

December Meeting Minutes

Community Reference Group



Subject: Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Community Reference Group

Date: Monday 9 December 2019 **Time:** 6.15pm for 6.30pm-8pm

Location: The Gallery, Rivers of Yarrambat - 28 Kurrak Road, Yarrambat

Meeting number: 14

Chair: Warren Bradshaw

Minute-taker: Charlotte Claney

Attendees

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Anne Trueman (AT)	Neisha Forbes (NF)
Barbara Marshall (BaM)	Carlos Ibarra (CI), MRPV
Joanne Jamieson (JJ)	Damien Afxentis, (DA), MRPV
John Yeomans (JY)	Damian van Dyke (DvD), MRPV
Karen Moad (KM)	
Milton Embling (ME)	
Pam Hoyne (PH)	
Susan Farley (SF)	
Chinthaka Arachchige (CA), MRPV	
Charlotte Claney (CC), MRPV	
Luke Host (LH), MRPV	
Paige Krygger (PK), MRPV	
Nerilee Kerslake (NK), MRPV	

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Warren Bradshaw (WB), MRPV	

Actions - previous

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
12.10	Provide CRG with information from the traffic counters on local roads	CC	19 October 2019	Closed	CC emailed data from traffic counts on local roads to CRG members on 15 October 2019
13.1	Line mark at northern entrance to Heard Avenue. Existing line marking is faded	CA	15 October 2019	Closed	MRPV investigated on 15 October and line marking was intact. CC emailed AT who confirmed it was in good condition and no further action required
13.2	Confirm plans for landscaping and maintenance in gap between retaining walls on northbound carriageway south of Kurrak Road	CA	9 December 2019	Closed	Retaining wall and barrier designed on purpose to allow safe movement if hit by heavy vehicle. Area around the gap will be filled with stabilised sand (sand and cement mix) that has no maintenance requirement
13.3	Provide JJ with contact for bus shelters for Yarrambat Pony Club	CA	9 December 2019	Open	CA to provide contact details to CC to email to JJ
13.4	Street light north of Mackelroy Road reportedly not working. Investigate and fix, if necessary	CA	9 December 2019	Closed	Light has been fixed. ME says light on western side is working but the eastern side is still out. CA said this has already been reported to power company and should be fixed shortly
13.5	Traffic light lanterns at Memorial Drive intersection reported to be installed at a confusing angle for some road users. Surveillance team to assess and make sure positioning is safe for all road users	CA	9 December 2019	Closed	MRPV surveillance did a drive through. The contactor adjusted the angle as much as possible within existing limitations. Can't adjust too close to edge of kerb or could be hazardous to trucks. No complaints received since adjustment. Intersection passed road safety audit
13.6	Bring outline of EES engagement process to next to CRG meeting to share with group members	PK	9 December 2019	Closed	EES engagement process available online. PK will send link to CRG members. PK told group we're continuously looking at ways to engage with the community throughout the EES process

Key discussion points

Agenda item	Discussion summary
Item 1 – Welcome and apologies	DA unable to attend, sends his apologies. CI also an apology. KM arriving at 7.15pm
Item 2 – Confirming the agenda	Agenda confirmed with no changes. WB keen to discuss the TOR and reflect on how the group thinks we achieved our objectives
Item 3 – Stage 1 project update	<p>CA said the main works left to complete is the refurbishment of Plenty church. The restoration is making great progress. The new roof is complete, painting the exterior has begun and toilet construction will be commencing next week. By around March/April 2020, the refurbishment will be complete, and the restored building will be handed over to Nillumbik Council and the Plenty Historical Society. CA thanked ME and Plenty Historical Society for their continued input throughout the relocation and refurbishment design process.</p> <p>CA told the group that the contractor completing the landscaping works will maintain the landscaping for the next three years to ensure the survival rate of planting. NK added that the initial landscape program submitted wasn't sufficient and has been sent back to be refined. WB asked about watering frequency during summer, NK responded that there'll be weekly watering throughout the summer period establishment phase. WB enquired about plant death rate, CC replied that plants not thriving will be replaced, like for like, around autumn 2020. NK told the group that this is the first project where native grass seeds have been used. WB added that a three-year maintenance contract is in place instead of the standard two-year contract, and that MRPV are looking to roll this out on future projects. CA said that after the initial three-year period, the Department of Transport will take over long term maintenance.</p> <p>ME asked why the unsignalised pedestrian crossing near Mackelroy Road has a yellow crossing sign on the western side of the road but not the eastern side. CA thanked ME for the pickup and promised to rectify.</p> <p>ACTION: MRPV to install yellow crossing sign on eastern side of Yan Yean Road near Mackelroy Road unsignalised pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>JJ raised that the community is reporting the right turn from Yan Yean Road into Diamond Creek Road is too sharp. Also, that traffic lanes do not line up on either side of the Diamond Creek Road intersection. CA assured the group that the contractor is looking into it. The intersection currently meets design standards, but the contractor is exploring what additional tweaks, if any, can be done without requiring additional land acquisition.</p> <p>JY raised that drivers entering the left turning lanes to turn left into Yan Yean Road from Diamond Creek Road are unsure whether cars ahead of them are turning left into the service station or indicating to enter the slip lanes. Concerned cars might run into each other. WB said MRPV would keep eye on it and look at near misses because drivers just need to be aware, follow road rules and get used to the new set up here.</p> <p>JJ further concerned about cars exiting the service station on Diamond Creek Road competing with traffic entering the left turning slip lanes to merge across lanes to turn right into Aqueduct Road. CA said MRPV road designers can look into arrows or signage. CA assured the group that the length of the left turning</p>

Agenda item	Discussion summary
	<p>lane was designed based on traffic modelling, but MRPV can look at options to help facilitate safe movements here.</p> <p>Action: CA to explore options to facilitate safe traffic movements around the intersection of Diamond Creek, Aqueduct and Yan Yean roads.</p>
Item 4 – Stage 2 project update	<p>LH said the Stage 2 team are still working tirelessly on the EES report. The team is making progress with the technical disciplines and reports that go into the EES and are working through the finer details and chapters of the technical reports. Regular meetings are being held with the Technical Reference Group, Melbourne Water, Nillumbik Council and Whittlesea Council. There have been five TRG meetings so far and some great feedback has been received on technical areas. Nillumbik Council have been very involved in that regard too. The team is briefing Councillors at Nillumbik Council tomorrow.</p> <p>LH said the team is working through design options for the Bridge Inn Road intersection and conversations are being had with DoT and other important stakeholders. Options being explored for the Bridge Inn Road intersection will form part of the EES documentation that will be on public exhibition and receive public feedback.</p> <p>LH noted a new recruit to the Stage 2 team, Adam, who will be a valuable asset to the team. AM has a lot of experience with EES' and will be assisting the team through the EES process.</p> <p>LH told the group that in terms of timeframes, the team is working towards mid-2020 for public exhibition with a formal panel hearing to follow in late 2020. WB added that the public will have the ability to input into the process from mid-next year. LH agreed that as soon as the EES documentation goes on public exhibition, the public gives feedback that is considered and incorporated into the design refinement process prior to end the of year panel hearing.</p> <p>JY asked if the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade will be delivered by either of the same project teams delivering the Yan Yean Road Upgrade. WB answered that the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade is part of the Northern Suburban Roads Upgrade package and will be delivered by 2025 under the PPP. LH said the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade will likely be constructed before a contractor is appointed to construct Stage 2 of the Yan Yean Road Upgrade. WB said the tender evaluation process for the NRU package is underway and a contractor will be announced before mid-next year. At that stage, timelines will become clearer for when the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade will commence and be completed. PH asked what impact the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade will have on Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade. WB responded that the two projects will tie in but will not influence one another's design. The Bridge Inn Road Upgrade design solution will not prohibit any design options for Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade.</p> <p>JY asked if Stage 2 Plenty Road Upgrade will be complete before the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade commences. NK said that Stage 2 Plenty Road Upgrade is already under construction. PK answered that Stage 2 Plenty Road Upgrade will likely be completed before the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade begins. LH added that Stage 2 Plenty Road Upgrade should be complete by the end of 2020.</p> <p>PK thanked everyone who had taken the time to complete the CRG survey and encouraged everyone who hadn't to try and complete it soon. PK said MRPV's intention is to have a CRG for Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade and that MRPV is undertaking an evaluation on how the CRG should be introduced for Stage 2. Feedback from the group survey will help MRPV decide if a CRG during the development of the design and the EES process would be beneficial.</p>

Agenda item	Discussion summary
Item 5 – Environmental update	<p>NK summarised the environmental wins the Stage 1 project has had. The final number of trees removed for the project was under 2,300, which was down significantly from the initially estimated 3,900 impacted trees. NK thanked the Flora & Fauna Panel and the CRG for input that helped refine the design from the original 6:1 batters down to 2:1 batters then to strategically placed retaining walls. NK said non-traditional methods were used on this project to minimise the impact on the environment that were a first for arterial road projects.</p> <p>NK said a commitment was included in the contract specification to place 110 habitat hollows back into the local environment. NK handed around a map of all the habitat hollow locations to CRG members. NK told everyone that habitat hollows had be put back both in trees and on-ground in Parks Vic land, Melbourne Water land and Council owned land. The project team donated root balls to the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to place in Barwon River to provide fish habitat – a first for an MRPV project. Nillumbik Council also ended up with over 150 logs to go towards community projects in the municipality.</p> <p>The project communications and environment teams ran seed ball workshops with Yarrambat Primary School. An arborist created eight unique timber benches to put back into the environment. NK said MRPV used Edendale Farm, a Council nursery in Eltham, to propagate seeds locally and use the seedlings for a private planting initiative for local residents. Green hooded orchids found by NK and PH on a walk were translocated by a revegetation contractor and will be cared for by Council and protected with a fauna exclusion fence. An Aboriginal heritage scatter site was maintained without having to salvage and put artefacts back, MRPV designed around the site so as not to disturb it.</p> <p>The project was able to avoid impacting a Red Gum near Kurrak Road and a very large old tree near Mackelroy Road through clever design. MRPV added a fauna crossing across Yan Yean Road south of the Memorial Drive intersection. Cameras have been installed for ongoing fauna monitoring. Six timber totems were carved by a local artist and feature Indigenous inspired designs and local animals of significance to Plenty. Working with Wurundjeri, the project donated timber to undertake cultural learning practices with the younger generation. Timber was donated early on in the project to St Andrews Men’s Shed, they created 65 nest boxes to put into project area for wildlife habitat.</p> <p>A number of successful environmental initiatives were rolled out on this project. NK thanked the CRG for making a difference and assured the group that all learnings would be carried across to Stage 2. WB agreed the project incorporated a lot of firsts that MRPV will look to mandate for future projects. CA added that the charcoal tinted concrete was used to construct the walking and cycling path to blend best with surrounding environment. NK agreed that everything worked on here will be carried on to future projects to become best practice across all projects. NK thanked the group for volunteering their time to support their community. JY said the only feature he doesn’t love are the detention basins, which he feels are an eye sore even though they’re required. LH said Stage 2 will take that feedback on board.</p>
Item 6 – Other business	<p>BaM said the CRG helped connect community and project and would like the format to continue for Stage 2. BaM finds online engagement disturbing and thinks face-to-face engagement is important to get a collective voice at the end. Online engagement can be so divisive and not achieve anything.</p>

Agenda item	Discussion summary
	<p>WB asked the room if anyone wanted to mention anything about the group. BaM said she noticed that the feedback resulted in real change, it wasn't just community coming along and putting options forward and not being effective. BaM felt she was taken seriously, and all ideas were taken seriously.</p> <p>WB said MRPV want real engagement, a two-way dialogue that affects change and finds the best solution. WB said he hopes MRPV showed those behaviours and demonstrated that the project is keen for real engagement with the community.</p> <p>CC told the group that MRPV were throwing a Family Fun Day to celebrate the end of works. The event would be a drop-in style event at Plenty Hall from 11am to 2pm on Saturday 14 December. The event is being run in partnership with Plenty CFA, who will be giving a bushfire safety presentation at 1.30pm. Invitations have gone out to almost 5,000 properties in Diamond Creek, Plenty, Yarrambat and Doreen. To further promote the event, VMS boards are up near the Memorial Drive intersection, an ad has been placed in the local newspaper and paid geotargeted ads were circulating on Facebook. The Family Fun Day will have outdoor games set up at the timber totems for those riding their bikes or walking to the event to stop and play some games. The main event will have a free BBQ and cold drinks, games, a face painting elf, a jumping castle, real fire trucks and a special visit from Santa. There will also be project information available for all the projects in the region inside Plenty Hall.</p> <p>CC encouraged the group to spread the word and take part in the #MyPlenty photo competition. To enter you need to take a picture of yourself, your pet or your friends and family with one of the recently installed timber benches or totems and upload the picture to Instagram with #MyPlenty. The winner will be chosen at random and will win a hamper of goodies from Rivers of Yarrambat valued at \$300.</p> <p>WB asked CA what stage landowner acquisition negotiations were at. CA responded that approximately 40 percent of landowners had settled, and the rest were waiting to see final project outcome prior to continuing negotiations. NK added that the project had been accommodating requests for additional planting. CA believes all negotiations will be settled over next few months.</p> <p>BaM highlighted two different populations in Whittlesea and Nillumbik and Stage 2 will need to communicate to both effectively. WB said MRPV typically communicates with councils one-on-one but given Stage 2 runs through both areas, WB suggested the project team could consider a forum where councils and project all come together on a semi-regular basis.</p> <p>PK said bringing people along the journey is difficult because people get construction and engagement fatigue. AT suggested the project put updates in school newsletters. JJ mentioned there are 800 members in the Yarrambat Facebook Group but 18K in the Doreen Facebook group, so would suggest the project post information on there as well as MRPV channels.</p> <p>JY mentioned that Yan Yean Road to Arthurs Creek Road is not getting mowed by Council, and Council are claiming it is a DoT managed road. NK to follow up as that section of road is not declared a DoT managed road. JJ said DoT owned grassed area near Bannons Lane is not maintained. The grass is above the knees and snakes are in there. NK said she would follow up with DoT about that.</p>

Agenda item	Discussion summary
	<p>Action: NK to contact Council to discuss why landscaping along Arthurs Creek Road is not being mowed, as it's a Council managed road not a DoT managed road.</p> <p>Action: NK to contact DoT to discuss why grassed area near Bannons Lane, Yarrambat is not being maintained regularly enough.</p> <p>AT asked MRPV to follow up with Nillumbik Council to see if local traffic only sign can be placed at Heard Avenue, CA agreed to do this. WB asked if another local traffic count will take place. CA replied that the next one will be in June 2020, and the previous one took place in August 2019. ME said local road use was back to pre-upgrade figures. CA said that 10 months will allow traffic to settle into a pattern and give an indication if other traffic measures need to be explored. ME highlighted a reduction in daily average cars using Kurrak Road according to traffic counts, which was baffling to him. WB responded that the completion of the Plenty Road Upgrade could explain this.</p> <p>Action: CA to contact Nillumbik Council to request a local traffic only sign to be placed at Heard Avenue.</p> <p>Action: MRPV to share June 2020 local traffic survey data with CRG members.</p>
Item 7 – Group photo	CC took a group photo.
Item 8 – Close	<p>The group said their final goodbyes and thank yous. CC to circulate meeting minutes for review early in the new year. MRPV to follow up on the few new actions raised during the meeting.</p> <p><i>Meeting concluded at 8.15pm</i></p>

Actions - new

#	Action	Owner	Due
14.1	MRPV to install yellow crossing sign on eastern side of Yan Yean Road near Mackelroy Road unsignalised pedestrian crossing.	CA	End March 2020
14.2	Explore options to facilitate safe traffic movements around the intersection of Diamond Creek, Aqueduct and Yan Yean roads	CA	End March 2020
14.3	Contact Council to discuss why landscaping along Arthurs Creek Road is not being mowed, as it's a Council managed road not a DoT managed road	NK	End February 2020
14.4	Contact DoT to discuss why grassed area near Bannons Lane, Yarrambat is not being maintained regularly enough	NK	End February 2020
14.5	Contact Nillumbik Council to request a local traffic only sign to be placed at Heard Avenue	CA	End February 2020
14.6	Share results of June 2020 local traffic survey with CRG members	CA	End July 2020