

Meeting Notes

Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 Community Reference Group

Date: 27/04/26 **Time:** 6pm

Location: Rivers of Yarrambat

Meeting number: 11

Chair: Bruce Turner

Note taker: Thomas Samuel

Attendees

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Barbara Marshall	Aimee Dima
Bronwynne McPherson	Bill Papanestoros
Claire McMorrison	Felicity Gordon
Evan Woolnough	Tony Field (CFA)
Jo Jamieson	Ayman William, (Nillumbik Shire Council)
John Huit	Helena Woolums, Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager (VIDA Roads)
John Yeomans	Josh Ribarich, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)
Pam Kalms	
Arthur Tsoutsoulis, Senior Project Manager – State Projects (City of Whittlesea)	
Angela Vorng, Senior Project Manager - Northern Package (VIDA Roads)	
Daniel Kollmorgen, Senior Project Manager - Southern Package (VIDA Roads)	
Josh Lim, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)	
Paul Reeves, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (VIDA Roads)	

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Thomas Samuel, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)	
Bruce Turner, Independent Facilitator (Phoenix Facilitation)	

Actions – previous

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
10.1	Paul to raise footpath being blocked by truck with Decmil	PR	27 Apr	Closed	Raised with the Decmil team - reminder passed on to team and to nearby mechanic
10.2	Daniel to provide the exact location of the site to Jo	DK	27 Apr	Closed	Confirmed in the previous meeting
10.3	Arthur to provide an update regarding the plans for the Doreen Recreation Reserve	AT	27 Apr	Closed	Update provided in today's meeting
10.4	Paul to speak to Decmil about the removal of weeds at the ped footpath at DGR	PR	27 Apr	Closed	Raised with the Decmil team - actioned and weed trimmed

Key discussion

Who	Description
Bruce Turner	<p>Welcome, apologies and confirm the agenda</p> <p>Bruce welcomed the group and noted the apologies. No members raised any specific topics for discussion to add to the agenda.</p> <p>Bruce noted that this will be the last meeting for the current CRG term.</p> <p>A draft version of the project design roll plot was provided for CRG members to peruse, noting that there are some visual errors that have been corrected in a later revision.</p>

Who	Description
<p>Bruce Turner</p>	<p>Outstanding actions</p> <p>Action 10.1: Paul to raise footpath being blocked by truck with Decmil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul raised the issue with Decmil - site crew and mechanic business nearby have been reminded that vehicles cannot be parked in that spot. <p>Action 10.2: Daniel to provide the exact location of the site compound to Jo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daniel confirmed the location in the last meeting but will outline the location on the project map directly after the meeting to whoever is interested. <p>Action 10.3: Arthur to provide an update on planning, design and delivery for the Doreen Recreation Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arthur advised that there have been internal conversations at City of Whittlesea (CoW) about the site and how it will look in the future. After evaluation of the tennis court and the clubhouse, which are in poor condition, it has been decided that they will not be retained. CoW have explored other options with a reduced area such as a passive open space for the community. There will be future consultation with the community. Pam asked how much of the area will be available. Arthur noted that it has reduced in size by 50% but it may end up becoming a dog park or open space. There will be a car park but no public toilet. Arthur noted that there are large cleaning and maintenance costs involved for a public toilet but acknowledged the need for it. John Y noted that a car park would not be needed if it's going to be for dog walking. Arthur stated that they are future-proofing the open space with a smaller car park. <p>Action 10.4: Paul to speak to Decmil about the removal of weeds at the ped footpath at DGR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul noted that he had spoken to the Decmil team about it and the weeds have been trimmed.
<p>Angela Vorng (North) Daniel Kollmorgen (South)</p>	<p>Project update</p> <p>Northern section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angela provided an update on works to date, noting that the project has completed earthworks up to just below subgrade level. Utility works commenced in early April. Since the traffic incident earlier in the year at the heritage post office/General Store building, pedestrians have been redirected around the roundabout. The project has received reports of this impacting school students being dropped off by parents on Doctors Gully Road, as they are now required to cross Yan Yean Road to get to their school bus stop. The project team worked with the Department of Transport and Planning to change the school bus pick up location to the western side of Yan Yean Road, allowing students to be dropped off near the business precinct to get to the bus stop. This change was implemented last week for the start of term 2. Angela noted that over the next about 6-7 months, there will be a focus on drainage and utility works, showing a rough mark-up of key services that will need to be worked on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John H asked if the APA gas line is new or existing. Angela noted that it will be new and the team will be upgrading the existing line. Evan asked how long the currently impacted section of road will be closed for works. Paul advised that it should be for around two weeks.

Who	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo raised the General Store building and future plans for it. In her view a lot of money has been wasted preserving it. She asked if there was any indication that a new business would be moving into the vacant portion of the building since the closure of the café that was previously there. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Angela noted that it is a heritage building and the project design preserving it has already been determined at this stage. Paul noted the surrounding area around the building would be improved, with designs shown later in this meeting, hopefully improving prospects for a future business. – John H noted that the building has had no existing sewer, limiting the types of businesses that could operate there, and Nillumbik Shire Council (NSC) did not give the owner opportunity to upgrade the system. This was raised in the EES panel hearing in 2020, where it was mentioned that the project will be connecting the sewer there which will open more potentially viable uses. – Pam asked if the building will fall under NSC or CoW after the upgrade. Angela advised it will be absorbed into CoW, as Yan Yean Road is the border of the two council areas and the building will end up on the CoW side of the boundary. • Angela showcased new plans for the surplus land south of the heritage post office/General Store building, showing a play area. She noted the design has been updated following feedback to cater for older children aged between 9-12. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – John Y asked if this will be behind the bike store, which Angela confirmed. – John Y asked how the public will get to the businesses, Angela noted that they would be accessed via Bridge Inn Road or Yan Yean Road – Pam noted an asphalted area near the mechanic and asked if this would be for parking. Angela advised it would be parking space to service the businesses at the post office/General Store building. Paul noted that this would maintain parking capacity, offsetting the loss of the street side parking bays currently servicing the building. – Evan raised concerns about adequate fencing to prevent children running into traffic as the playground is next to a main road. Angela said that this will be discussed with the design team, Paul noted the current plans are the proposed design and will be developed further. <p>Southern section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel updated on the southern section of the project, noting that it's still in procurement and not too much has changed. Design work is ongoing, and site investigations are taking place to inform design, such as taking pothole samples of pavements and utility mapping works. These activities will continue in the coming months, with traffic management in place at times. • The project is progressing through land acquisition in tranches, gradually completing acquisition over the next couple of months. When the project takes possession of acquired land temporary fences will be put in place until a new permanent fence is built. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Evan asked if any properties are being lost to acquisition. Daniel advised that only portions of land are being acquired instead of whole parcels, with no dwellings included in acquired land. He further noted that the project aims to avoid taking dwellings at all. Affected landowners are being met with to discuss reinstatement of their new boundaries and what future conditions will look like. The reality is that there will be impacts, such as a loss of amenity or increased road pollution, which is accounted for in the compensation process. Compensation is not just about the square meter rate of the land but also takes into consideration broader factors.

Who	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jo raised that her neighbours are concerned because they live near the southern end of the golf course. She noted that the project isn't acquiring their land. Daniel explained that land acquisition in that area will be on the western side of the road to minimise impacts. Jo said that her neighbours had received a letter from the project stating that their land was not going to be acquired but could still be acquired later. Daniel clarified that the letter confirms that none of their land will be acquired for the project, however the Public Acquisition Overlay can't be removed yet. The overlay will be reviewed at the end of the project and removed if appropriate. • Daniel noted that the site compound at the southern end of the project near Worns Lane will start to see increased activity in the next month or so, such as tree removal and gravel placement to prepare it for use. • Daniel noted that the cost of bitumen has increased due to world events, so timing for project works is still under discussion. Some works will be required to repair the existing road and make it suitable for use while construction is ongoing. • Jo asked where in Yarrambat Park the site will be. Daniel explained the main project site compound will be at the southern end of the golf course. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is underway, and approvals should be confirmed in 1-2 months. Daniel noted some artefacts have been uncovered as part of the survey there. • Claire asked if Jorgensen Avenue is keeping a left slip lane from Yan Yean Road. Daniel confirmed this was removed from the current design, with the left turn into Jorgensen Ave being a standing left turn lane controlled by the traffic lights. Claire said that this was previously mentioned to be maintained in the design. Daniel apologised and he may have previously been mistaken. He noted that slip lanes are generally not preferred in areas with high pedestrian movements. • Daniel noted that there is a new hole at the golf course that Decmil have completed, as part of works to modify the design of the course for the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evan said he'd seen the works underway, but barriers have blocked off the view. Angela advised the work area has been fenced off to prevent interference from kangaroos. Evan asked when the hole will start being used. Daniel advised the project was hoping to have it ready earlier, but the turf grass will go dormant over winter. There will be an extended period of maintenance until September, where the grass will begin to grow again. There is currently a backup plan to build a temporary relocated tee box on the 10th hole so work can begin on Yan Yean Road.
<p>Paul Reeves</p>	<p>Environment update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul noted that in the north, there are more utility works ongoing now that earthworks are complete. The project has been conscious about dust levels and have hydroseeded or covered stockpiles in polymer, to limit dust from site. • In the south, crews are working through early activities and work to prepare tree management plans. Similarly to what was done on the north, tree removal will begin with trees required to get access to the site compound area. Tree removal for main works will begin at a later date and planning is currently in development.
<p>Paul Reeves</p>	<p>Comms update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul noted that a Community Update will come out next week. • A pop-up was held at the Laurimar Market on Good Friday. The pop-up was well attended, and the team spoke to 180 people. Paul noted that some residents weren't familiar with the project but were enthusiastic about it. He noted that a lot of feedback was regarding the traffic lights, and many residents were concerned it would replicate the same experience as Plenty Road where traffic lights are not synced.

Who	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application process for the upcoming CRG term is ongoing and has been extended to 10 May. Members were encouraged to pass on the message to those in their community who may want to participate. Because of this timing, there won't be a meeting in May, and the first meeting of the new term will be in June. • The project team will be running community sessions at Yarrambat Golf Course soon to talk about the updated design for the south with a roll plot map. The events will be casual drop-in sessions, with project team members available to talk to the technical details. An interactive map with the detailed design will be made available on the project website. • Jo asked when the announcement of the members of the new term will be. Paul noted that it will take the rest of May to finalise and confirm the new roster of CRG members, but it should be public by the end of May. • Bruce asked about the reformation of the group and expectations of facilitation for the next term. Paul advised that for the next CRG term, meetings will be facilitated by Big Build Roads, split between him and Daniel. Other team members will deliver the updates from their area instead. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paul noted that while the CRG will start with this approach but, if it does not provide the conditions necessary for productive conversations or transparency, the project team will reconsider the need for external facilitation. – Jo noted that this approach (ie phasing out an external facilitator once the process was up and running smoothly) was used in the CRG for Stage 1 of the project and worked well. – Barbara said she felt that the current Stage 2 CRG has been more inclusive and productive than the original EES Flora and Fauna Panel she was a part of. She observed she and others felt no hesitation to contribute.
All	<p>Open questions and discussion</p> <p>Bruce called for any other questions from the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo asked if the shared walking and cycling path near Yarrambat Park will be built, as it appears to be missing from the roll plot. Josh clarified that this was a graphical error - the path is drawn but not coloured in and has been fixed in further revisions. • Pam asked if there was any assistance available to have her house exterior cleaned, as she's been impacted by the dust from the work site. Her solar panels are covered in dust. John Y noted he was similarly affected. Paul advised he would have Decmil get in touch to discuss options. • John Y raised that the height of the new Bridge Inn Road/ Doctors Gully Road intersection may be an issue as the road height looks to be as high as his existing fence. He suggested that he may require a higher fence or a noise barrier. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bruce asked if these impacts were considered in the design. Angela advised that the intersection will be raised approximately half a metre compared to existing in the design. It may look higher currently as the cut may not be complete yet. Baseline noise levels were recorded, and noise modelling completed to check that there would not be over-excessive noise increase from the project design. Bruce asked if noise barriers were considered for the project, Angela advised they were found to not be required based on the noise modelling. • John H and John Y raised various questions around their driveway access. Paul advised that Decmil will be in touch about their movements during final tie ins to confirm access plans. • Paul thanked the CRG members and Bruce for their participation in the CRG, stating that they have been key to the team's success, and hearing feedback from the community has been pivotal to the project.

Who	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jo noted that in Stage 1 of the project, the CRG members were kept the same through the whole project. She asked why this approach was changing in Stage 2, with membership expiring after a 12-month term. Paul advised that the interest level and capacity to participate in the CRG may change over time, both for existing members and prospective members. For instance, now that the project will begin building in the south, there may be more interest from residents in that area. Bruce noted that the group isn't intended to serve specific individual members' interests but rather as a conduit for information-sharing relating to the interests of the community as a whole.
Bruce Turner	Close

Actions – new

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status
11.1	Angela to speak to the design team about fence design for the open space playground	AV	Ongoing	
11.2	Paul to speak to Decmil team about dust cleaning for Pam and John Y	PR	25/5	
11.3	Angela to speak to the design team about the steepness of John H's driveway	AV	25/5	