

Meeting Notes

Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 Community Reference Group

Date: 24/11/25 **Time:** 6pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting number: 7

Chair: Bruce Turner

Note taker: Joshua Lim

Attendees

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Barbara Marshall	Felicity Gordon
Bill Papanestoros	Leigh Crump, Acting Program Director (VIDA Roads)
Bronwynne McPherson	Aimee Dima
Evan Woolnough	Claire McMorron
Jo Jamieson	Tony Field (CFA)
John Huitt	
John Yeomans	
Pam Kalms	
Arthur Tsoutsoulis, Senior Project Manager – State Projects (City of Whittlesea)	
Liz Lambropoulos, Strategic Transport Planner (Nillumbik Shire Council)	
Angela Vorng, Senior Project Manager - Northern Package (VIDA Roads)	
Charlotte Claney, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)	
Daniel Kollmorgen, Acting Deputy Program Director (VIDA Roads)	
Helena Woolums, Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager (VIDA Roads)	

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Josh Lim, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)	
Paul Reeves, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (VIDA Roads)	
Thomas Samuel, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)	
Bruce Turner, Independent Facilitator (Phoenix Facilitation)	

Actions – previous

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
6.1	Emma to meet with John Y on-site to clarify tree tagging status by 24 November	ED	24 Nov	CLOSED	
6.2	VIDA Roads to further explore the queries raised about the P-turn relocation and provide John H with more detail by 24 November.	AV PR JL	24 Nov	CLOSED	PR spoke to JH on 21 Nov to close out queries.
6.3	VIDA Roads to provide update on impact to tree root zones in area south of post office building by 24 November.	CT HW	24 Nov	CLOSED	HW confirmed that all trees in the area are expected to be retained
6.4	VIDA Roads to organise an optional online meeting with the CRG to detail tree retention, removal and beneficial reuse opportunities by 17 November	PR	17 Nov	CLOSED	Meeting held 17 Nov
6.5	VIDA Roads to provide a plan for a BBQ event to kick off the CRG in 2026 by 24 November	PR	24 Nov	CLOSED	Meeting agreed for 19 January at the Decmil site compound

Key discussion

Who	Description
Bruce Turner	<p>Welcome, apologies and confirm the agenda</p> <p>Bruce opened the meeting and welcomed Thomas, who has recently joined the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement team.</p> <p>Bruce asked if there were any new topics for discussion to be raised for the agenda, none were raised.</p>
Daniel Kollmorgen	<p>Outstanding actions</p> <p>Action 6.1: John Y confirmed that representatives from the project have met with him to discuss which trees are likely to be removed and which the project is trying to retain.</p> <p>Action 6.2: Paul and John H confirmed they had discussed the matter on 21 Nov, and the matter has been closed to John H's satisfaction. Design elements related to the query will be discussed in the project update.</p> <p>Action 6.3: Helena confirmed that the project is confident that all the trees in that area will be retained.</p> <p>Action 6.4: Tree retention meeting held 17 Nov.</p> <p>Action 6.5: Item to be discussed later in the in the meeting.</p>
Angela Vorng (North) Daniel Kollmorgen (South)	<p>Project update</p> <p>Northern section</p> <p>The site compound is expected to be operational in early December, with tree removal expected to start middle of this week. Boundary fencing installation began on 18 Nov, to be completed in early December. Major works have begun, with excavators out on site.</p> <p>Angela shared some photos of works starting on site.</p> <p>John Y commented that Decmil have done a good job with the temporary fencing regarding managing impacts to Swift Parrots. The fences have been covered in mesh to help soften any impact for the birds in the event of a collision.</p> <p>Southern section</p> <p>McConnel Dowell has been selected as the preferred contractor for the South Package. VIDA Roads are now working with them through a planning process to price the job.</p> <p>The project is currently seeking approvals on some design changes, such as signalising the northern entrance to Yarrambat Park and removing the slip lane at Ironbark Road. Further traffic modelling is in progress to demonstrate that these changes to scope won't affect performance.</p> <p>The project is also still exploring options for the entrance to Yarrambat Golf Course, seeing if DTP will be willing to allow controlled access to the golf course. Initial response was not met with approval, so further work is required.</p> <p>Jo asked if it's still likely the project will build signalised access to Yarrambat Park. Daniel said it's not definite yet, but it is close to approval. The project will share confirmation of the approval once received.</p> <p>Evan asked to confirm the scope of traffic lights in the area. Daniel clarified that the Bannons lane traffic lights are confirmed, the Yarrambat Park northern access traffic lights are almost confirmed, and the Golf Course traffic lights are still tentative.</p> <p>Plans for a design update potential traffic light intersection at Yarrambat Park were shown, which would provide safe pedestrian and horse rider access across the road. The update also shows the removal of a previously proposed P-turn at Jorgensen Avenue, with the movement enabled by the P-turn covered by the traffic light intersection. The project has engaged with council, DTP and Parks Vic to reach this outcome. To further support heavy vehicle U-turns, a new U-turn opportunity has been added at Activity Way. Passenger vehicles can U-turn at the planned traffic lights at Bannons Lane and Yarrambat Park north entrance.</p>

Who	Description
	<p>Plans for another design update, showing a service lane between Laurie Street and Bannons Lane, were shared. A Road Safety Audit conducted on the project design found that it would be unsafe for vehicles to access the properties in the area. A one-way service road with one entry and exit will be built to help accommodate reversing caravans and access to properties from Yan Yean Road. All properties in that area will have driveway access using this service road. This outcome was difficult to reach due to competing EPRs governing road safety and environmental protection. A wide median was proposed here to retain trees, but the inclusion of the service road will impact the majority of the trees in the median. This new design creates a larger space on the west side that can be replanted with new trees.</p> <p>Jo asked to clarify if this changes the width of the shared use path on the west side. Daniel confirmed that this would not change, and there would be more space on the west side of the road. Requirements for the horse club are front of mind, with the possibility to have both the shared use path and a grass verge for horse riders to decide where they want to ride.</p> <p>John H asked to confirm the extent of the tree removal, Daniel confirmed that the trees on the left of the current road travelling northbound would be removed. John H said he felt this was a good outcome, as he's heard from residents in the area that they would like the trees to be removed. Bronwynne noted that the residents in the area would be happy with the addition of this service road from a safety point of view. Daniel noted safety was a major factor in the decision making.</p> <p>A further design change was shared showing a standing left turn lane at Ironbark Road. The original road design had a left turn slip lane impacting on a Yarra Valley Water pump station. DTP has approved a design change to remove the slip lane and replace it with a standing lane to avoid impact to the pump station. This also reduces land acquisition from the school and creates a safer pedestrian outcome for the school students.</p> <p>The team has been examining the need for footpaths on the east side of the road, given the low density of properties and rough terrain. Reducing footpath construction would help to retain more trees. The project is reviewing all potential issues with removal and is seeking advice from a mobility expert to ensure the project design can still comply with DDA requirements.</p> <p>Footpaths are planned to be removed from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – between Yarrambat Park and Plenty Valley Christian College. There are around 5 properties in that area that would be impacted by this removal. There's a steep grade from the top of the hill down to the school that makes the area challenging. If pedestrians can cross the road to use the path on the western side, then this section could be removed. – between Worns Lane to Heard Ave and Heard Ave to Oatlands Road. There are few properties in the area, and pedestrians could cross to use the other side of the road. A footpath could be constructed in future if pedestrian demand increase. <p>Daniel asked if there was any feedback from the group about the removal of these sections of footpath.</p> <p>Jo raised a concern about bus users accessing bus stops on the east side of Yan Yean Road. Bus users will still require a footpath to access these stops, and they come from side streets not just properties directly on Yan Yean Road. Daniel acknowledged this, and the project team is getting advice on whether the current usage is worth the expense of building this infrastructure.</p> <p>John H asked to confirm if there would be a footpath on the east side between Laurie and Bannons. Daniel confirmed there would be, associated with the service road. The footpaths everywhere else in the southern package not mentioned previously will be kept in the design.</p>
Helena Woolums	Environment update

Who	Description
	<p>The project's seed management plan has been approved, which covers the Studley Park Gum. On the north side of the project, the project team is now confident on the number of trees that can or can't be saved. Currently expect 96 exotic/Australian natives and 90 Indigenous trees to be impacted. Assessment of utility impacts is still ongoing. Helena further clarified that the significant tree on the corner of Orchard Road and Yan Yean Road is still under assessment, while the stand of trees south of the old post office building will be able to be retained.</p> <p>The Program for tree removal will take place in three stages, with any changes to the plan communicated via the usual channels.</p> <p>Tree removal will begin this year with the southeast and northwest quadrants of the intersection, moving to the northeast quadrant in Jan 2026, and to the southwest in the second half of 2026.</p>
Paul Reeves	<p>Communications and stakeholder engagement update</p> <p>Sent out a Community Update early in November, printed and emailed, giving a general overview of what's coming up and the projects approach to tree and vegetation protection. A Works Notification has been distributed around the northern package area to communicate the start of major works, discussing work hours and nature of impact. A presentation to CRG on tree removal was completed 17 Nov.</p> <p>The team is planning pop-up sessions on Sunday 30 Nov at the Doreen Soccer Club (9am - 12pm) and at Laurimar town centre (1pm - 3pm). Aiming to speak to people that we may not normally see, giving an update on the project and answering any questions. Next Community Update in December will outline progress over the year, including establishment of the CRG. Judging from the discussion tonight, online meetings seem to be a viable way to meet.</p> <p>Evan asked about plans for the Doreen Recreation Reserve and the tennis court. Arthur advised it will likely end up being an open space, like a dog park, but plans are still under discussion. Whittlesea City Council are looking at relocating the services there to other facilities in the area. Council is supportive of the closure of the recreation reserve and tennis courts as that can be relocated to other facilities. Land constraints and the overhead power lines are a limitation to any large sporting facility there, hence the desire to relocate the capacity elsewhere.</p> <p>Evan noted that many football and cricket teams use the oval there as an overflow space. Arthur asked that Evan write in with specific details for Council's consideration as this is part of the planning process Council is undergoing. Evan noted that even though no official games are scheduled at Doreen Recreation Reserve due to the lack of toilets, many people still use the oval. Arthur reaffirmed that Council is aiming to upgrade other facilities in the area to maintain total capacity. Evan asked about the sporting facility being built in Mernda, and if there'd be two ovals there. Arthur took the question on notice to confirm with Evan. Pam backed up Evan's observations, and noted that it's used for junior cricket, little athletics, etc. Not clear where the next closest facility is. While it's understood why the recreation reserve needs to be shut down, groups that previously used it need to be supported.</p> <p>Barbara flagged that the grounds were originally part of greater Doreen and used by many people in the green wedge part of Doreen. There is nothing replacing it in that area, in Arthurs Creek, further out to Nutfield. Whittlesea City Council has been able to access funds for sporting facilities, but Nillumbik Shire Council hasn't. Daniel suggested that Whittlesea Council prepare a structured response about what's happening at the recreation reserve and alternative facilities in the area.</p> <p>Liz asked to clarify if this was a historical issue or something triggered by the project. Barbara said this goes back to when Yan Yean Road became the boundary between Whittlesea and Nillumbik, cutting Doreen in half. Nillumbik lost access to the facilities, and areas that were part of Nillumbik are now gone.</p> <p>Arthur said that the change to the project design to preserve the two River Red Gum trees have impacted the recreation reserve, and the master plan that was previously in place. There are still plans to have car parking facilities there, and a proposal to upgrade the soccer grounds and other areas near Orchard Road, based on the needs raised by the community as conditions have evolved.</p>

Who	Description
	Daniel summarised that the project is clear on the design of the road, and the impact on Doreen Recreation Reserve, but recognised there's a desire for certainty on the future of the reserve and what alternative facilities will be available.
All	Open questions and discussion Paul went through the proposal for the first CRG meeting in 2026, suggesting 19 January 2026 at the Decmil site compound with a BBQ. If possible, the group will also go for a site walk to see progress on works, depending on the construction program. An invite will be sent in December for RSVP. The meeting proposal was supported by the CRG.
Bruce Turner	Close Bruce invited final questions from the group. Pam asked if the slides from the previous meeting had been circulated. Charlotte confirmed they had been, but she'll resend for convenience. Barbara asked if there was any information on traffic detours/management through the next stage of the project, where traffic might be diverted to. Paul advised that there won't be any detours on the north section for quite some time as works take place behind barriers. The only traffic management conditions are as currently seen on the road, i.e. speed reductions and occasional shuttle flow. No road closures planned at this stage. Charlotte wished the group well as this was her last meeting before she headed off for a year of maternity leave. Bruce, on behalf of the group, thanked her for her support of the establishment and work of the group and all present wished her well for the safe arrival of her baby.

Actions – new

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status
7.1	Arthur to confirm scope of the Mernda sporting facility and respond to Evan	AT	19 Jan	OPEN
7.2	Arthur to provide a structured response on where sporting facility capacity will be relocated, particularly on the east side of Yan Yean Road.	AT	19 Jan	OPEN