

Dharug Strategic Management Group – Meeting 13

DSMG Working Group Meeting Minutes

Date: 26 February 2026

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Location: TfNSW Office, 12 Darcy Street Parramatta / Online

Present:

Tika EQ: Liam Harte, Claire Wade.

DSMG: Aunty Julie Jones, Raeline Billedo.

TfNSW: Christo Opperman, Felicity Barry, Noni Ross, Angela Greenless, Danny Kim, Lyndall Thornhill, Luke Messer, Mona Saini.

Blacktown City Council: Michael Maxwell.

Gamuda & DTI JV: Niall Fry, Nicole Zhou, Richard Buck, Hussian Nilar.

Apologies:

Tika EQ: Luke McIlroy-Ranga

TfNSW: Jody Gould, Warren Steadman.

DSMG: Brendan Thomas

1. Welcome / Acknowledgement

2. Governance – Update and Action Items

Incident Update – Detailed Site Investigation Works

An incident was formally presented regarding unauthorised auger drilling within the broader BNI heritage curtilage zone during night works on 18 February. While efforts had been made to avoid the identified archaeological site (Richmond Road / Bells Creek AFT1), the broader curtilage boundary had not been adequately assessed during pre-start planning.

JDTI-JV accepted full accountability and outlined corrective actions, including immediate cessation of works, updated no-go mapping, laminated access maps issued on-site, enhanced toolbox briefings, updated EWIMS documentation, and development of visible delineation measures for restricted areas.

DSMG acknowledged the transparency of the presentation and the commitment to corrective action, reinforcing the importance of trust and proactive communication.



Action Items

Site Specific Cultural Safety Induction

DSMG confirmed final edits are being completed, with recording to be finalised shortly.

Letter of Commitment

Confirmed closed, incorporating DSMG feedback.

Ways of Working – Pending final sign-off.

Underground Utilities – Ongoing, next update due March.

Colebee Warehouse

Update provided; matter progressing separately through the RAP process (of which DSMG are a nominated RAP) and compliance processes. Action closed for this project.

3D Imaging / VR

To align with updated design prior to any public presentation. Further discussion once completed on suitability for use.

Site Security (CCTV)

Unit procured, located at Parramatta office and ready for handover to DSMG at next meeting.

Tree Reuse / Habitat

GDTI-JV Sustainability team engaging with zoos and other organisations to explore on-Country reuse opportunities, including habitat logs and culturally significant timber reuse. DSMG reiterated wish for materials to remain on Country.

Artefact Access

Arrangements to be made for DSMG viewing following initial cataloguing (estimated 4–6 weeks). Consideration also given to a broader DSMG community access opportunity or workshop when appropriate.

3. Project Update

Works are concentrated within Portion One, including median excavation, utility investigations, survey validation, and establishment of site compounds. Approximately 2km of barrier installation has been completed, and speed reductions implemented. Topsoil stripping and utility investigations are ongoing within designated work zones. Footpath



diversions have been implemented with traffic control measures in place. Fourteen project signs have been installed, with two remaining.

Community engagement outcomes from engagement day were acknowledged as positive, with strong feedback regarding the 13-metre design shift away from the BNI site. The Ministerial site visit was also noted as successfully delivered.

Opportunities for increased Aboriginal participation were discussed, including direct employment pathways, subcontractor engagement, cleaning, waste, maintenance, and security packages. DSMG offered to provide a list of Dharug businesses to streamline engagement processes.

4. General Items for Discussion

Temporary & Permanent Access

A detailed discussion was held regarding interim and long-term access arrangements to the BNI site, particularly during transition from southern access to Colybee Crescent access. TfNSW confirmed there will be no period where site access is unavailable. Options for temporary creek crossings and permanent bridge solutions were discussed, including modular bridge systems, culverts, and at-grade options. The principles agreed included least impact to Country, flood resilience, sustainability, visual sensitivity, and DDA compliance. Rapid Assessment supported with submission in end of March.

DSMG reinforced the importance of safe access for events, students (TAFE), and larger community gatherings. A design brief approach was endorsed to guide further engineering refinement.

Archaeology – Burial Investigation & Salvage

Salvage excavation within the Bells Creek artifact site has been completed. A summary report is pending. For the burial investigation, a proposal to machine-excavate trenches (with sieving of recovered material) was presented. DSMG expressed particular concern regarding Trench 5 due to previous artifact density.

It was agreed that:

Trench locations have been adjusted to align with updated design.

- Further discussion will occur with archaeologists regarding potential partial hand excavation of Trench 5 to allow improved stratigraphic control.
- Pollen analysis sampling will be included to support broader environmental interpretation.
- Scheduling will consider availability of nominated cultural monitors.



Public Art

DSMG raised concerns regarding public art process, EOI methodology, and artist selection. Key points included:

- Strong preference for Dharug artists with demonstrated and ongoing connection to the BNI site.
- Concern regarding external artists interpreting Dharug stories without sufficient cultural grounding.
- Desire for DSMG representation in selection processes.
- Importance of continuity of storytelling across the broader Richmond Road corridor and adjacent projects.

TfNSW confirmed:

- An artist brief will articulate the Dharug story framework prior to artistic response.
- The long list of artists will be developed collaboratively with DSMG.
- Senior Transport leadership will be informed regarding continuity considerations across projects.
- Further workshop discussion will be scheduled to refine EOI criteria and governance approach.

Seed Collection

Leave Authority expressed interest in seed collection collaboration. Contact details to be exchanged for coordination.

Pre-Lodgement Heritage Meeting

Pre-lodgement meeting confirmed for 12 March (in person following DSMG WG). Presentation materials to be revised to reflect updated bridge preference discussions. A separate preparatory session will be scheduled to align positions prior to meeting with Heritage NSW. Council representatives invited to attend.

5. Questions / Comments / Any Other Business

DSMG reiterated strong positive community feedback regarding buffer adjustments protecting the BNI site. Concerns were raised regarding clarity of roles during community sessions and the need to avoid confusion in future engagement activities. A request was made for clearer articulation of responsibilities across partners. DSMG also indicated willingness to provide early advisory input into other TfNSW corridor projects to support cultural continuity and proactive design integration.

6. Close Meeting

Next Meeting

TIKA ■ EQ

Date: 12 March 2026

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Location: TfNSW Parramatta Office / Online