



AUGUST 2020
ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT
YAN YEAN ROAD UPGRADE – STAGE 2

Transport Needs

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) for Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 examines the potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of the Project and identifies how they will be avoided, mitigated or managed.

To inform the EES for the Project, we completed a series of independent technical investigations. We engaged a team of technical experts to carry out these investigations that included field surveys, desktop modelling and assessments.

The results of these investigations helped us to identify transport requirements and develop plans to effectively cater to both the current and the future transport needs of the area.

We're upgrading
Yan Yean Road to
help you get home
safer and sooner.

To find out more
roadprojects.vic.gov.au/ees

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



What we learned

Increasing transport demand resulting from a growing population in Melbourne's outer northern suburbs is putting unsustainable pressure on the existing road infrastructure in the area.

Yan Yean Road has exceeded its capacity and can no longer cope with traffic volumes. The forecast population growth in the local area suggests the existing traffic congestion will become significantly worse if it's not addressed.

Safety along Yan Yean Road is an important issue. Currently, access between Yan Yean Road and connecting local roads is mostly controlled with 'give way' or 'stop' signs, which poses safety risks along this busy arterial road.

One of the most effective ways to reduce the risk and severity of crashes is by restricting uncontrolled traffic movements and directing traffic to key controlled intersections.

A controlled intersection contains traffic lights or a roundabout to facilitate safe controlled traffic movements.

Additional measures that improve safety for road users involve separating the inbound and outbound road lanes and installing safety barriers.

Safety barriers placed in centre medians and along the roadside help to reduce the risk of head-on collisions and run off road crashes.

The lack of existing infrastructure to support active and public transport in the area not only discourages active and public transport use, but also poses a safety risk for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Project will improve safety, efficiency and amenity along Yan Yean Road for road users, cyclists, pedestrians and public transport users with the installation of dedicated footpaths and walking and cycling paths along the entire road.

To avoid and minimise traffic and access impacts during construction, the construction program will be planned and appropriately staged.

The Project team will maintain regular communication with residents, businesses and the wider community.

The community will have the opportunity to provide feedback throughout construction, helping us to make sure that impacts are suitably planned and managed to minimise impacts and disruptions wherever possible.

The Project will improve roads, footpaths and cycling opportunities in Melbourne's growing northern suburbs by upgrading:

Safety – installing safety barriers and upgrading intersections

Connectivity – installing safe crossing opportunities and building new footpaths and walking and cycling paths

Journeys – increasing road capacity by adding extra lanes in each direction, which will have a positive effect on journey reliability and travel times

What the studies found

The transport investigations and studies assessed:

- existing and predicted future traffic conditions, infrastructure, safety and connectivity in the area
- different scenarios that compared the benefits of upgrading Yan Yean Road versus not upgrading Yan Yean Road
- transport impacts during construction and how impacts will need to be staged to manage traffic and access appropriately.

Existing conditions

Yan Yean Road is operating beyond the capacity it was originally designed for. The road is struggling to handle traffic volumes, leading to congestion and unreliable journey times. Up to 24,000 cars travel on Yan Yean Road every day and around 1,800 of those are large and heavy vehicles.

Traffic monitoring shows us that the busiest section of Yan Yean Road is between Ironbark Road and Youngs Road. Reports of drivers 'rat-running' on local roads to avoid the traffic conditions on Yan Yean Road is negatively impacting the safety and amenity of local residential areas.

Yan Yean Road doesn't have adequate footpaths or walking and cycling paths. This poses a safety risk for pedestrians and cyclists, contributing to inefficient public transport and low rates of walking and cycling in the area.

Currently, there are only two safe crossing opportunities along this section of Yan Yean Road – one at Orchard Road and the other at Ironbark Road. Footpaths are only found along 25% of the road and are generally only on one side.

Even though the area between Jorgensen Avenue and Bridge Inn Road is part of the Principal Bicycle Network (PBN), there are no formal cycling facilities provided either on or next to Yan Yean Road.



Project versus no project scenario

Transport experts assessed what benefits the road upgrade will deliver and compared that to what would happen over the next 10 years if we did not upgrade Yan Yean Road.

	With project	Without project
Access	Safety barriers remove risky uncontrolled right turns. U-turns provide safer access and lower the crash risk	Heightened crash risk because uncontrolled right turns remain
Active transport	New 5.5km walking and cycling paths. Eight safe crossings. Safer and easier to walk to school	Lack of active transport infrastructure. Deteriorating conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. Only two safe crossings
Public transport	Increased capacity will provide more reliable bus journeys. New pedestrian crossings and walking and cycling paths provide better connectivity with public transport	Worsening road congestion leading to increasing travel times and unreliable journeys
Safety	Safety barriers reduce crash risk. Eight crossings providing safe crossing opportunities. Eight upgraded intersections	Deteriorating infrastructure and increasing traffic volumes causing poor safety and increased likelihood of crashes
Travel journey	Road capacity suitable for future growth. Improved travel times and average travel speeds	Congested road with poorly performing uncontrolled intersections. Increased rat-running on local roads. Less reliable and slower journeys

Construction impacts

The table to the right outlines the findings of the construction impact assessment and suggests how the Project will manage disruption throughout construction of the Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2.

	Construction impact	Impact management
Access 	Temporary disruption and access changes	Access to properties will be maintained at all times. Changes or disruption will be managed individually
Road closures 	Temporary road closures required to upgrade intersections	Works will be carried out at off peak times wherever possible to minimise disruption
Traffic flow 	Temporary 40km/h construction zones and stopping traffic for short bursts to move machinery	Staged construction program. Traffic controllers to guide traffic. Traffic switches to maintain traffic flow

Our commitment

We understand and share the value the community places on the amenity of the local area. We've developed an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) that provides a transparent and integrated framework for managing the Project's environmental impact.

The EMF establishes Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) that set the environmental outcomes that must be achieved during design, construction and operation of the new road.

EPRs have been developed to address the Project's identified impacts and deliver environmental benefits.

You can view this as part of the EES documentation available for the Project.

We're committed to delivering a road upgrade that will benefit the community now and cater for the future transport needs of the area.

EES Documentation

The EES, including the Transport Impact Assessment, is available to view and on display for public comment from 31 August to 9 October 2020.

Commenting on the EES gives you a chance to have your views considered as part of the planning approvals decisions for Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2. You can read the EES on our website. Copies are also available on USB by request.

More Information

For more information about the EES process, where to read the document and how to make a submission visit roadprojects.vic.gov.au/yyr-ees.

For more information about the project, email contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au or call **1800 105 105**.

Contact us

contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au
1800 105 105

Major Road Projects Victoria
GPO Box 4509, Melbourne VIC 3001

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