



YAN YEAN ROAD UPGRADE
OCTOBER 2018

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE



We're making journeys in Melbourne's north quicker, easier and safer, by upgrading Yan Yean Road. The upgrade will increase capacity and improve safety and traffic flow on Yan Yean Road, from Diamond Creek Road to Kurrak Road. We're minimising our impact on the local environment while we get on with this important project.

Local landmarks

The former Plenty Church is of great local significance. In August 2018, we moved it from the corner of River Avenue and Yan Yean Road to its new home in Plenty Heritage Park.

It now sits next to Plenty Hall. Together, they create a new historical precinct. A heritage consultant will now assess the building and it will be restored.

We'll connect utilities services, repair the roof, install an accessible ramp, add bathroom facilities and do other refurbishments such as painting.

The church will be donated to the Plenty Historical Society, which plans to use it as its headquarters and display artefacts of local significance.

How we manage trees and vegetation

Our flora and fauna management plan ensures we take a sensitive and responsible approach to managing the local environment. Our plan adheres to relevant Federal and State guidelines.

Above all, we avoid removing trees and vegetation. Where it's unavoidable, we minimise the amount we need to remove and only work in areas expressly required for the project.

Before we remove vegetation, trees or habitat, an onsite inspection takes place to confirm and mark trees to be removed.

For our project, trees were marked up with an arborist and environmental coordinator in attendance.

Seed collection and propagation

Before we started the upgrade, we engaged trained technicians to collect seeds from local trees in the project area.

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Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



We then worked with Edendale and Neangar nurseries, and La Trobe University to propagate them for us.

Around 2,200 plants have now grown from the seeds collected and we expect they'll be ready to plant by autumn 2019.

Some seedlings will be used for landscaping in the local area and some have been offered to residents affected by construction to plant in their properties. The propagated species include:

- Sweet bursaria
- Long-leaf box
- Yellow box
- Grey everlasting
- Narrow-leaf bitter-pea
- Golden wattle
- Black wattle
- Messmate
- Red box
- Common cassinia
- Hedge wattle
- Spreading wattle
- Gold dust wattle.

Planting these indigenous species builds the habitat and adds to foraging trees for locally significant wildlife, such as the Swift Parrot, Sugar Glider and Brush Tailed Phascogale. These species are known to use the local area and Plenty Gorge to forage.

Timber reuse

An important part of our plan is how we reuse timber. We make sure it's carefully reused for the benefit of you and your local community.

Before we remove trees, we inspect and classify them for reuse as:

- hollow bearing and wildlife habitat
- cultural heritage practices
- community use
- mulch and firewood.

We make sure all the timber we store is properly cared for. There are a few ways we do this:

- paint ends to prevent cracking
- leave others to remain wet and soft
- treat hollow segments with extra care so they remain intact.

Habitat hollows

We'll reinstate about 110 hollow bearing logs into remaining patches of vegetation. We place them either on ground or attach them to existing standing trees to provide habitat for local wildlife.

Chainsaw logs to CFA

Timber has been donated to Plenty CFA to train their members to safely use chainsaws. Following the training, the team will raffle off the timber to the community to help raise much-needed funds for their unit.

Timber to Nillumbik Council for community projects

Timber has also been donated to Nillumbik Shire Council to put towards community projects such as:

- wayfinding signage and marker posts
- boundary marker bollards
- timber for seats within reserves
- assorted logs for natural play spaces.

Mulch and firewood donated to community groups

Mulch has been donated to Yarrambat Primary School for children's play areas and firewood has been donated to the local hockey club to help with fundraising efforts.

Trees for the Wurundjeri community

Cultural heritage practice trees were delivered to the Wurundjeri people in Healesville for use in traditional practices. These 13 very large old Eucalypt trees will be used by Wurundjeri Elders to train young Indigenous people in pursuing cultural practices, both traditional and contemporary.

Timber totems

Local artist, Leigh Conkie, will create six unique totem sculptures for the area. Fill in a feedback form at one of the community update sessions to let us know what you'd most like to see created. You can also send us your feedback at contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au. Your suggestions will help us develop a design for Leigh to bring to life.

Benches

We'll repurpose timber to create eight benches to put back in the area. One of the benches will be a memorial bench that we'll install at the site of a local roadside memorial.





Replanting trees and vegetation

Private planting initiative

To thank local residents living along the alignment for their continued patience and understanding, we've offered to plant some of the local seedlings propagated from collected local seeds in their gardens.

We're partnering with BMD Constructions and Nillumbik Shire Council to plant these local seedlings in your garden.

Root balls in water ways

We've partnered with Melbourne Water, BMD Constructions and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to re-purpose root balls from timber removed from the project site.

We'll place both native hard wood root balls and small- to medium-sized pieces of timber in nearby Melbourne Water streams and catchments. These will provide habitats for fish and improve waterway health.

Native fish use logs as feeding sites, cover from predators, a resting spot from faster flows, or as a spawning location. Large wood snags may also result in pools and eddies in the stream, which encourage silt and leaf deposits that promote a variety of aquatic life.

Seed balls and planting workshop

Some of the seed collected was set aside and will be used to create seed balls. We'll work with a local primary school to hold a seed ball making workshop and planting incursion with a group of students. The seed balls will be planted in the local area so their growth can be tracked and the effectiveness of the different methods of making the seed balls can be compared.

How we protect local wildlife

We have extensive measures in place to protect local wildlife as part of our flora and fauna management plan.

We planned our work to minimise the potential effect on local wildlife. When we identified habitats in trees, animals and other fauna were carefully relocated under the supervision of a wildlife expert.

All wildlife encountered has been relocated into wildlife release zones. We identified these areas before we started work. Wildlife release zones are areas that have a similar environmental habitat, making them suitable places for wildlife to be relocated. To help give wildlife affected by the upgrade a new home, we installed nest boxes and habitat hollows.



Nest boxes donated by St Andrews Men's Shed

Nest boxes are a proven way to attract and house hollow-dependent fauna. They're made from light and durable timber in several shapes to attract different species.

We partnered with St Andrews Men's Shed to construct nest boxes for us before construction began. We'll install up to 65 nest boxes in the project area to provide habitat for wildlife. They're designed to be easy to install and can be monitored by the beginner and professional naturalist alike.

Hollows and nest box installation to provide habitat for wildlife

When we repurpose hollows and logs, we reuse them in landscaping to improve local habitats. We place hollows and logs on the ground in both remaining vegetation and replanted areas to create instant and extra habitat options for existing, migratory or displaced wildlife.

Fauna crossings for wildlife

We'll add fauna crossings at several points along Yan Yean Road to provide safe crossing opportunities for native wild life such as possums. These fauna crossings will be rope bridges connected to trees or power poles that span from one side of the road to the other.

Kangaroo signs

We received requests from some members of the community for kangaroo signs to be installed in project area for fear kangaroos crossing the road were at risk from motorists. In response, MRPA installed six kangaroo signs in the area to influence driver behaviour and make drivers more aware of the potential for kangaroos in the area.



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