

Meeting Minutes

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| Meeting: | Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Community Reference Group |
| Date: | Monday, 18 June 2018 |
| Attendees: | VicRoads Chairperson: Warren Bradshaw (WB) Independent Facilitator: Bruce Turner (BT) Community Members: Joanne Jamieson (JJ), John Yeomans (JY), Milton Embling (ME), Neisha Forbes (NF), Pam Hoyne (PH), Susan Farley (SF) VicRoads: Ben Matters (BM), Charlotte Claney (CC), Damian van Dyke (DvD), Nerilee Kerslake (NK) |
| Apologies: | VicRoads: Chinthaka Arachchige (CA), Barbara Marshall (BaM), Anne Trueman (AT) |

Item 1 – Welcome and apologies

CA, BaM and AT send their apologies.

Item 2 – Confirming the agenda

ACTION 3.1: CA did follow up with Council on overhanging trees but CA is an apology tonight so unable report back to group. CA will report back to group at July meeting. Action remains open.

ACTION 3.2: CC amended the March CRG meeting minutes to clarify the PCAG formed following a community meeting. Updated minutes were published on website. Action now closed.

ACTION 3.3: Latest design plans for the Diamond Creek Road intersection will be shared at the meeting. Item 4 on agenda. Action now closed.

ACTION 3.4: Property Services to attend 23 May PCAG meeting to go over the land acquisition compensation process with impacted landowners. Action now closed.

ACTION 3.5: DvD yet to provide answers to PCAG questions in a table and circulate to group members. DvD asked group if minutes from 4 May PCAG meeting would suffice instead? Group agreed. DvD to distribute 4 May PCAG meeting minutes to CRG members prior to 9 July CRG meeting. Action remains open.

Item 3 – Project update

Stage 1

DvD briefed group about VR (Property Services) attending and presenting at PCAG meeting on 13 May about the land acquisition and compensation process and rights under The Act. He said a flow chart of the process was presented. It was clear that not everyone was receiving same level of information from their chosen representatives/ advisors. NF said the main frustration is the difference in the valuations from the valuers, which becomes clear when landowners are comparing notes. WB explained that these differences tend to be addressed in a valuers conference where the valuers sit down together and come to agreement on valuation. NF said the lengthy process is frustrating and 'rigmarole' is getting to people. WB encouraged the group and landowners to bear with the process. He said that in the end it results in a fair compensation outcome that landowners are comfortable with. JY suggested that VR should give a list of recommended reputable valuers and legal representation. DvD commented that VR needs to remain impartial as a party to the process.

NF asked for sticky notes from 13 May PCAG meeting. DvD said they'd been summarised and answered during the meeting and had not been retained. CC added that the themes were sent to the PCAG following

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the meeting and all sticky notes were answered during the meeting. NF said she thought that was the case and now she had a definite answer to give to the PCAG members, as they had been asking each meeting about them.

DvD mentioned the small wins there had been in avoiding and minimising impacts to trees and vegetation. For example, where a tree abuts a new fence line, with owner's permission VR had been able to save the tree and put the fence right up against it instead of removing the tree.

DvD reported that services relocations were currently underway. Former Uniting Heritage Church building relocation scheduled for August. Approx. 1,100 trees cleared to date. Hoping to be under the estimated number by the end of the job through avoidance and minimising measures.

NF asked how many nest boxes had been put in? NK replied that VR had put in 30-something so far and last Friday undertook the first translocation of hollows. The group was pleased with this news. NK explained that the arborists climb the trees and install the hollows back into the natural environment. NK showed NF and SF pictures of hollows on her phone and committed to sending them to the group. NF asked if VR could install nest boxes ahead of tree removal on Stage 2? DvD said there had been little to no uptake of nest boxes on private property. CC added that VR had sent notices and doorknocked and approached PCAG to raise the offer to host nest boxes at their meetings. NF said she had had some installed on her property and asked if VR knew why the low uptake? NK said there were varied concerns but some residents were concerned about the nest boxes encouraging bees or brushtail possums into roofs.

DvD and NK said VR were having discussions with DELWP about supplying root balls and have relocated Stephen's roadside memorial. NK reported that translocation of the sapling planted his memory had taken place with his sister and 10 of his friends attending last Thursday. CC added that a NGZ had been set up around the tree. She explained the impact of the road widening on the old memorial site and told the group about the relocation and the plan to construct a bench from local timber, and work with Stephen's loved ones on the wording for a plaque. NK - it is with Stephen's family to contact VR to discuss what that might look like with the bench and plaque at the new memorial site when they're ready. Group was happy to hear this.

Stage 2

BM said the planning report had been submitted to DELWP. The project team was staying in contact with Plenty Valley Christian College and Yarrambat Primary School to keep them updated on progress of the planning process. BM indicated there is a roadside memorial opposite Yarrambat Primary School, and VR had been contacted by the family. It was premature to discuss what that might look like yet. JJ asked if VR were aware of a second memorial at Jorgensen. BM said they were and that that crash was the trigger for the Black Spot funding received for that intersection.

NF enquired about an update on the consideration of a request from residents for a service road between Laurie Street and Bannons Lane. BM said it hadn't progressed since the previous CRG meeting but was still open and options would be explored. BM shared that VR had had a conversation with Council about golf course access from Bannons Lane but since Council owns the road, Council would have to lead that discussion with the Golf Club. BM confirmed that the Stage 2 reference design would not rule out any future access being reconfigured from Bannons Lane, and that the same could be said for the service lane request. JJ urged that decisions weren't left too late in the design process to consider and be retrofitted later. BM explained that if it is required in the AUSTRROADS guides then VR would do it but it would be at the detailed design stage and most likely that was 18 months away. This Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) exercise with the reference design was to make sure the amount of land acquired is sufficient to build the ultimate design; finer details such as the service road and accesses would be worked out during detailed design. BM explained that if you deviate from the AUSTRROADS guide, you need to explain why and don't prescribe a solution; instead you assess the problem and look for a range of solutions. He said the PAO wouldn't preclude a

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service road if it got taken further in the future. JJ said she didn't want to see it left out. WB said VR was leaning towards indicating an option for a service road in the reference design so that the tenderer would look carefully at it. PH said the meeting minutes being published online are so important so everyone can see it is taken seriously and discussed. PH thanked VicRoads for the minutes and for listening to community concerns.

NF commented that she felt Council wasn't there for the community in the past. She said Stage 2 needed to push Council to be more involved. BM responded that VR were in regular contact with Council and were sharing community feedback with them. NF said she was keen for all businesses to have easy access maintained throughout the upgrade. NF said customers of high tourism businesses shouldn't have to go past and U-turn once the median strip was put in place. She felt this was too far which would mean people would stop going to businesses like the golf course in future. BT questioned if people would really stop going due to the extra travel distance if the overall travel time was reduced. NF thought they would and that North Oatlands Road was too far. BM corrected that those travelling from the south would be able to turn left straight into the golf course, then when leaving could turn at a dedicated U-turn bay 80 metres away. Coming from the north, there would be dedicated U-turn bays north of Youngs Road not North Oatlands Road, which would be almost double the distance again. BM suggested it was worth remembering the upgrade would improve traffic flow, despite the travel distance change.

JY wondered why VR couldn't acquire land from Parks Vic to include a second entrance to Yarrambat Pony Club, yet was looking to acquire private land such as his. BM said VR had tried to approach Parks Vic but it came down to how many options there were to be able to justify impinging on that land. There is already a functional entrance, so it isn't deemed necessary.

ME asked if there was going to be a Panel hearing for Stage 2? BM said VR would be requesting a Panel to be convened but it would be a couple of months off. BM said that once a date was set, VR would share that information with the CRG and let members know how they could be involved in process. WB said VR would encourage the CRG to make a submission when the time comes and will assist with this.

NF asked how horses will be able to cross the upgraded road? JJ added that there is currently a signed crossing point for horses at Laurie Street. NK responded that Bannons Lane will be signalised. BM added that there will be crossing points at Jorgensen, Bannons and Youngs. He said safe crossing points will form part of the detailed design and will be strategically placed to access bus stops and other places of interest. BM made clear that when access is formalised as part of the upgrade, some existing short cuts will be lost. JJ asked to meet one-on-one with BM outside of the CRG to discuss horse crossings. BM agreed to drive the alignment with JJ and discuss horse crossing opportunities.

ACTION 4.1: NK to send photos of hollows being installed to CRG members.

ACTION 4.2: BM to organise ride along with JJ to go over crossing opportunities for horses.

Item 4 – 'Key topic' discussion

Move to MRPA

WB shared the announcement of 14 suburban road upgrade projects across the arterial road network with the group. He specified that the package of works will include seven roads in the north, and seven in the south east that will be delivered as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP). WB said the northern package of works includes Yan Yean Stage 2 and Bridge Inn Road. WB advised the Plenty Road Upgrade would be delivered as a standalone Design and Construct project, and would go out to market next week. He advised that the PPP would go to market in September this year as a package of works, with the contractor to bid on the package as a whole. WB added that the package would include a 20-year network maintenance agreement on top of the seven capital roads projects. He explained that procurement starts with an Expression of Interest (EOI) mid this year, with Request for Tender (RFT) in Christmas 2018, and contract award by Christmas 2019.

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JY asked if one contractor will deliver the all seven projects? WB answered that the principal contractor will have seven projects but may subcontract some of those to other contractors and oversee them. WB said the contractor awarded the package won't receive payment until all capital works are delivered, so there is high motivation to deliver projects well and on time. JY asked if this will result in toll roads? WB confirmed the upgraded roads won't be tolled. WB said that the announcement included that the organisation administering the contract won't be VR - the Major Road Projects Authority (MRPA) has been established to administer all these road upgrades. He told the CRG that we will all work for MRPA not VR from 1 July. WB assured the CRG that the Yan Yean Road Upgrade CRG is valuable and would continue following the transition to MRPA. The group said they would like to continue too. ME asked who is at the top of MRPA? WB responded that MRPA would report into the Office of the Coordinator General (OCG). ME claimed the minutes from the May CRG meeting weren't available online. BT and CC said the minutes are available online and CC added that she had emailed them to ME too.

Stage 1 Diamond Creek Road intersection update

DvD distributed the latest engineering designs for the Diamond Creek Road intersection to the group. DvD asked the group not to distribute. CC said that once finalised, the designs will be produced in the same style as the functional design and will be made available online. DvD said that the engineering drawings of a standalone intersection wouldn't provide the context of explanation required for people to understand them. The group agreed.

DvD ran through design details with the group, comparing functional design to the detailed design. DvD clarified that the pink lines shown in the plans were retaining walls and that the shared use path past the Aged Care home was still in discussions. JY asked how Sutherland Homes would access Yan Yean Road? DvD answered left-in, left-out. NF asked if there would be a slip lane to the Aged Care Home? DvD confirmed there would be. SF noted that even turning left is impossible and NK reminded SF that it would be signalised. SF agreed that should help. JY believed the detailed design would be a big improvement. NF said traffic gets banked up at Yan Yean Road and feels that signals give preference to Diamond Creek Road traffic. DvD reassured that signalisation would be reviewed at the time of the upgrade, adding that the extra lanes proposed would share the green light a bit more. NF believes VR need to consider development and growth in the area as it'll have a big impact on the intersection. DvD reminded the group that growth figures are included in broad strategic models and have been catered for in the detailed design. NF asked if the future growth at Browns Lane had been considered? DvD confirmed that it had.

Group returned copies of intersection plans and thanked VR for sharing them, and DvD for walking the group through the designs.

NF asked that a statement about the May meeting minutes be included in these minutes. She said the May minutes had stated 'NF wants driveway changed at Aged Care Home' but NF said it should be *suggested* not *wants*, as it is not her property. CC agreed to acknowledge the exchange in these minutes.

ACTION 4.3: June meeting minutes to include exchange between NF and CC regarding NF statement captured in May meeting minutes.

Item 5 – Any other business

SF asked to discuss the traffic count figures distributed to the CRG as action from May CRG meeting. SF said the traffic data provided shows drivers are ignoring no right turn signs at River Avenue and asked what VR can do about it. DvD said it is a council road and VR aren't able to police driver behaviour there. JJ added that unless a complaint is made, the police can't do anything about it. JJ said Merino Way intersection was policed last week and seven tickets were issued on two consecutive days to vehicles ignoring the no left turn sign. SF

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asked who she should contact about River Avenue and JJ encouraged her to lodge a complaint with Diamond Creek Police.

ME said he has tried to reconcile the traffic count figures VR provided with Council traffic data figures and is confused because Council figures were higher two years ago. DvD said JR (Nillumbik Council) thought the figures were comparable but acknowledged they weren't shared with VR. ME said he would chase up JR individually about it.

NF asked what Case Managers were, as she had been hearing about them for Stage 2. BM answered that it refers to land acquisition. A case manager is a consistent person to contact directly if you have questions about land acquisition without having to explain your situation from scratch to each time you have a question. BM confirmed that that's how the VR land acquisition team works and has done so for some time.

NF asked NK if the timber from the trees felled recently near the pine trees were kept on site? NK said there is an agreement with contractor for non-remnant vegetation. NF asked if the timber was milled? NK confirmed it was taken off site and milled. NF questioned whether the timber could have been used for community purposes? NK replied that it couldn't and that VR had tried to repurpose them as root balls but the wood was too soft.

NF enquired about the soil being stockpiled at a property on Sutherland Road? NK advised that VR were talking with council about this.

NF asked when the landscaping session would be happening? NK said she would be sitting down with BMD this week to go over landscaping plans and work collaboratively with BMD on them. CC said VR don't want to go out to the community prematurely, and that landscaping plans would be shared with the community when they were ready. DvD added that there was no rush and NF was satisfied with that.

NF enquired whether mulch was being taken off site? DvD assured NF that it was being stored on Sutherland Road stockpile site, and that it was all needed for the project, and none would be sold.

Item 6 – Close

Group consensus that the meeting had been highly productive. Group agreed 9 July and 13 August would be the next meeting dates.

| Outstanding Actions | | |
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| Outcome / Action | Responsible | Due |
| <i>ACTION 3.1: CA to update group on outcome of tree limb discussion with Council at next CRG meeting</i> | CA | 9 July 2018 |
| <i>Action 3.5: DvD to distribute minutes from 4 May PCAG meeting to CRG members prior to next CRG meeting</i> | DvD | 9 July 2018 |
| <i>Action 4.1: NK to send photos of hollows being installed to CRG members.</i> | NK | 9 July 2018 |
| <i>Action 4.2: BM to organise ride along with JJ to go over crossing opportunities for horses.</i> | BM | Completed 22 June 2018 |

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| <i>Action 4.3: June meeting minutes to include exchange between NF and CC regarding NF statement captured in May meeting minutes.</i> | CC | 9 July 2018 |
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