

# Meeting Notes

## Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 Community Reference Group

**Date:** 23/02/26 **Time:** 6pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Meeting number:** 9

**Chair:** Bruce Turner

**Note taker:** Joshua Lim

### Attendees

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

### Actions – previous

| #   | Action  | Owner | Due    | Status | Update   |
|-----|---|-------|--------|--------|--|
| 8.1 | Leon to meet with Pam to discuss her driveway | LT    | 23 Feb | CLOSED | Leon met with Pam following the previous meeting, and Pam is waiting to hear back before closing out.<br>*Following the meeting Pam realised she had received the plans she was expecting from Leon and this action can be closed. |

### Key discussion

| Who   | Description   |
|---|---|
| <b>Bruce Turner</b>   | <b>Welcome, apologies and confirm the agenda</b><br>Bruce welcomed the group and noted the apologies. No members raised any specific topics for discussion to add to the agenda.  |
| <b>Bruce Turner</b>   | <b>Outstanding actions</b><br><b>Action 8.1:</b> Leon to meet with Pam to discuss her driveway. Leon met with Pam to discuss and she's waiting to hear back from him to close out. *Following the meeting Pam realised she had received the plans she was expecting from Leon and this action can be closed.  |
| <b>Angela Vorng (North)</b><br><b>Daniel Kollmorgen (South)</b> | <b>Project update</b><br><b>Northern section</b><br>Tree clearing is done for the moment, with the next batch of removals in about 4 months. Earthworks are currently in progress and Utilities works are planned to start in March.<br>Since Australia Day, the project has implemented 40km/h speed limits through the site and up to the school frontage at Doreen Primary School.<br>The footpath connection between the end of the project scope linking to Doreen Primary School is in the design stage with Nillumbik Shire Council.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Huitt raised an enquiry about power supply to his property. Angela will take the matter offline and discuss with relevant parties at Decmil and Ausnet.</li> </ul> |

| Who  | Description  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Progress has been made on the surplus land use plan. The project is still working with City of Whittlesea through plans for the Doreen Recreation Reserve and car parking there, but the area south of the old post office building will have landscaping, a seating area, and a playground/play space targeted at younger children. The team is aiming to have 3D renders to show in March at the next meeting. Leigh clarified that while this area has been referred to as surplus land for a long time, is now no longer considered surplus. It's been determined that the land will remain as a road reserve, either owned by DTP or Council. It will remain a public open space and not used for development. The project will continue engaging with the CRG and broader community on its use.</p> <p><b>Southern section</b></p> <p>The project is still in the tender period, with submission expected in early March from preferred contractor McConnel Dowell. Focus of work is on understanding what the price of their offer is at this time.</p> <p>Regarding design updates, the project will retain a service lane between Bannons and Laurie and is investigating how best to build it. The project is also still investigating the extent of footpaths on the east side of Yan Yean Road where there are large property holdings. Regardless of the outcome, there will still be a continuous shared walking and cycling path on the west side of the road.</p> <p>Site investigations are ongoing, including utility investigations. These will continue to occur and may involve traffic management in the coming months. Once the tender is submitted, the project will be able to share how the design has turned out at the next CRG meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jo enquired about the works that were being done on the south end of the golf course. Daniel explained these were part of an application the project has lodged with the Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council for a Cultural Heritage plan in that area. As that area is not already covered by the existing Cultural Heritage Management Plan, a further complex assessment is required. A primary desktop assessment identified a high likelihood of aboriginal artefacts in the area. The plan is to have a site compound in that area during construction, but this will be dependent on the findings of the assessment.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Paul Reeves, on behalf of Helena Woolums</b></p> | <p><b>Environment update</b></p> <p>On the Northern Package the Independent Environmental Audit is taking place this month. The auditor goes through the various plans for the different disciplines (environmental, construction, community engagement, etc.) to ensure the plans are being adhered to.</p> <p>On the south package, various environmental permits are in progress. The matted flax lily in the project area has also been fenced off. The cultural heritage assessment explained previously by Daniel is also in progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leigh added that the reason the Matted Flax Lily has been pre-emptively fenced off is to protect it from being damaged by any mowing/maintenance works by the Department of Transport and Planning, before the project takes possession of site. John Huitt enquired further about the plant, Paul explained it's an endangered species and considered of high significance. Daniel added that while it is classified as a lily, it's not that impressive to look at. The flower is as small as a pinky nail, and without the flower it looks just like any other tuft of grass.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Paul Reeves</b></p>                              | <p><b>Comms update</b></p>   |

| Who               | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
|                   | <p>Applications for the next 12-month term of the CRG will open in March. The current term began last year in May with the final meeting of the series in April. 12 positions are open and the project will be doing a call out for a second CRG term to kick off in May 2026. Members of this group who would like to continue can apply for next term, but applications will also be opened to the wider community again. More information on how to reapply will be shared with the current CRG members.</p> <p>A community update will be distributed in early March, flagging the start of utility works. The project is aiming to have updates to design to share publicly in late March/April. Will plan to have drop in/info sessions at the golf course to talk to people about the updates.</p> <p>Paul noted that there was a traffic incident at the general store building over the past weekend. The CRG members were generally aware of the incident. The area was made safe today by a third party, likely the police, and in doing so closed off the area to foot traffic. This closure makes it harder to get from Yan Yean Road to the footpath leading to Doreen Primary School. To restore pedestrian access, the project will complete emergency works in the next few days to reinstate a crossing on the north side of the roundabout. The team has been in touch with the school to keep them up to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Felicity noted the school is grateful for the timber donations and have been putting it to good use in what she said is a "really incredible" outcome. Paul mentioned that the project has been having some difficulty locking a time in for photography to capture the outputs, Felicity is happy to help facilitate organising this with the school principal. The school has been able to save hundreds of dollars on mulch for the playgrounds, and the donated redgum timber has turned out beautifully. Some of the timber has been used to build a conversation pit and seating.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>All</b></p> | <p><b>Open questions and discussion</b></p> <p>Bruce called for any other questions from the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill asked if there would be any traffic lights put in place on the pedestrian crossing on the north side of the roundabout to help with the school children crossing the road. It's been an ongoing issue, exacerbated now by the works. Traffic going through there is more hectic now, and he feels it's an accident waiting to happen. Paul noted that the speed through the roundabout has been reduced to 40km/h on all approaches and the team is monitoring the roundabout every day to ensure it's working. The team can look at signage to indicate pedestrian crossings, noting that the area is quite busy.</li> <li>Evan noted that traffic is very bad near Plenty Valley Christian College in the mornings at the moment and asked if Council could be contacted to provide guidance to their crossing supervisors to wait for a group of students before stopping traffic for a crossing. Felicity agreed that the crossing supervisors are quite overzealous. Jo said she has tried to raise this before with Council, and they do have a team leader and have regular meetings, the feedback just needs to be reiterated with the crossing supervisors. If someone from the project can speak to Nillumbik Shire Council, then that would help. Leigh agreed that the project can take that feedback to them.</li> </ul>  |

| Who                 | Description  |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John said he was disappointed to learn at the last meeting that there won't be a replacement for the Doreen Recreation Reserve, and that people will have to go to Ashley Park and share the facilities there. Discussion amongst the members noted that various local clubs needed to rent ovals from schools in the area, and that available capacity was low. Barbara noted that the Nillumbik community in particular was affected, as the replacement capacity is now further in Whittlesea, when that reserve was originally a Nillumbik facility.</li> </ul> <p>Paul suggested that City of Whittlesea (CoW) should give an update on future plans for the Doreen Recreation Reserve. Bruce noted that Arthur gave some detailed information at the last meeting. Paul agreed but based on the discussion it sounds like the group needs an update.</p> <p>Leigh advised that CoW ran some consultation about upgrades to Ashley Park late last year. Evan noted that CoW are replacing an oval with two soccer pitches. Leigh advised that the understanding is that plans for the soccer pitch would have moved ahead regardless of changes to Doreen Recreation Reserve.</p> <p>Jo noted that Yarrambat Park has some land near the toilet block. It's owned by Parks Vic but was meant to be given back to Nillumbik Shire Council for \$1. Not sure why that hasn't happened yet. It's wasted space that could be used for recreational space. Understand that it's not the project's issue but if a conversation can be had with Nillumbik Shire Council that might be something to be suggested to them. Barbara said she has a meeting with the Mayor soon and will pose that question to her. John agreed that this would be a good alternative.</p> <p>Apologies were noted for the next meeting from Jo, Bill and Pam (when it was suggested it would be on 23 March, which is actually not the last Monday in March). Felicity asked to confirm a date for the April meeting. Group agreed that at this stage it would be the last Monday of the month, 27 April. Under the ordinary schedule it would be held online but will consider making it in person in recognition of it being the last meeting of the term.</p> |
| <b>Bruce Turner</b> | <b>Close</b>   |

### Actions – new

| #   | Action  | Owner              | Due      | Status |
|-----|---|--------------------|----------|--------|
| 9.1 | AV to check on John's enquiry about power supply to his property                              | Angela Vorng       | 30 March | OPEN   |
| 9.2 | PR to provide feedback to Nillumbik Shire Council about school crossing supervisor efficiency | Paul Reeves        | 30 March | OPEN   |
| 9.3 | AT to provide update to CRG about progress on plans for the Doreen Recreation Reserve         | Arthur Tsoutsoulis | 30 March | OPEN   |
|     |   |                    |          |        |
|     |   |                    |          |        |