcomes





Advocacy Achievements to date

1. Initial project scope
2. Reference and Alternate Design changes
3. Sporting and community facility commitments
4. Environmental Effects Statement Performance Requirements
5. Supreme Court Settlement
6. Presentation of key issues to project bidders



I. Initial Project Scope

- Tunnel under the important Banyule Flats Environmental area
- Four key interchange locations
- Lower Plenty Road interchange to the north side of Lower Plenty Road to minimise property acquisitions.



2. Reference and Alternate Design Changes

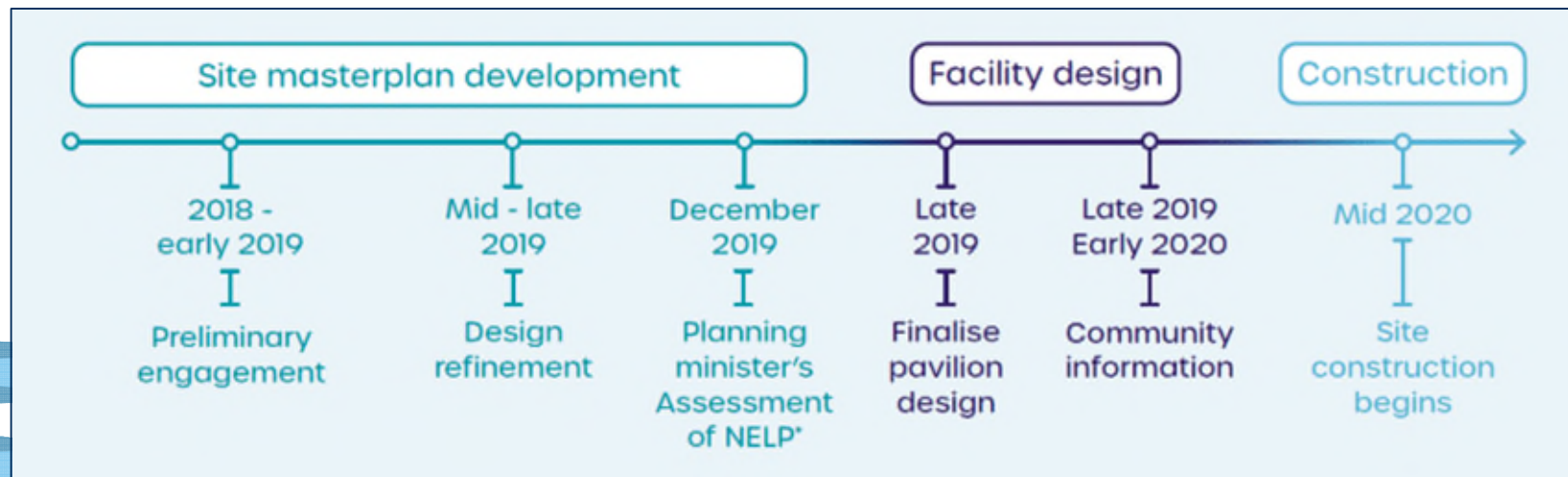
- Part of Technical Review Group and Community Reference Group
- Improved design in Watsonia (Watsonia Alternate Design)
- Addition of green bridges and improved shared user paths
- Preserving 'tollfree' access for local use
- Shared user bridge over Yarra River



3. Sporting and Community Facilities



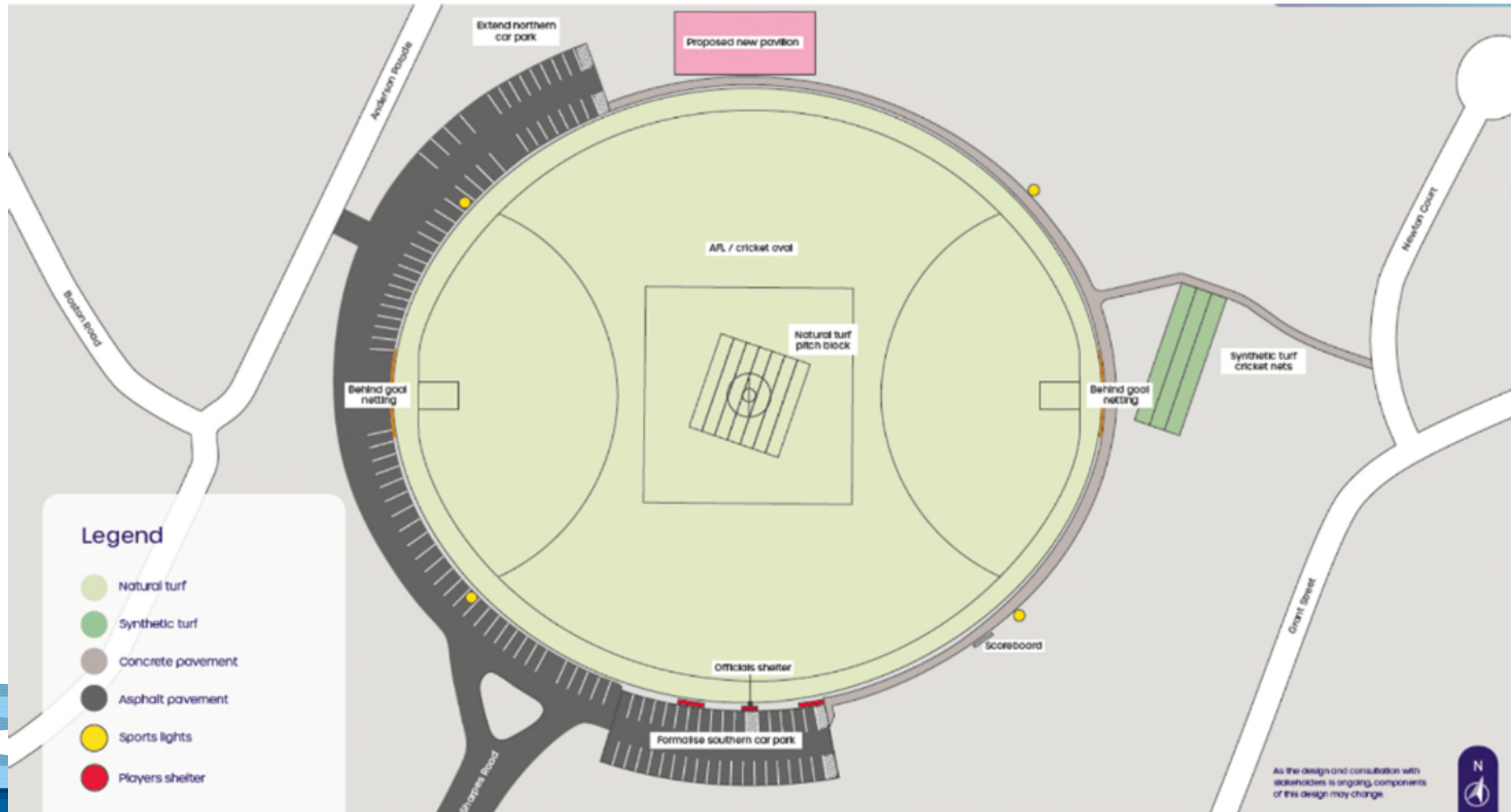
- More than \$30 million worth of new investment in pavilions, sporting and community facilities including:
 - Binnak Park pavilion and sports field upgrade
 - Ford Park Masterplan implementation
 - Greensborough Secondary College sports fields
 - De Winton Reserve and Montmorency Park turf



Sporting Club Masterplan



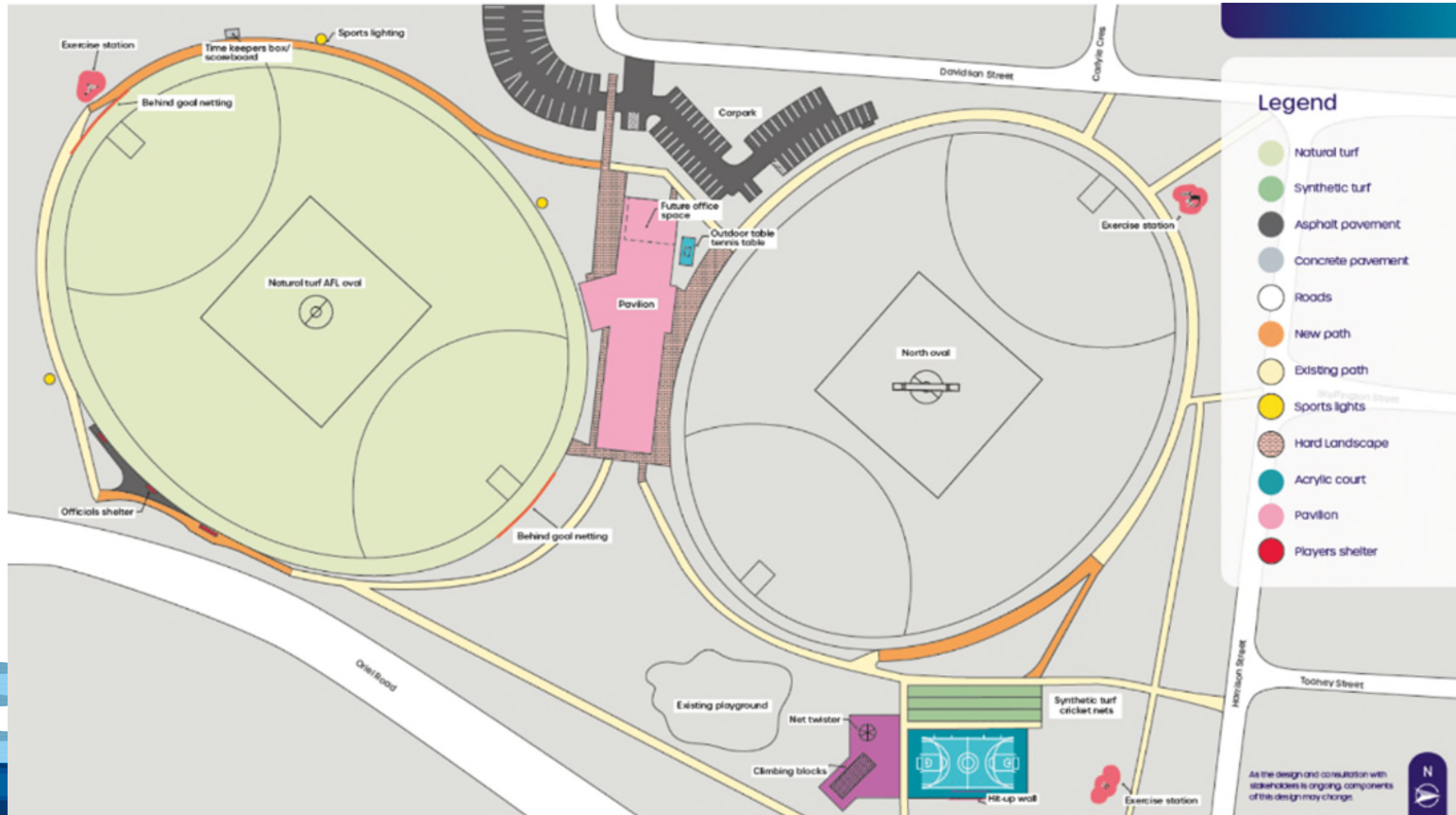
Binnak Park



Sporting Club Masterplan



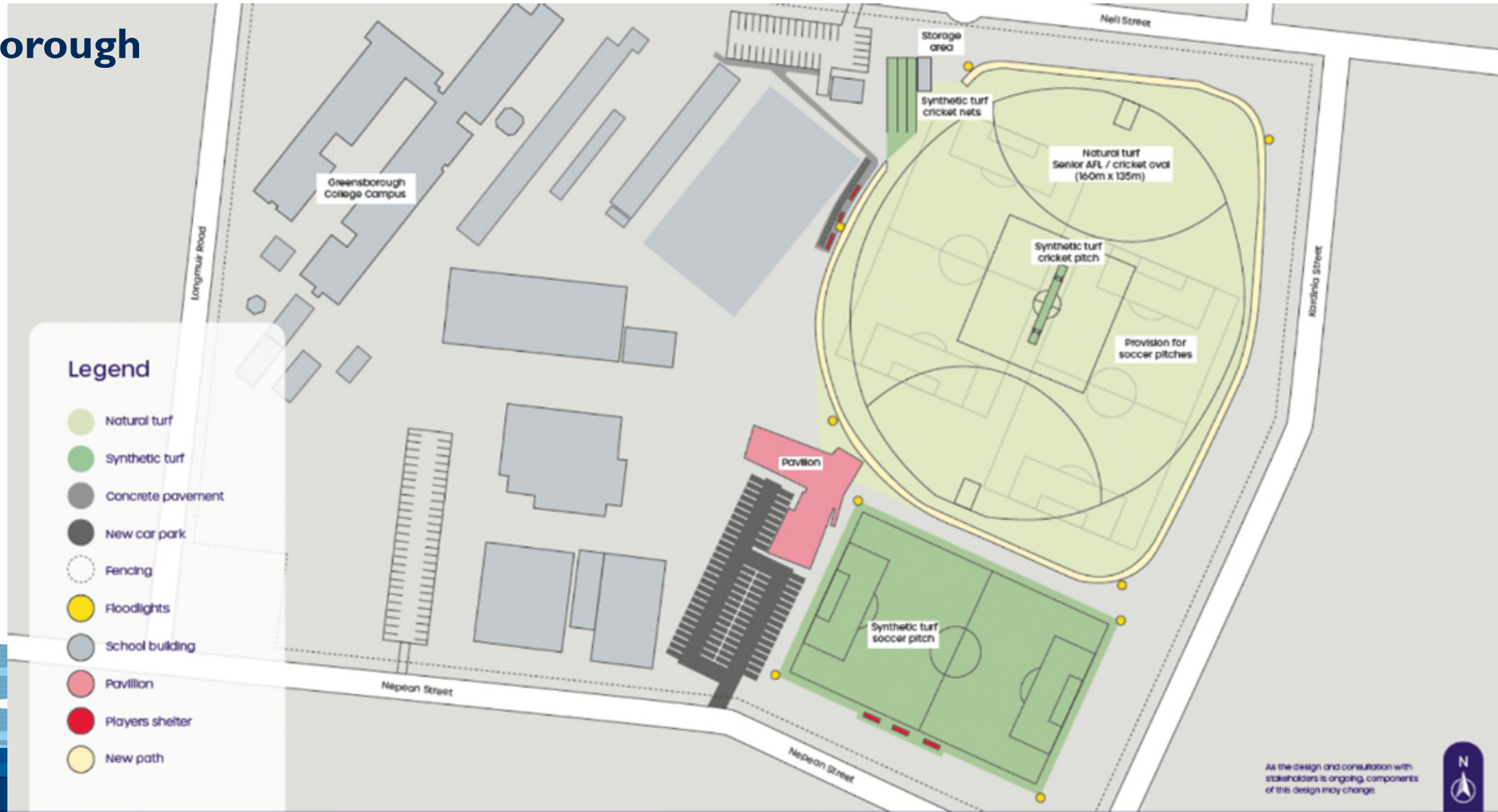
Ford Park



Sporting Club Masterplan



Greensborough College





4. Environmental Effects Statement

Environmental Effects Statement process

- Technical consultants and expert witnesses
- Legal Counsel to present case
- Extensive closing submission
- Bidders in attendance and heard key messages



Environmental Effects Statement outcomes

- IAC support for key Banyule recommendations
- Improved Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) to govern project
- Input to Urban Design Framework Plans and Watsonia Neighbourhood Activity Centre plan
- Lack of Minister's support for
 - Simpsons Barracks no-go zone
 - Borlase Reserve TBM site
 - Longer tunnel

5. Supreme Court Mediation Outcome

BANYULE ACHIEVEMENTS

Direct involvement in the design, development and construction phases on the project ✓

Watsonia Town Square – planning & associated improvements ✓
(green bridge, local road changes and other works) (\$5.5million)


Cycling Infrastructure

- Shared user paths in Watsonia ✓ (\$3.0million)
- Shared user bridge over Yarra in Heidelberg ✓ (\$5.8million)
(*Manningham Delivered Project*)
- Shared paths in Heidelberg & Ivanhoe ✓ (\$0.1 million for design)

Trist Street Reserve Upgrade ✓ (\$80,000)



6. Presentations to bidding consortium

- Community expectations for project outlined
 - In addition to commitments the following could occur:
 - environmental protection
 - potentially a longer tunnel with an alternate TBM launch site
 - reduced interchange footprints
 - improved landscaping, green bridges
 - shared user paths
 - local economic, business and social support
- 



Ongoing Advocacy

Work closely with key stakeholders in the vicinity of the North East Link project to ensure that the positive outcomes expected from the project are delivered to the community and that detrimental impacts during construction are minimised.

- NELP
- Developer
- State agencies
- MPs
- Ministers





Other Transport Needs

- Strong advocacy more broadly for transport improvements in the Banyule area
- Advocating for Hurstbridge Rail Upgrade (Stage 2) to include
 - upgraded station at Watsonia
 - transport interchange at the new Greensborough station
 - shared user path along corridor



Early Works – Current & Future



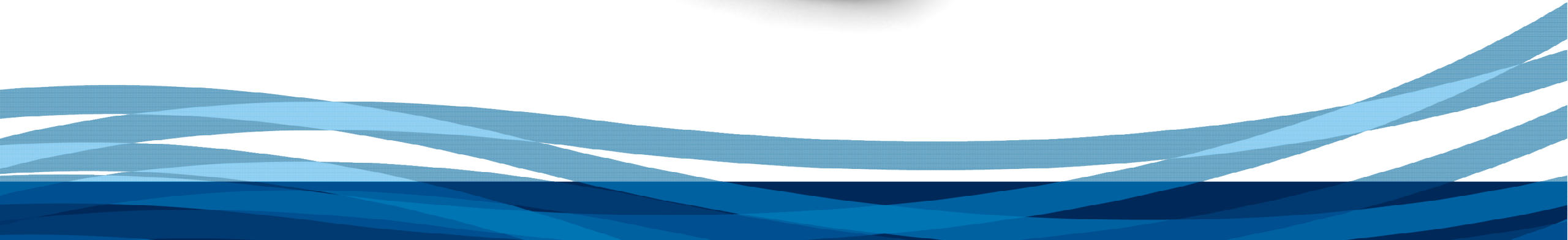
Approximately 100 utility services will be moved, including key assets such as:

- power, water, gas, sewer and telecommunications lines
- mobile telecommunications towers
- high-voltage transmission towers in Watsonia
- a water pressure reducing station in Yallambie





Questions





Questions

- **What was the cost of the Banyule legal challenge?**



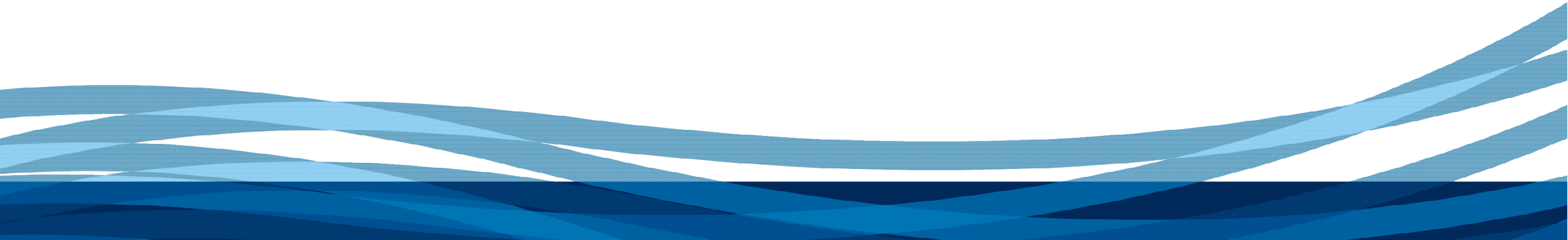
Answer

- *The Council spend on the legal challenge until the end of June 2020 was \$105,358.*
- *This included \$85,915 after the 10 February 2020 Council resolution to approve an additional \$150,000 expenditure.*
- *It is expected that the final invoices for the legal work undertaken in July 2020 will be in the order of \$57,000.*



Questions

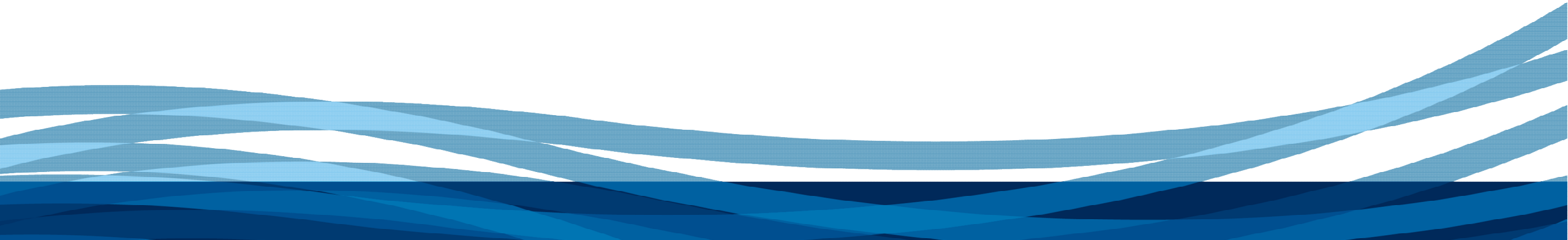
- **Huge construction projects like this typically create jobs for men. How can we ensure that the construction process also creates jobs for women, and that the creation of the assets or services negotiated for by Banyule create jobs for women, and benefit women as much as men?**





Answer

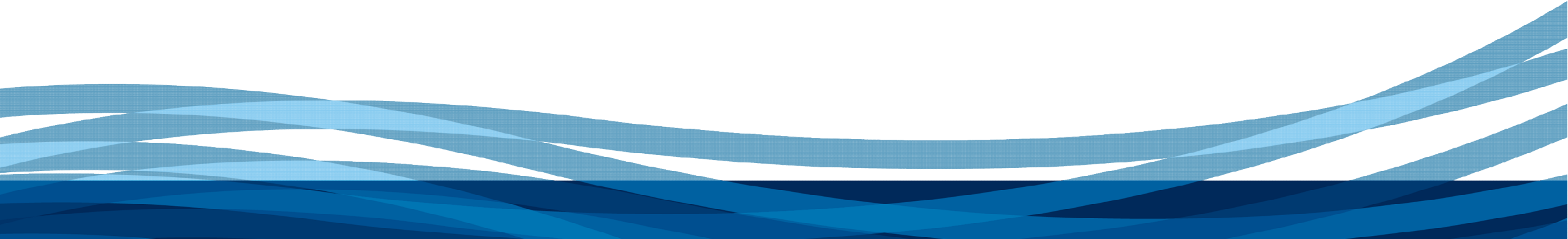
- Council presented to the bidders its existing network of social procurement and employment, and job creation for people of diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds, including offering to work in partnership with them.
- Council has also drafted an Inclusive Local Jobs Strategy 2020 – 2025, which is currently displayed online for comment via Shaping Banyule. The associated action plan seeks to provide equal access to employment.





Questions

- **How will Council engage with the local residents to ensure advocacy on their behalf for beneficial improvement to the project during the consultation with the preferred bidder? How will this operate in practice to ensure that Council is presenting the views of the community?**
- **How can residents have a voice?**





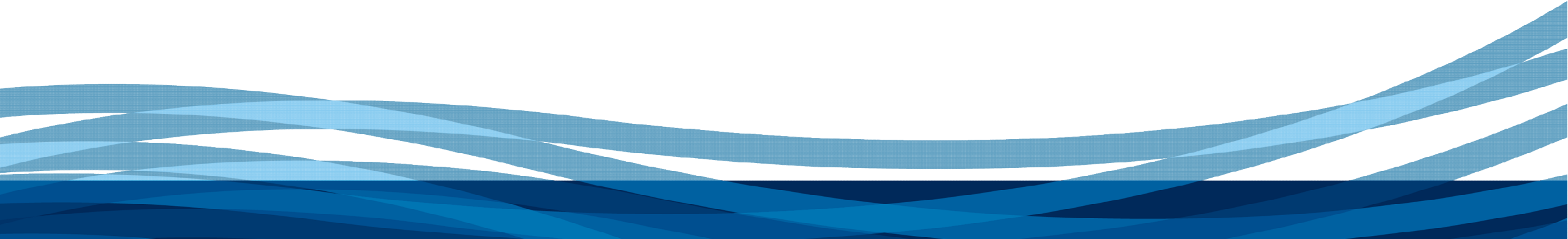
Answer

- *Council will raise community issues directly with NELP and the preferred bidder.*
- *Council may consult the local community to ascertain their views on specific matters.*
- *Ongoing advocacy for key Banyule outcomes and the NEL complementary project list.*
- *Possible future community forums seeking feedback.*
- *Residents can make themselves heard through several methods:*
 - *Contact North East Link directly.*
 - *Contact your local member of parliament.*
 - *Participate in local advocacy groups.*



Questions

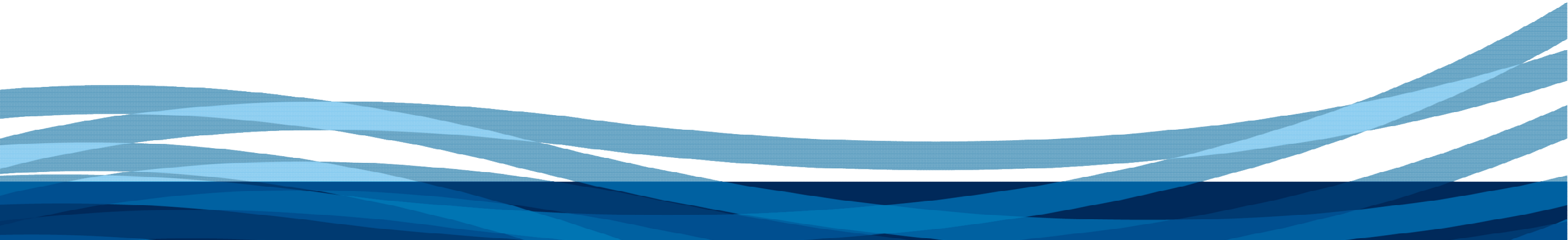
- **What are detailed plans for NEL near local roads such as Elder Street, Nell Street, McCrae Road, and for areas such as Watsonia?**





Answer

The North East Link contract will be awarded in late 2020, with the final design then developed. Further designs may become publicly available during this time, which will provide clarity on design outcomes.





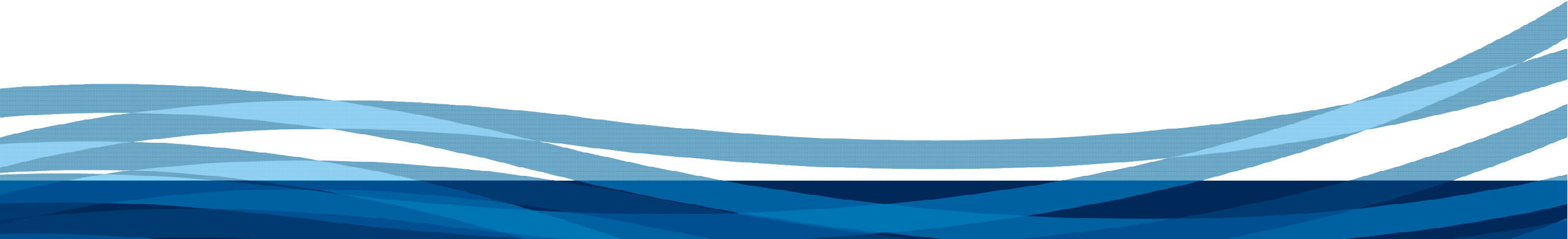
Questions

- **With Stage 4 restrictions in place we have had to watch trees being felled and mulched away in front of our eyes. This was an extremely distressing and emotional experience. These trees provided privacy and acted as a noise barrier for our home. With all this lost, is Council urging NELP to implement a revegetation plan along Borlase street?**



Answer

NELP have obtained approval to remove numerous trees along the road alignment. They are obligated to replaced the trees removed by the project at ratio of two for every one. These plans are yet to be developed, but a requirement of the project.





Questions

- **How will access to come to Greensborough Town Centre [be] during construction? It appears that works on North East Link will occur whilst the Greensborough Railway will be closed for construction. The Greensborough Town Centre will be affected and this has not been considered in any of the communication to date. With the damage of COVID on our business we are very concerned for the future of our shopping centre.**



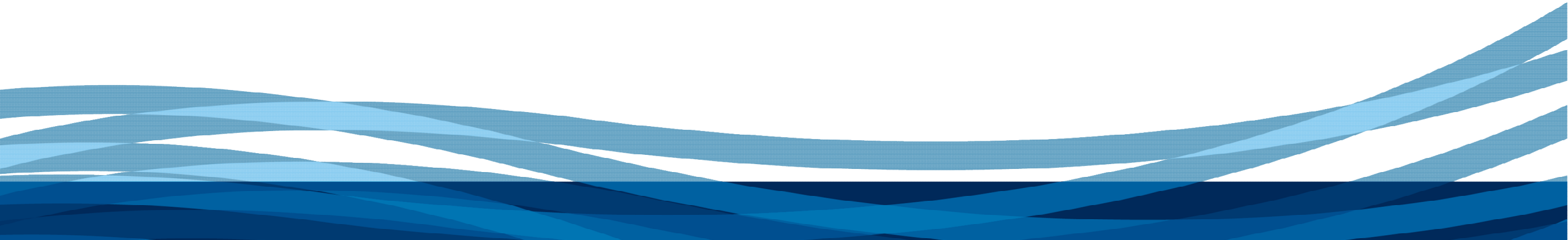
Answer

- *Both the NEL project and the Hurstbridge Line Stage 2 Upgrade are State delivered projects.*
- *Council has been advised that works for both projects will be scheduled and coordinated between the delivery teams to minimise disruptions.*
- *Following the finalisation of the design, there will greater clarity on construction schedules and extent of works in each area.*



Questions

- **What traffic management activities are going to be implemented to stop our back streets becoming a 'rat run' during the construction program?**
- **What about impacts and access issues during the construction phase?**





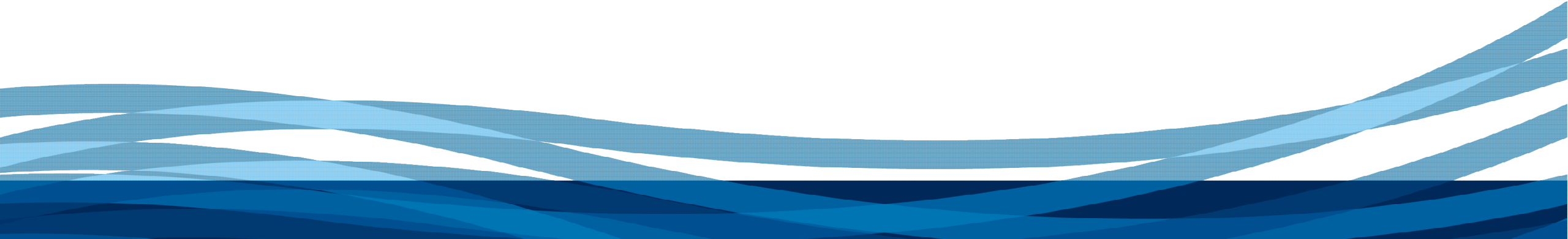
Answer

- *Council has provided a list of roads for traffic monitoring as part of Early Works.*
- *Road monitoring for vehicle speed and volume will be undertaken for streets in the vicinity of construction.*
- *Appropriate measures will be implemented by NELP (if required) in consultation with the community, as required by the relevant EPR.*



Questions

- **Is it possible to be informed about all the options about the longer tunnel, and where it currently sits, and the Council's stance?**
- **Is there anything we can do to help push for the longer tunnel option?**





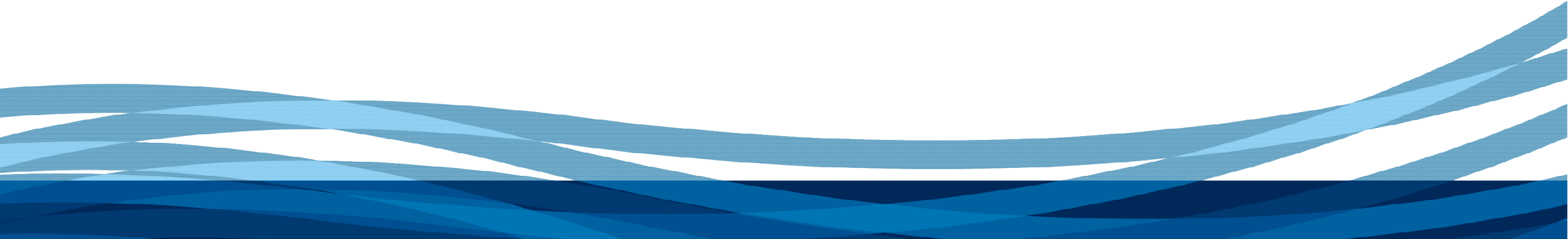
Answer

- *Council successfully demonstrated a longer tunnel was achievable at the EES Panel Hearing.*
- *Council secured the support for a longer tunnel with the IAC recommending an extension.*
- *The Planning Minister didn't support it as a requirement of the project, but encouraged the bidders to explore this recommendation.*
- *The bidders received Council's advocacy for an extended tunnel and are likely to have presented this as an option to NELP.*
- *The Community and Council can continue to advocate to NELP to pursue an extended tunnel solution.*



Questions

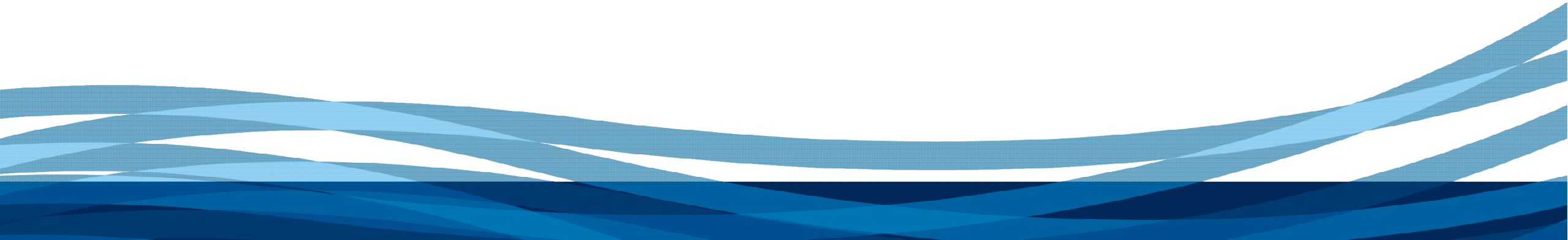
- **Have NELP determined when they will need to take over the use of Gabonia Avenue Reserve, Winsor Reserve and AK Lines Reserve? What are the plans for these reserves and will residents be notified?**





Answer

- *Once the contract for project delivery has been awarded and the design is finalised, there will be greater clarity on the extent of use for the reserves, which will determine plans, construction schedules etc.*
- *Residents will be notified prior to the commencement of works at these locations.*



Thank You

