

THE VALLEY OF TOMORROW

FEBRUARY 20 2018

Community Reference Group Meeting

Details of the forthcoming planning process and clarification around possible parking disruption during construction works were two key items discussed this month in the first Valley of Tomorrow Community Reference Group (CRG) meeting, formally opening up lines of communication with the community.

Moonee Valley Racing Club (MVRC) and Hostplus-Hamton, the appointed joint venture developer that will transform the Moonee Valley Racecourse, convened the first meeting of community representatives on Tuesday 20 February.

Accepting the opportunity to represent the community as part of the CRG was a range of key Moonee Valley stakeholders including representatives from the Moonee Valley City Council, the office of MP Danny Pearson, Save Moonee Ponds, Moonee Ponds Chamber of Commerce and Rate Levy Association, Moonee Ponds Primary School and Puckle St Traders Association.

Hamton Executive Chairman Paul Hameister said the first meeting had formally kicked off the project's community consultation process and provided the developer with an understanding of early areas of concern, opportunities and priorities for the future.

"Providing opportunities to open up a dialogue with representatives of a broad cross-section of the community is a priority of this project. It will assist in delivering a vision that includes neighborhood aspirations for the future of this area," he said.

"The first CRG meeting allowed us to address early questions around the project and outline the key timings so people know what to expect. We also sought feedback on the key elements of our community engagement strategy to ensure they meet the community's needs and expectations."

Among the matters discussed during the evening was the planning process and key milestones, including the first expected residential component, which will comprise a series of three-level townhouses. A permit for this first stage is expected to be lodged in the coming months, with construction anticipated to be complete by mid 2020. Further details will be released in the coming months.

Parking on site, particularly during construction, was also a key discussion point, with the development team confirming that construction workers would be provided a designated parking area within the Racecourse to minimise disruption to surrounding neighbours.

The first construction works are anticipated to commence mid 2018 on the proposed childcare centre currently under consideration by council.

The CRG's inaugural meeting kicks off the project's formal community consultation process, with MVRC and Hostplus-Hamton planning further consultative activities throughout the project's 15-year lifespan.