

Meeting Minutes

Meeting:	Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Community Reference Group
Date:	Monday, 16 April 2018
Attendees:	VicRoads Chairperson: Warren Bradshaw (WB) Independent Facilitator: Bruce Turner (BT) Community members: Anne Trueman (AT), Joanne Jamieson (JJ) VicRoads: Damian van Dyke (DvD), Nerilee Kerlake (NK), Ben Matters (BM), Charlotte Claney (CC), Chinthaka Arachchige (CA)
Apologies:	VicRoads: Nancy Joseph (NJ) Community members: Michelle Rudd (MR), John Yeomans (JY), Neisha Forbes (NF), Pam Hoyne (PH), Ian Dunn (ID)

Item 1 – Welcome and apologies

Additional apologies ID and NJ. MR absent from meeting.

ACTION 2.1: CC to call MR, as absent from both meetings to date with no apology sent.

Item 2 – Confirming the agenda

WB asked group if they wanted to suggest any changes to the meeting agenda. Group happy with standing agenda.

WB went over actions from March CRG meeting and updated group on progress.

Action 1.1 – Spoke to Paul Bellis and Jonathon Risby from Whittlesea and Nillumbik councils and they are happy to attend CRG meetings as required. Jonathon Risby said Cr Grant Brooker might want to attend sometimes too.

Action 1.2 – WB said the group would continue to meet the second Monday of each month. WB flagged that Queen's Birthday will fall on CRG meeting in June and asked what date the group would prefer to move it to. Group was non-committal and we will raise again at next meeting.

Action 1.3 – WB yet to action but asked how busy the entrances and exits get, and asked any problems to date. CA confirmed nothing noticed yet even through traffic management.

Action 1.4 – Brochure sent. Group confirmed received.

Action 1.5 – NK found list of attendees. JJ enquired after police representatives. NK confirmed Anthony O'Connor on 21 August 2017.

Action 1.6 – Agenda was revised.

BT confirmed that the ToR had been revised in line with discussion last meeting. BT sought group endorsement of the inclusion in the ToR of the guidelines for members that were agreed at the last meeting. This was endorsed with the inclusion of the lead statement: "Furthermore as agreed in last meeting... [add dot points]".

ACTION 2.2: CC to amend ToR. CRG members to sign on to final version at the next meeting.

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Item 3 – Project update

Stage 1

DvD gave Stage 1 update to group. Tree removal underway. Good contractor on site removing the trees, passive surveillance from public, public seems satisfied so far. Saved some trees as we've gone along. Some areas identified for tree removal that subsequently have the possibility of not being removed, have been identified with green flagging for further assessment. WB asked group if community is concerned about any aspects of the tree removal process. AT said in her discussions with community members no one had expressed any concerns; mostly people asking what VicRoads will do with the felled wood. DvD gave examples of wood uses: Saw log for habitat, milling, mulch, hollows to be placed back into area. He said two truck loads had already been delivered to Wurundjeri for training in traditional practices.

DvD - Earthworks starting shortly, explained 10 construction zones and where they are, and earthworks are in 2 and 4 at the moment. Explained cut and fill, to reduce waste and promote reuse in the local area. JJ asked if power is going underground. DvD said some are and some aren't. NK said new electrical regulations in fire prone areas required bundled cables that will assist so if a tree were to touch it wouldn't spark. DvD/ CC - looking to hold landscaping and urban design workshops between late May and mid-June. DvD showed group artist impressions of retaining walls, a piece of finishing material as example, and swatches of earthy colours.

DvD referred to retaining walls being called for by Plenty Community Action Group. He said the group had put 23 locations forward of which VicRoads is putting in five of those proposed, however, additional retaining walls have been designed for the centre median reducing the overall road footprint and requirement for retaining walls on the outer side of the road. DvD explained the reasoning behind this. The designers had reviewed the batters and, at some locations, retaining walls wouldn't save any trees. VicRoads will be going back to Plenty Community Action Group shortly with this response and want to share it with the wider community too.

DvD – Landcare coordinator role will be involved – with planting and timber initiatives on private property and through schools and groups. A senior environmental specialist is joining NK's team and, together with a project officer who worked on this project previously (Kim Hutchinson), will start work on this role. BT reminded group that this was something stemming from the previous Flora & Fauna Panel process and an example of that process resulting in VicRoads going above and beyond standard project requirements.

AT commented that it was hard to take in what it will mean to be required to travel a short distance in the opposite direction to access a U-turn opportunity, but she said she thought it would make sense once it was in place.

DvD – the old Plenty church building will be relocated near Plenty Hall and CFA. Will end up going behind Plenty Hall and the car carpark. JJ asked if it will be near Howell Road and the Fish and Chip shop. DvD confirmed. JJ asked if church building was heritage listed. NK confirmed only locally listed with Nillumbik Council, not state listed. NK – An old masterplan from Council showed a heritage precinct with three buildings; church, hall and old school building. Old school building was demolished by a developer last year, so VicRoads wanted to look after this building for the benefit of the community and local area.

CA brought up safety barriers and emergency access. CA said that VicRoads are liaising with Adrian from CFA and Senior Sergeant Wayne Spence from Diamond Creek Police to make sure they are comfortable with access. CA - we have monthly meetings with emergency services and VicRoads project team. JJ asked about wanting to close intersection at Diamond Creek Road for two weeks, and said it can't happen from a traffic perspective, JJ said Wayne Spence had mentioned it to her. DvD confirmed it is only a proposal the Contractor raised recently to get a lot of work done in a short period of time. WB compared to level crossing

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removals to get in and get a lot done in a short period of time. VicRoads is raising early now and doing due diligence. DvD said even if that means shutting a large portion down or none at all, it is being explored now. JJ suggested Christmas school holidays might be feasible when Diamond Creek residents are mostly away. AT wanted to note that the traffic management by the project had been exceptional to date, and the community was saying this. JJ said can only stop the traffic between 9am and 3pm.

Stage 2

BM gave Stage 2 update. BM – we are gearing up for community information sessions this week. Content available online as well. Invitations went out to Yarrambat, Plenty and Doreen as well as promoted online.

BM - we have minimised impact to landowners based on discussions and managed to avoid impact to a couple of properties. One landowner yet to meet with face to face; not a priority for the owner because it doesn't impact them too much. Met with everyone else face to face at least once. BT suggested group members might identify themselves as CRG members at community sessions if they are comfortable doing that and are attending. This would help put a face to the names of community representatives on the CRG for those interested.

AT asked why Laurimar got a sewerage line. JJ said the developer put it in. BM confirmed rising sewer main was put in not to serve properties it runs by, but those further out. BM explained this is a high-pressure sewer main that pumps up to the top of the hill and can't be tapped into as part of the project works. BM reminded group that VicRoads builds roads and that sewers and gas mains are the responsibility of other agencies, but is 'future proofing' the works so the upgrade will not hinder any future possibility of utilities connection.

DvD said for Stage 1 VicRoads was aware that the community wanted gas mains. VicRoads spoke to the gas company and offered to facilitate an upgrade but the offer was not pursued because it was considered not commercially viable until there are more people wanting gas to the north. JJ said when a survey went out about gas usage from the company, people were already using appliances on electricity, so not many pushed for gas connections.

Group got up and looked at the design, cross sections and access changes coreflutes for Stage 2. Discussion was led by BM to walk group through design features and impacts. (NB this incorporated Agenda Item 4)

JJ asked about U-turning with heavy vehicles or trailers because lots of horse floats and other large vehicles use the area. BM answered that the roundabouts are double lane and U-turns facilitated at signalised intersection, but if someone isn't comfortable using the signalised intersection they can use the roundabout.

BM explained design has been designed to cater for 7% annual growth to handle the exponential growth in the north and this design will function well in 2031 based on our traffic modelling.

Stage 2 fact sheets on project overview, managing the environment and access changes were on the table for the group to read through.

Item 4 – 'Key topic' discussion

Incorporated into item 3

Item 5 – Any other business

AT says project team is very approachable and not defensive, which is great when speaking with community (such as at information sessions).

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Group had no further information they'd like added to collateral at this stage and said they felt what had been produced would work well for community sessions to be held this week.

WB asked CC to email CRG members to ask if anyone has a burning topic to suggest as our key discussion topic next month. DvD suggested landscaping and urban design because our workshop is May/June and the group agreed.

JJ asked about squatters, knowing there was a squatter issue recently in a vacant property. DvD said CFA doing exercises in one vacant property, and demolishing others soon, or making them uninhabitable.

WB asked if group wants BMD to present at any meetings and group weren't enthusiastic. CC said Kate Ryder from BMD would be at Stage 2 community sessions to answer Stage 1 construction questions.

AT expressed concern about traffic management on Heard Avenue once works commence. AT said people fly down the hill and up the rise. DvD said local road therefore existing traffic patterns are a Council issue but VicRoads has done traffic counts recently on 15 local roads and will soon collate it into a report to get an understanding of how many vehicles are using each road, so we can tell how traffic has dispersed as a result of the upgrade works. Further traffic counts will be undertaken during the upgrade works.

ACTION 2.3: VicRoads to share traffic counts with Council (and the CRG) to address concerns on Heard Avenue, and talk to Jonathon Risby about maintenance treatments.

Item 6 - Close

WB confirmed the three actions from this evening with the group and thanked everyone for their time. The next meeting was confirmed for 6.15 for 6.30pm, Monday 14 May 2018.

Outstanding Actions		
Outcome / Action	Responsible	Due
Action 1.3: Investigate possible solutions to traffic congestion around Aged Care Home.	WB	14 May 2018
Action 2.1: Call MR, as absent from both meetings to date with no apology sent.	CC	14 May 2018
Action 2.2: Amend ToR so CRG members can sign on to final version at next meeting.	CC	14 May 2018
Action 2.3: VicRoads to share traffic counts with Council (and the CRG) to address concerns on Heard Avenue and talk to Jonathon Risby about maintenance treatments.	DvD	14 May 2018