

Meeting Notes

Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 Community Reference Group

Date: 27/10/25 **Time:** 6pm

Location: Rivers of Yarrambat

Meeting number: 6

Chair: Bruce Turner

Note taker: Joshua Lim

Attendees

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Barbara Marshall	Aimee Dima
Evan Woolnough	Bill Papanestoros
Felicity Gordon	Claire McMorron
Jo Jamieson	Tony Field (CFA)
John Huitt	Liz Lambropoulos, Strategic Transport Planner (Nillumbik Shire Council)
John Yeomans	Helena Woolums, Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager (VIDA Roads)
Pam Kalms	Leigh Crump, Acting Program Director (VIDA Roads)
Arthur Tsoutsoulis, Senior Project Manager – State Projects (City of Whittlesea)	
Angela Vorng, Senior Project Manager - Northern Package (VIDA Roads)	
Channy Tong, Environment Manager (VIDA Roads)	
Charlotte Claney, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)	
Daniel Kollmorgen, Acting Deputy Program Director (VIDA Roads)	
Josh Lim, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (VIDA Roads)	

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Paul Reeves, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (VIDA Roads)	
Emma Diffen, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (Decmil)	
Leon Tran, Construction and Project Manager (Decmil)	
Bruce Turner, Independent Facilitator (Phoenix Facilitation)	

Actions – previous

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
5.3	Follow up with John Y on trees on property that were not marked	VIDA Roads	27 October	Closed	Tagging is for recording and assessment, not confirmation of removal. Some trees may not yet have been tagged due to access limits

Key discussion

Who	Description
Bruce Turner	<p>Welcome, apologies and confirm the agenda</p> <p>Bruce welcomed members and new attendees Channy, Leon and Emma. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>Pam requested more details on the proposed 19th hole at Yarrambat Golf Course, to be covered in the southern update.</p>
Daniel Kollmorgen	<p>Outstanding actions</p> <p>Outstanding Action 5.3 will be addressed under the environment update.</p>
Angela Vorng (North) Daniel Kollmorgen (South)	<p>Project update</p> <p>Northern section</p> <p>Barrier installation is underway and expected to finish this week. Utility relocations will begin next year, with fencing of acquired land to start mid-November. Major works will commence soon, mostly offline behind barriers.</p>

Who	Description
	<p>Angela confirmed the project will avoid impacts to the River Red Gums that are commonly referred to as the 'Doreen Six'. Barbara welcomed this outcome, noting RARE feel strongly about the importance of the trees to the Swift Parrot. She asked about potential root zone impacts. Channy advised an arborist is assessing risks to the River Red Gum which is closest to the road and the design will be refined to protect it. Barbara was happy with the project response.</p> <p>John H asked whether access to one of his three properties would retain access from Yan Yean Road. This is still being worked through with Decmil.</p> <p>At Activity Way, the slip lane will be removed and the nearby P-turn relocated from Doctors Gully Road. Angela confirmed this change, approved by DTP, will also reduce lanes at Doctors Gully Road. John Y and Pam said these changes should improve safety.</p> <p>John H asked whether the P-turn relocation affects acquisition on his property. Angela confirmed it remains within the existing boundary so would not affect the acquisition as already proposed. John H questioned the need for the P-turn, and Angela explained it provides a U-turn for northbound service vehicles and horse floats. Paul added it replaces a previous design that required heavy vehicles to U-turn via Doctors Gully Road.</p> <p>Evan questioned why the U-turn capacity was needed. Paul said the new centre median will restrict right turns, requiring safe U-turn opportunities. John H raised concerns about headlights shining into his property from that location. Evan suggested adding speed humps to deter hooning.</p> <p>Angela showed photos of current works, including barrier installation and site compound setup. John H noted a dam being filled as part of the compound works and requested it not be reinstated, as it attracts kangaroos.</p>
	<p>Southern section</p> <p>The project will construct a 19th hole at Yarrambat Park Golf Course to maintain 18 playable holes during realignment works. The tender process closed in late October, with works planned to start in December and turf establishment expected to take about three months.</p> <p>Investigation works were undertaken on a significant tree at the southwest corner of Orchard Road and Yan Yean Road. Non-Destructive Digging found several large roots within the construction area. Daniel said the tree is under stress but structurally sound. The team is investigating a revised design that could protect it but would compromise on the performance of the upgraded intersection. A decision on the outcome will be pending DTP approval.</p> <p>Barbara asked about the tree's condition and Daniel confirmed the arborist report indicated signs of pest infestation and canopy stress. Felicity asked whether removed timber is reused and Daniel said a reuse plan will be put in place and Paul noted this would be discussed further during the environment update.</p>

Who	Description
	<p>Procurement for the southern package is nearing completion, with the preferred contractor to be announced at the next meeting. Evan asked if Decmil could tender and Daniel advised the southern works use a different panel of potential contractors due to size and complexity of the works and Decmil is not on that panel.</p> <p>The project continues discussions with DTP about managing Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) with different outcomes in the safety and environmental space.</p>
Channy Tong	<p>Environment update</p> <p>Tree removal will follow establishment of protection zones and pre-removal inspections. Ecologists will check each tree for fauna and relocate animals as required.</p> <p>Daniel outlined the project's timber reuse strategy, which prioritises highest and best use outcomes. Agreements are in place with organisations such as Melbourne Water, and community groups are being contacted to gauge interest.</p> <p>Felicity asked how timber reuse destinations are chosen. Channy said location and timing are key factors. Charlotte added that community groups don't need to apply, and the project will reach out directly.</p> <p>John Y queried the untagged trees on his property. Channy explained that tagging is for recording and assessment, not confirmation of removal, and some trees may not yet have been tagged due to access limitations. Emma offered to visit John's property with Decmil's environment team to clarify. Paul added that each tagged tree is linked to a unique ID for tracking.</p> <p>The project's Fauna Management Plan has been reviewed and updated.</p>
Paul Reeves	<p>Communications and stakeholder engagement update</p> <p>A community drop-in session was recently held at Yarrambat Golf Club, with another potentially planned for the northern area in November. Works notifications and property condition survey offers have been distributed to nearby residents.</p> <p>Following CRG feedback, the project has launched a Yan Yean Road Facebook page to share updates and connect with local groups.</p> <p>An optional session on tree retention, removal and reuse will be held on 17 November online and all those interested are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>The next CRG meeting will be held online via Zoom on 24 November, hosted by Bruce. A January 2026 meeting is proposed as a BBQ-style gathering, with the date to be confirmed due to the Australia Day weekend.</p>
All	<p>Open questions and discussion</p> <p>John Y asked about timing for the northern package. Angela advised that the program was still being worked on, with completion expected sometime in 2027. Emma confirmed that boundary fencing to be installed in November will be semi-permanent until project completion.</p>

Who	Description
	<p>John Y asked about fencing impacts on wildlife, particularly the swift parrot. Emma said mesh and flagging will be added to improve visibility and safety for swift parrots and other wildlife.</p> <p>Felicity asked about the launch of the project's Facebook page. Paul said posts will begin soon to align with major construction.</p>
Bruce Turner	<p>Close</p> <p>Bruce thanked members for their contributions and confirmed the next meeting for 24 November via Zoom.</p>

Actions – new

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status
6.1	Emma to meet with John Y on-site to clarify tree tagging status	Emma Diffen	24 November	Open
6.2	VIDA Roads to further explore the queries raised about the P-turn relocation and provide John H with more detail	Angela Vorng Paul Reeves Josh Lim	24 November	Open
6.3	VIDA Roads to provide update on impact to tree root zones in area south of post office building	Channy Tong/Helena Woolums	24 November	Open
6.4	VIDA Roads to organise an optional online meeting with the CRG to detail tree retention, removal and beneficial reuse opportunities	Paul Reeves	17 November	Open
6.5	VIDA Roads to provide a plan for a BBQ event to kick off the CRG in 2026	Paul Reeves	24 November	Open