

October Meeting Minutes

Community Reference Group



Subject: Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Community Reference Group

Date: Monday 14 October 2019 **Time:** 6.15pm for 6.30pm-8pm

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

Meeting number: 13

Chair: Damian van Dyke

Minute-taker: Charlotte Claney

Attendees

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

Actions - previous

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
10.3	Confirm number of bus stops with and without shelters to be installed	DvD	14 October 2019	Closed	DvD said 10 of 12 bus stops to have shelters. Two can't be installed because of insufficient space at bus stop south of Faneco Road on southbound carriageway and northbound carriageway near Scout Hall opposite Council Depot. CA said four installed and the rest are being fabricated.
10.5	Share tree removal and reuse figures with the group at the next CRG meeting	NK	14 October 2019	Closed	DvD said that the current tree removal figure is 2,245.
11.2	Confirm that safety barriers will be installed eventually along lengths of road where there are large gaps that aren't due to driveways	DvD	14 October 2019	Closed	All safety barriers have been installed along Yan Yean Road as per the contract and detailed design. Guard rails cannot be installed in all locations because it must meet minimum length required to function properly or it is ineffective and can present a hazard. Additional barrier installation could also contribute to blocking sightlines.
11.4	Bring artist impressions and photos of completed timber totems and benches to the next meeting to show the group	CC	14 October 2019	Closed	CC brought print outs of artist impressions, project legacy items map and photos of timber totems and benches to share with the group. JJ noted that the bench on the northbound carriageway opposite Council is in an odd spot. CC responded that it is placed along the cycling path as a rest stop for people cycling the length of the alignment. ME asked why the bench outside Plenty General Store is installed in front of two old seats. CA responded those old seats are being removed. Group likes the look of the benches and totems.
11.5	Suggest community groups and organisations that it would be appropriate for MRPV to meet with regarding the EES	CRG members	14 October 2019	Closed	PK met with BaM, BaM provided a list of a number of groups. BaM requested a meeting for Stage 2 be held in Nillumbik Shire because two sessions were held at St Helena and Laurimar. JY suggested more central locations could be Yarrambat Primary School and BaM suggested Hurstbridge area. JJ mentioned two sessions were held at Plenty Valley Christian College and Yarrambat Primary School in 2018. PK added that they were at Diamond Creek Community Fair in September and will be at Eltham Community Fair as well soon.

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
12.8	Update Google Maps with new road configuration	CA	14 October 2019	Closed	Road configuration information has been supplied. Maps are updated quarterly, change should take effect in due course.
12.10	Provide CRG with information from the traffic counters on local roads	CC	19 October 2019	Open	CC to email CRG members with data from traffic counts on local roads by 19 October 2019.

Key discussion points

Agenda item	Discussion summary
Item 1 – Welcome and apologies	WB, KM, SF and NK apologies. DvD to Chair meeting in place of WB. DvD flagged this is his last meeting. Program Director likely to attend final December meeting.
Item 2 – Confirming the agenda	DvD confirmed agenda. No changes or additions.
Item 3 – Stage 1 project update	<p>CA said asphaltting completed on Friday. Line marking to be completed over the next few nights. Once surfacing works are complete, road signs will be installed. Landscaping will continue until the end of November.</p> <p>CA said Plenty church refurbishment works have commenced. Scaffolding is up around the building to facilitate roof construction. Termite infested walls have been removed. ME asked if MRPV has a building permit yet. CA replied the process is lengthy but underway. Should have the permit within a few weeks. JY remembered that Doreen Hall was riddled with white ants, similar to Plenty church. DvD restated MRPV commitment to restore the building. ME asked if it will be lowered. CA replied that structural engineers assessed the building and it's not structurally sound to raise or lower. CA said he'd share the structural assessment report with ME and Plenty Historical Society. DvD added that the area around the building will be landscaped to help make the building and surrounds aesthetically attractive. ME reiterated the priority of the Plenty Historical Society is to see the building lowered.</p> <p>CA said remaining landscaping works include filing up batter slopes, mulching and planting. Basins will be cleaned up and landscaped further. The group asked who will maintain the landscaping once the project is complete. DvD responded that there's a three-year novated landscaping maintenance contract with stringent conditions in place to ensure planting matures properly. After the initial three-year period, DoT (formally VicRoads) responsible for maintenance.</p> <p>ME noticed bus stop totems started going in today.</p> <p>AT asked if all basin fences must have barbed wire on top. DvD responded that following a risk assessment, the barbed wire was removed from all but three fences. Basins near Council Depot and south of Browns Lane needed to keep the barbed wire for safety reasons. JY asked why we need basins in Plenty because he hadn't seen them anywhere else. DvD responded that basins are a common natural drainage solution to help effectively manage overland flows. JJ agreed and said she'd seen basins out west. PK agreed that they are common, and Melbourne Water has retarding basins all over the city.</p>

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	<p>ME asked why such a variety of fences have been installed. CA answered that there are three different fence types and they each serve a different purpose. We've installed fall prevention fences near retaining walls, pedestrian railing, and 1.8m high black fences around the basins.</p> <p>JJ asked if the 1m gap between the retaining walls on the northbound carriageway south of Kurrak Road was intentional and why it was there. CA responded that the gap has a purpose, it is to provide maintenance access.</p>
Item 4 – Stage 2 project update	<p>BaM wanted to know if the intended impact of the Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade will be to funnel traffic to the east. DvD responded that in the north, a number of roads are being upgraded with an additional lane in each direction to increase capacity, including Yan Yean Road, Plenty Road and Bridge Inn Road. Plenty Road Upgrade Stage 1 is complete, and Stage 2 is in construction. BaM concerned the unintended impact of the future Bridge Inn Road Upgrade will be to channel traffic from Plenty Road into Nillumbik. DvD responded that O'Herns Road also being upgraded to provide access to the Hume Freeway. Substantial upgrades in these parallel roads are not intended to channel traffic through the east and should not have that effect. PK added that the rationale for Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade is included in the EES documentation that will be on public exhibition in the near future.</p> <p>LH said the Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade project team were continuing to work with key stakeholders and refine the design to further minimise impacts on the environment as much as possible. We're meeting with property owners to talk through specific access needs and property uses to assist with refining the road design. PK said we've been consulting recently with the community at pop up sessions. PK advised the next pop up would be on Wednesday at St Helena's Shopping Centre and the one after that would be at Eltham Town Fair next month. The previous pop up was at Diamond Creek Community Fair. BaM asked if future pop-ups could be in the project area. PK confirmed that future information sessions will be, but the purpose of this engagement was to increase awareness of the project, that's why the pop ups were held at shopping centres and community fairs.</p> <p>LH takes on notice that the community want to retain the two River Red Gums on the corner of Doctors Gully Road. LH said it is challenging from an engineering perspective but we're working hard to find a solution. Over 11 options have been considered to date. All design option documents will be on public display. DvD agreed that all project alternative design options considered, as well as the recommended solution (when finalised), will be part of the public exhibition process. LH added that a whole chapter in the report is dedicated to alternative design options for this intersection and includes the pros and cons of each option.</p> <p>PH requested that the inclusion of a service road be considered as part of the early planning and design process for the Stage 2 road upgrade. PH said a solution is required for residents opposite the park that wasn't present in the early reference design shown to the community in April 2018.</p> <p>BaM asked how the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade will impact the delivery timeframe for Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade. DvD responded that the SRU PPP is due for completion by 2025, including the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade. Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade is being delivered separately from the SRU PPP, but timing will be coordinated in consultation with the PPP to avoid conflict where possible. BaM asked if the Bridge Inn Road Upgrade will impact the industrial area on the south or the parkland on the north. LH responded that currently plans for Bridge Inn Road don't impact the industrial area and</p>

Agenda item	Discussion summary
	<p>don't significantly impact the parkland. JY hopes traffic lights will be installed on Plenty Road near Bridge Inn Road. DvD confirmed there will be traffic lights there. DvD said the staging of works will likely be Stage 2 Plenty Road Upgrade, Bridge Inn Road Upgrade then Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade. LH added that the order projects are delivered through the SRU is up to the successful contractor but there is a commitment that all projects will be delivered by 2025.</p> <p>PH asked if the Stage 2 Yan Yean Road Upgrade team were aware of the Laurimar sewerage line. LH confirmed they are, and they're working closely with Yarra Valley Water.</p> <p>JY asked when the public exhibition for the EES will be. LH replied it is subject to change but would likely be early to mid-next year.</p> <p>JY asked when Stage 2 construction will start. LH replied that it relies on the Minister's EES decision following the public exhibition period and review panel process. LH advised that comments from the Minister may result in further refinements to the design prior to works commencing. LH advised Stage 2 would not commence construction for at least two years. JY asked if funds have been allocated for Stage 2. DvD responded that Government is committed to this project.</p>
Item 5 – Environmental update	<p>CA said the project recently translocated green hooded orchids and planted them in Plenty Park. PH very happy with this outcome. ME asked where the orchids originated from. CA responded in the gully near two large retaining walls.</p> <p>CC said the private planting initiative was now complete, with all participating residents having received their planting.</p> <p>CC said fauna rope bridge to provide safe crossing for arboreal marsupials had been installed across Yan Yean Road, south of the Memorial Drive and Heard Avenue intersection. PH agreed she'd seen it up there.</p> <p>CC said four seed balls workshops were successfully held with junior school students at Yarrambat Primary School as part of the STEM program. CC said it was probably time to check in with the school to see which team had the winning seed balls.</p> <p>CC said root balls delivered to the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority would be going into the Barwon River to provide fish habitat over coming weeks.</p>
Item 6 – Other business	<p>ME asked how far north Stage 2 Plenty Road Upgrade will go. DvD responded up to Bridge Inn Road.</p> <p>ME said the street light north of Mackelroy Road doesn't work. CA agreed to take a look at it and fix it if it's broken.</p> <p>ME believes the angle of the traffic light lanterns at the Memorial Drive intersection are confusing. CA agreed to have the surveillance team assess the positioning of the traffic lights and make sure the positioning is correct and safe.</p> <p>ME asked for the data from the most recent local traffic survey. CA agreed to share the survey results with the group over next few days. The survey relates to traffic counts on 15 local roads. CC will distribute the data to the group this week.</p>

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	<p>ME read a letter from a resident of Butlers Road requesting a right turn arrow from Yan Yean Road into Memorial Drive so access can be granted less frequently and discourage drivers from using the local roads. JJ and BaM disagreed, saying they see nothing wrong with the road or light sequencing. They said it is terrific and people have no reason to access the local roads anymore. BaM said the issue is people are following their GPS and not following the main road. JY said it's probably just because of the asphaltting and line marking and the road is working as normal. Give it another month operating before we judge it and see if the issues are still there. ME asked if it's possible to change the right turn arrow. DvD replied that it can be done but suggested we wait and review traffic patterns once the road is finished and people have settled in.</p> <p>ME said there's a service lane on the eastern side of the road near Kurrak Road intersection that people are using to skip the Kurrak Road traffic lights. ME asked if it's possible to add a local traffic only sign here. CA said the service road is not just for local traffic but was designed to cater to heavy vehicles that can't U-turn at the Kurrak Road intersection.</p> <p>AT said left lane on Diamond Creek Road to access the Yan Yean Road left turning lanes has no arrows outside of service station and would like to see that changed to give more of a warning. Road users may think they are turning into the service station instead of getting into the turning lanes onto Yan Yean Road. CA to investigate this concern further.</p> <p>JJ asked about Stage 2 CRG EOI. PK responded that we're not set on a CRG but will reach out to each current member individually for feedback and see if a CRG is best avenue during EES. PK said Stage 2 will definitely have a CRG during construction but will explore what the best avenue is during the EES process. JJ feels the CRG has been invaluable and wants to participate in the Stage 2 CRG. PH and JY want to participate as well because Stage 2 affects them directly. LH said the EES process takes a fair amount of time, so we want to make sure a working group is beneficial. JJ understands a CRG may not be appropriate until the EES is complete but wants to be part of a CRG once the reference designs for Stage 2 are ready and consultation can begin. PK agrees that community input was so valuable in shaping the Stage 1 design.</p> <p>BaM said the Green Wedge community wants to stay closely informed during the EES process because that's where their passion and interest lays. PK understands and said that's why we're reaching out to those groups now to speak directly with them. BaM confirmed that she will continue to encourage groups to reach out to the Stage 2 team to ask questions and request a meeting regarding the EES. PK is also talking to the Council Environment and Sustainability team to ensure updates will go out in Council newsletters too.</p>
Item 7 – Group discussion and photo	<p>Group agreed that in the interest of time, a full evaluation discussion and photo should happen at the December meeting instead. JJ noted that being part of the CRG has been invaluable in terms of being able to pass on information to broader community. JJ feels the CRG is very important and JY agreed. PH added that if it wasn't worthwhile, they wouldn't show up. DvD said it's been a really respectful group and the project has learnt so much and found out what was important to people. DvD said we've been able to do things here that we would never have done otherwise. The community is better for it and we saved a lot of trees. ME thanked the project teams for listening to the community members during the meetings and taking things on board.</p>

Agenda item	Discussion summary
Item 8 – Close	Meeting concluded at 8pm. DvD confirmed that the next and final meeting will be Monday 9 December 2019.

Actions - new

#	Action	Owner	Due
13.1	Line mark at northern entrance to Heard Avenue. Existing line marking is faded.	CA	15 October 2019
13.2	Confirm plans for landscaping and maintenance in gap between retaining walls on northbound carriageway south of Kurrak Road	CA	9 December 2019
13.3	Provide JJ with contact for bus shelters for Yarrambat Pony Club	CA	9 December 2019
13.4	Street light north of Mackelroy Road reportedly not working. Investigate and fix, if necessary	CA	9 December 2019
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
13.6	Bring outline of EES engagement process to next to CRG meeting to share with group members	PK	9 December 2019