

Meeting Notes

Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 Community Reference Group

Date: 19/01/26 **Time:** 6pm

Location: Decmil site compound

Meeting number: 8

Chair: Paul Reeves

Note taker: Joshua Lim

Attendees

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Barbara Marshall	Felicity Gordon
Bill Papanestoros	Leigh Crump, Deputy Program Director (VIDA Roads)
Bronwynne McPherson	Aimee Dima
Claire McMorron	Tony Field (CFA)
Evan Woolnough	Helena Woolums, Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager (VIDA Roads)
Jo Jamieson	
John Huitt	
John Yeomans	
Pam Kalms	
Arthur Tsoutsoulis, Senior Project Manager – State Projects (City of Whittlesea)	
Nemani Robertson, Transport Planner (Nillumbik Shire Council)	
Angela Vorng, Senior Project Manager - Northern Package (VIDA Roads)	
Daniel Kollmorgen, Senior Project Manager - Southern Package (VIDA Roads)	
Veronica Podhorodecki, Project Manager - Southern Package (VIDA Roads)	

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Josh Lim, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)	
Paul Reeves, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (VIDA Roads)	
Thomas Samuel, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)	
Leon Tran, Project Manager	
Jasmin Breed, Senior Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Advisor	
Jamie Kirby, Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Advisor	
Jessie Mendrygal, Environmental & Sustainability Manager	

Actions – previous

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
7.1	Arthur to confirm scope of the Mernda sporting facility and respond to Evan	AT	19 Jan	CLOSED	Arthur provided an update on City of Whittlesea's plan for the Doreen Recreation Reserve and sporting facility upgrades at Ashley Park
7.2	Arthur to provide a structured response on where sporting facility capacity will be relocated, particularly on the east side of Yan Yean Road.	AT	19 Jan	CLOSED	

Key discussion

Who	Description
Paul Reeves	<p>Welcome, apologies and confirm the agenda</p> <p>Paul welcomed the group and called for any new agenda items from the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam requested that someone contact her to discuss her driveway at 50 Doctors Gully Road. Leon will contact Pam to organise a meeting. <p>Paul explained that the site tour today would be a drive through to maintain safety, and the group would reconvene at the compound to discuss any questions coming out of the tour.</p>
Angela Vorng (North) Daniel Kollmorgen (South)	<p>Project update</p> <p>Northern section</p>

Who	Description
	<p>The north package is undergoing earthworks and tree clearing, continuing until February. Next stage of works will be utilities relocation. Arthur will provide an update on the Doreen Recreation Reserve later in the meeting</p> <p>Southern section</p> <p>The south package is still in the tender period with McConnel Dowell, with a tender submission to come in late February. The project team is working with McConnell Dowell, local councils, and utility authorities to refine the road design.</p> <p>Since the last meeting, there has been progress on various design elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The signalised intersection for the Yarrambat Park entrance has been approved by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) • The P-turn bay at Jorgensen Avenue has been removed as there will now be one available at the Activity Way intersection • Signalisation of the Yarrambat Golf Course entrance has not been approved, entry for southbound traffic will be via a U-turn at Youngs Road instead of a direct right turn into the Golf Course • The proposed service road between Bannons Road and Laurie Street is still being worked through. • The left slip lane from Ironbark Road into Yan Yean Road has been confirmed to be removed to avoid impact on the Yarra Valley Water (YVW) pump station. Will be replaced by a normal stand-up lane. There will be 3 lanes from Ironbark Road to Yan Yean Road, 1 left turn and 2 right turns. <p>Arthur asked if there would be a change to the shared walking and cycling path to accommodate for this change. Daniel advised that the path will run on the western side of Yan Yean Road, with connections to sections on the east.</p> <p>Jo asked if there would be anything on the east side of the road. Daniel explained that the project is working with council to understand the demand for footpaths in the area and see where it's possible to remove unnecessary paths, discussions are ongoing.</p> <p>The project is also working with YVW to look at their future capital works program to see if some of their works can be completed now, to avoid repeat disruptions and work down the track.</p> <p>Claire asked if Jorgensen Avenue is retaining the northbound left slip lane. Daniel confirmed it will.</p> <p>Jo said there's ongoing YVW works on near Ironbark, and she's received correspondence from council saying that properties will be able to tap into sewerage line in the near future – within the next two years. Daniel advised that the project has been working with YVW in this space as the project design will be affected by what YVW put in the ground. These upgrades have been planned by YVW for quite some time, and will be completed soon. Jo noted that during the Yan Yean Road Upgrade Stage 1 the advice was that a sewerage line wouldn't be possible, interesting that it's changed. Daniel explained that due to the topography of the area it wasn't previously possible, but the works by YVW are creating pump stations that allow this. John Huitt asked where the pump stations are located. Daniel said one is at Yarrambat Primary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel said he aims to be able to discuss the project program for the south section at the next meeting. • Jo asked where the acquisition process is up to on the south section. Daniel explained that acquisition has been split into 3 tranches, tranche 1 has received their Notices of Intention to Acquire, will be followed by Notices of Acquisition and then possession. Aim is to have possession of acquired land by mid-year. Will take 5-6 months to go through this process.

Who	Description
<p>Paul Reeves, on behalf of Helena Woolums</p>	<p>Environment update</p> <p>Majority of tree removal is complete for the northern package. The southeast quadrant where the new road goes into acquired land was the starting point last year, and works have progressively moved around the intersection this year once crews returned.</p> <p>Planning for salvage of rare species is also underway, including the Matted Flax Lilly and Studly Park Gum.</p> <p>Timber from the tree removal has been donated to various community groups including Doreen Primary School, Plenty Valley Christian College and Yarrambat Pony Club. The project is now looking at timber reuse plans for the southern package.</p>
<p>All</p>	<p>Site tour</p> <p>CRG members went out for a site drive to see construction progress across the various zones.</p>
<p>All</p>	<p>Open questions and discussion</p> <p>Jo commented that it was great to get the chance to look at the works.</p>
<p>Arthur Tsoutsoulis</p>	<p>Outstanding actions</p> <p>Action 7.1: Arthur to confirm scope of the Mernda sporting facility and respond to Evan</p> <p>Action 7.2: Arthur to provide a structured response on where sporting facility capacity will be relocated, particularly on the east side of Yan Yean Road.</p> <p>Arthur advised that City of Whittlesea (CoW) is still going through an internal process to finalise plans for Doreen Recreation Reserve. CoW went through an exercise in 2025 to see what sporting facilities would be possible to build on the site. The overhead power lines are the main challenge, making it difficult to comply with safety standards. CoW also need to take into consideration the condition of the assets there, namely the tennis courts that are in poor condition. CoW also looked at where sporting capacity is required in Whittlesea, especially where growing communities are. Ashley Park is getting a significant investment to upgrade the facilities there. CoW are looking to also fit new tennis courts there, with a book and use system.</p> <p>Pam said the original plans for the Doreen Recreation Reserve included tennis courts, and asked if those going to be retained? Arthur said CoW is unable to deliver on the initial plan the reserve. It will now be a facility for low-level activity e.g. dog park. CoW Will consult community once possibilities are understood. As previously mentioned, safety is also a limitation and the power lines are challenging e.g. previous incident where barbed wire fence started arcing with power lines. Safety is the priority, along with delivering on the needs of the community. There has been lots of advocacy around Ashley Park, and demand from the community for sporting facilities particularly soccer, with lots of kids and families. Pam felt there were a lot of soccer fields around already, Arthur said there are many clubs around, creating the demand.</p> <p>Once CoW reaches a decision on Doreen Recreation Reserve, they will finalise plans with VIDA Roads and get a concrete scope. Will then get the urban design team to work out the next steps for the community. Doreen Recreation Reserve is partially state property and shared with CoW, and the changes to the road means the previous master plan is no longer applicable. Arther emphasised the need to follow the proper process. He advised that the minimal scope asked of VIDA Roads is a car park accessible from Yan Yean Road, and a safe accessible maintenance area to maintain the field there.</p>
<p>Paul Reeves</p>	<p>Close</p> <p>Paul shared that Charlotte welcomed a healthy baby prior to Christmas, and the group expressed their well wishes for her.</p>

Actions – new

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status
8.1	Leon to meet with Pam to discuss her driveway.	Leon Tran	23 Feb	OPEN