

Meeting Notes

Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 Community Reference Group

Date	29/06/2026	Time	6:00pm-7:30pm
Chair	Paul Reeves	Meeting no.	1 of 2026-27 term
Location	Rivers of Yarrambat	Minute taker	Thomas Samuel

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Paul Reeves (PR)	VIDA Roads (Chair)	Arthur Tsoutsoulis (AT)	City of Whittlesea
Barbara Marshall (BM)	Community Member	Kirsten Richmond (KR)	City of Whittlesea
Belinda Thomas (BT)	Community Member	Vesna Pismanovska (VPi)	Nillumbik Shire Council
David Briggs (DB)	Community Member	Matthew Crowley (MC)	CFA
Jo Jamieson (JJ)	Community Member	Angela Vorng (AV)	VIDA Roads
Lex De Man (LD)	Community Member	Veronica Podhorodecki (VPo)	VIDA Roads
Martin Jeyakumar (MJ)	Community Member	Joshua Lim (JL)	VIDA Roads
Pamela Kalms (PK)	Community Member	Josh Ribarich	VIDA Roads
Stuart Thompson (STh)	Community Member	Thomas Samuel (TS)	VIDA Roads
Troy Zaccagnini (TZ)	Community Member		

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Daniel Kollmorgen (DK)	VIDA Roads (Chair)	Suzanne Teese (STe)	Community Member
Evan Woolnough (EW)	Community Member	Kamaldeep Singh (KS)	Community Member

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Paul Reeves (PR)	Welcome and Introduction <u>Introductions</u> Acknowledgement of Country <u>Facilitation of the CRG and housekeeping</u> PR noted CRG meetings for the 2026-27 terms would be chaired by a VIDA Roads representative (PR and DK), unless objections were raised at any time by CRG members, in which case an independent facilitator could be used. No objection was raised to this. <u>Other introductory matters included role of the CRG, participation and discussion guidelines, and signing of Code of Conduct</u> As per presentation. No further comments or questions raised. <u>Group introductions</u> Paul Reeves Communications and Stakeholder Relations Manager, VIDA Roads Angela Vorng Senior Project Manager (Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2, Northern package), VIDA Roads Veronica Podhorodecki Project Manager (Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2, Southern package), VIDA Roads Joshua Lim Communications and Stakeholder Relations Senior Advisor, VIDA Roads Josh Ribarich Communications and Stakeholder Relations Senior Advisor, VIDA Roads Thomas Samuel Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor, VIDA Roads Vesna Pismanovska Team Leader Strategic Transport Projects, Nillumbik Council. Kirsten Richmond Communications and Engagement Manager, City of Whittlesea.

Arthur Tsoutsoulis

Senior Project Manager (State Projects) & Traffic and Transport Engineer, City of Whittlesea.

David Briggs

Resident of Yarrambat for 45 years. Affiliated with local junior basketball and footy clubs.

Overall interest in the service lane serving residents between Bannons lane and Laurie Street, in the rural aspect of the area, and in maintaining the traffic flow once the project is complete.

Belinda Thomas

Rela estate agent in South Morang. Representing traders at the Doreen Business Precinct. Interested in access into the precinct area and ensuring it's not closed off or that there's too much vegetation to obscure businesses from the main road.

Barbara Marshall

Doreen resident and vice president of Road and Roadside Ecology (RARE). Primary focus is on the impact of Yan Yean Road development impact on roadside ecology and local wildlife. Returning member.

Stuart Thomas

President of Yarrambat Golf Club. Primary focus is representing more than 450 members who access the golf club regularly and act as conduit between the project and them. Serving police officer 34 years specialising in road safety and hopes to bring a professional lens to the way traffic flows.

Pamela Kalms

Lived in Doreen area since 1960. Been involved with equestrian clubs, local school and the Doreen Seniors Group. Returning member.

Troy Zaccagnini

Yan Yean Road and Yarrambat resident for 20 years. Home builder. Primary interest is in the Ironbark Road area, and mentioned residents were looking for more representation in that area.

Jo Jamieson

Lived in Yarrambat since 1996. Involved in the Yarrambat riding club, secretary for 20 years and frequenter of the Yarrambat Park Golf Course. Retired police sergeant and was involved in road traffic. Thinks the road upgrade is a must. Returning member.

Lex De Man

Was resident of Yan Yean Road between Bannons Lane and Laurie Street. Member of CFA since 1977 (Yarrambat) was captain for 10 years. Mayor of Shire of Nillumbik back in the early 2000s. Passionate about making sure Yan Yean Road is safe and accessible for residents in the event of possible future fire emergencies.

Martin Jebakuymar

Lived in area for about 10-12 years. Part of junior soccer and cricket clubs. Interested in knowing what the “end product” looks like and what it means for the residents, particularly the planned sequencing of traffic lights and any speed limits changes.

Matthew Crowley

Represents support for CFA brigades in Yarrambat and Doreen. Focus is on safety and preparedness and for the brigade members to be able to access their stations during and post-construction.

Group discussion and objectives

LM said he wanted to ensure CRG members had an understanding of the project scope and in particular, if there are any design negotiables and what the CRG may be able to influence, understanding the proposed traffic flow, and ultimately if the project is meeting the needs of the local community.

JJ said she wanted to see a dedicated left-hand turn into Jorgensen Avenue and making sure traffic lights along the upgraded Yan Yean Road are synced together in terms of sequencing.

STh said he wanted to know what is set in stone in terms of project design and what is flexible, making sure the flow of information from the project to the community is current. Primary interest is in the flow of traffic and number of traffic lights – looking at intersections as a priority and making sure lights flow with the majority of traffic.

PR said, given the different level of project knowledge among most members, the team can give a detailed rundown of the overall project design at the next CRG meeting.

Action: BBR to present a detailed rundown of the overall project design at the next CRG meeting.

PK asked if CRG members would be given access to the presentation slides post-meeting?

PR said yes, they would be sent along with the meeting notes post-meeting.

MC said he wanted transparent information (i.e. if there's a design change, then that is communicated to the public). MC also wanted matters or concerns to be actioned.

JJ said, during the Yan Yean Road Upgrade - Stage 1, there was an issue at Browns Lane along Yan Yean Road. The CRG raised this as a community issue and traffic lights were subsequently installed at the intersection.

DB said his three areas of focus were the safety of residents accessing and exiting Yan Yean Road, smooth and unhindered traffic flow (particularly with more dedicated left-hand turns), and maintaining a rural aspect with the area, not turning it into Plenty Road or Heidelberg.

BT said it was important to keep local traders updated, and getting feedback from them on the upcoming works and disruptions, making sure they're seen and accessible. BT also said it was important to ensure public transport, cycling and pedestrian access around the activity centre hub is safe and effective, including how easy is it for locals to access this area via the car parking located at the Doreen Recreation Reserve.

PR said a few themes that emerged through this discussion included a strong interest in CRG members representing their different community groups, and a desire for different outcomes and desires for the project. PR noted that the purpose of the CRG is not for the project team to come to the meeting to negotiate design on areas of the project, the project team wants to hear feedback on concerns around design items where they can then investigate those concerns. PR also mentioned that the project design has evolved through feedback and will continue to do so.

PK asked if the ultimate use of the Doreen Recreation Reserve has been confirmed yet.

AT said it has not but will likely be allocated as open space.

KR asked if there was still opportunity for community feedback on the project in terms of design negotiables.

PR said community consultation around the project's design is completed early in the process, however the project team still receives feedback and some aspects change, however it is not open consultation.

Paul Reeves (PR)

Project update

Presentation covered a project overview, including purpose, objectives and benefits of the project

No further comments or questions.

Angela Vorng (AV)

Northern Section – Orchard to Bridge Inn

Presentation covered a delivery update of latest and upcoming works, Yan Yean Road northern package overview, and past, present and future construction staging

JJ asked if there was an update with the Doreen General Store and whether it would be repaired and reinstated.

AV said the project is aware there was an accident in February this year and temporary fencing was installed around that area. Currently the business is not open.

PR added that, broadly, the project team is not sure of the status of the store however the project has been in contact with the building's owner previously.

Veronica Podhorodecki (VPo)

Southern section – Kurrag to Orchard

Presentation covered present and future construction staging for the southern package, delivery update of latest and upcoming works

DB asked to clarify if the southern upgrades will take three years to complete.

VPo said this was the approximate timeframe the project team is working to complete the project in 2029, mentioning it's a bigger area to upgrade than the northern package.

STh said there were barriers for the southern package currently being installed and noted during heavy rainfall, significant volumes of stormwater tend to flow down the channels from the top of Yan Yean Road around Jorgensen Avenue. STh said he was concerned where that water will end up and asked if there were any studies for that stormwater flow and its potential impact on houses.

VPo said the team will investigate and get back to STh.

Action: BBR to investigate potential stormwater impacts due to temporary works along Yan Yean Road near Jorgensen Avenue and provide an update.

STh mentioned in relation to the nightly closures of Yan Yean Road and subsequent detours that there were concerns around the lack of warning signs in relation to heavy fog and wildlife (such as kangaroos) for those using the detours to return home, and requested more signage be posted for locals accessing the detours after 9pm.

DB said some residents had also raised concerns about unclear messaging around leaving homes in the closed-off areas after 9pm. DB said there was messaging around how to access home from Yan Yean Road at night, but not on how to leave.

JL said there were some challenges in providing exact access and exit details for a particular night given the works areas have moved around, meaning there are different conditions on the ground at night. JL advised drivers to head out to where their local access point is to meet the traffic controller for that area, and they'll be able to guide drivers out safely.

VPo added any drivers who are unsure of their access arrangements can call the project on 1800 105 105 and ask to speak to someone on the Yan Yean Road project team. When overnight works are occurring, a member of the project team will be on call.

JJ said the turning lane has been removed for drivers wanting to turn right to enter Golf Links Drive – there is now no right-turn sign, and instead just a marking on the road. JJ said this has caused confusion for drivers.

VPo thanked JJ for the feedback on the traffic management setup and would investigate if a sign can be installed there.

Action: BBR to investigate whether a “no right-turn” sign can be installed along Yan Yean Road near the Golf Links Drive entrance.

BM asked what effort was being made to retain habitat trees for the critically endangered Swift Parrot, and how many trees would the project be able to retain for the southern package.

VPo said the project team was investigating how many trees will need to be removed as part of the upgrades. Protecting valued trees and vegetation is a priority for the project, with strict Environmental Performance Requirements and approvals in place to ensure as many trees are retained as possible. Design refinement on the project is ongoing, as such no exact numbers around tree impacts are currently available.

PR added there would be an online session held on Monday 20 July regarding tree maintenance and removal, as well as time in the next CRG meeting to discuss queries and concerns.

BM said RARE has written to the CRG regarding the change in the environmental statement regarding the Swift Parrot.

PR said the team has received the written correspondence and will provide a written response.

Paul Reeves (PR)

Communications update

PR said the project team will attend the Laurimar Community market at Laurimar Primary School on Sunday 9 August.

Paul Reeves (PR)

Open forum and other business

VPi asked for the Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 website link to view project information and the interactive map.

Project information can be found at: <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/roads/yan-yeen-road-upgrade/stage-2>

PK asked what the large pipes located on the southeastern corner of the Yan Yean and Doctors Gully roads roundabout were used for.

AV said these are water supply pipes to be installed by the project on behalf of Yarra Valley Water, to help accommodate for future demand in the area.

JJ said the left turning lane into Yarrambat Park for pony club members has become very narrow after the installation of the concrete barriers and turning into the park with a horse float impedes on the northbound lane. JJ requested the turning lane be extended and made wider so the through lane wouldn't be obstructed.

VPO said the project team will investigate.

Action: BBR to investigate whether the turning lane at Yarrambat Park can be extended and made wider.

JJ also noted that when exiting Yarrambat Park, she had seen a handwritten sign has been installed saying "left-turn only".

PR said the team will investigate this as well.

Action: BBR to investigate left-only sign at Yarrambat Park exit and provide update.

VPi asked if there were any more upcoming nightworks on the project soon.

VPO said the current nightworks have facilitated barrier installations along Yan Yean Road, as well as fixing the condition of the current road, and conducting site surveys on the road. Once these works are complete, the project team will mostly work behind the barriers. More nightworks will occur throughout the duration of the project with the aim always to minimise nightworks and their associated disruptions to the community.

VPi asked if there is any coordination with Yarrambat Golf Club around events during this time.

PR said there has been coordination with the golf club, with events scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays when night works are not occurring.

AT suggested temporary traffic lights could be installed in areas where there are right-hand turns along Yan Yean Road to help facilitate drivers with horse floats and outside the golf club.

PR said they can take this feedback back to the team to investigate.

Action: BBR to investigate whether temporary traffic lights can be installed along Yan Yean Road to facilitate right-hand turns into areas such as Yarrambat Park and Yarrambat Park Golf Course.

JJ said community members were pleased that potholes along Yan Yean Road had been fixed.

The next CRG meeting will be held online on Monday 27 July.

Actions – Previous

No	Topic	Owner	Status	Update
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Actions – New

No	Owner	Topic	Status
1.1	BBR	BBR to present a detailed rundown of the overall project design at the next CRG meeting.	
1.2	BBR	BBR to investigate potential stormwater impacts along the channels of Yan Yean Road near Jorgensen Avenue and provide an update.	
1.3	BBR	BBR to investigate whether a “no left-turn” sign can be installed along Yan Yean Road near the Golf Links Drive entrance.	
1.4	BBR	BBR to investigate whether the turning lane at Yarrambat Park can be extended and made wider.	
1.5	BBR	BBR to investigate left-only sign at Yarrambat Park exit and provide update.	
1.6	BBR	BBR to investigate whether temporary traffic lights can be installed along Yan Yean Road to facilitate right-hand turns into areas such as Yarrambat Park and Yarrambat Park Golf Course.	