



AUGUST 2020
ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT
YAN YEAN ROAD UPGRADE – STAGE 2

Landscape Strategy

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) for Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 examines the potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of the Project and identifies how they will be avoided, mitigated or managed.

To inform the EES for the Project, we completed a series of independent technical investigations.

We engaged a team of technical experts to carry out these investigations that included field surveys, desktop modelling and assessments.

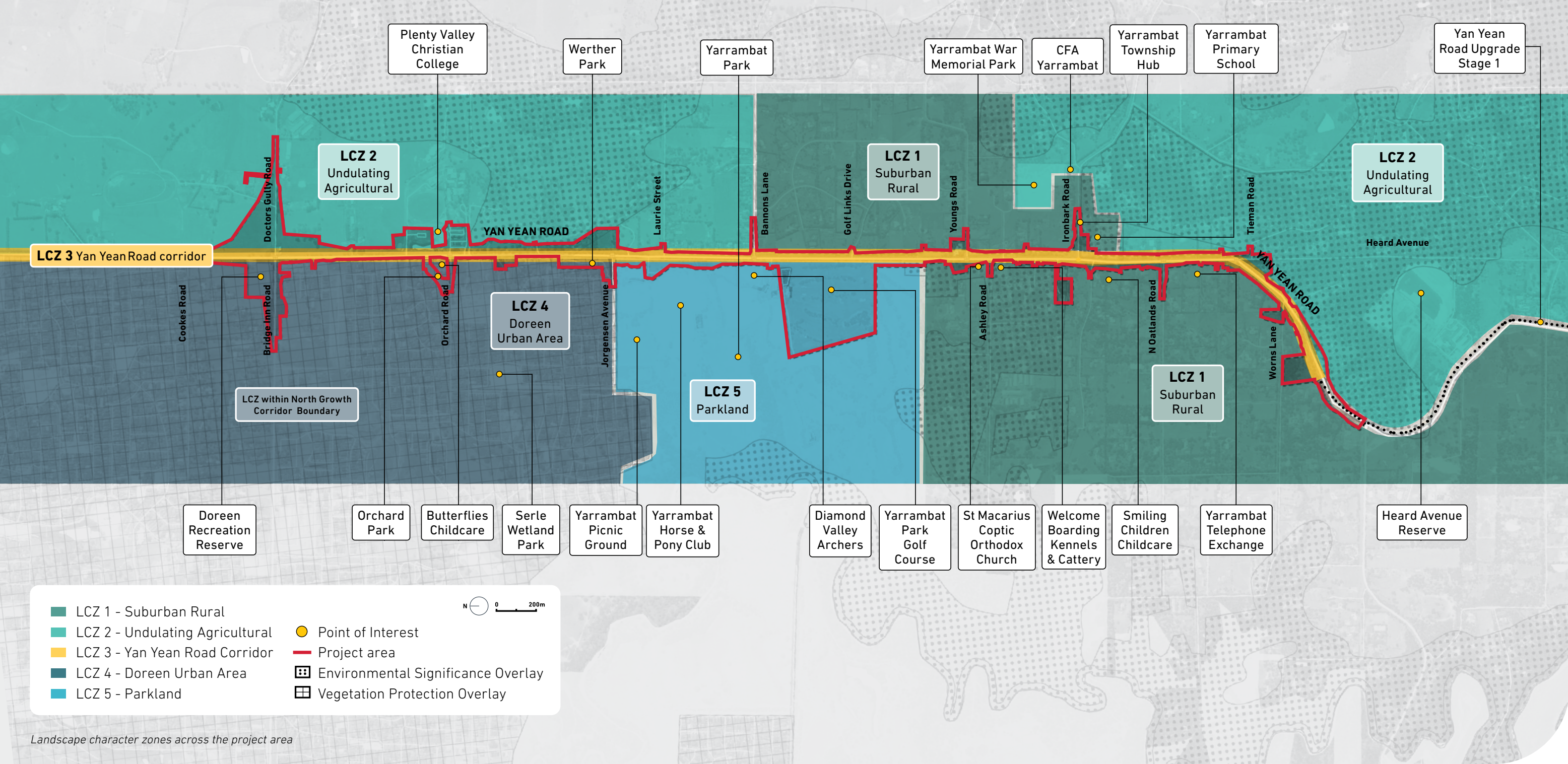
The results of these investigations, as well as feedback received from the community during consultation, helped us to understand the social and cultural values of vegetation in the local area. The Landscape Strategy for the Project has been developed with these social and cultural values front of mind.

We're upgrading
Yan Yean Road to
help you get home
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roadprojects.vic.gov.au/ees

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Landscape character zones across the project area

Landscape Strategy

What the studies found

Yan Yean Road and its surroundings is made up of two distinct and evolving landscapes.

- trees with ecological value accounted for 13% of all culturally valuable vegetation.

Population growth in the north has led to rapid urban development along the north western section of Yan Yean Road.

Contrastingly, the southern and eastern sections of Yan Yean Road continue to provide a scenic rural landscape as part of Nillumbik’s Green Wedge. The landscape of the Project area can be further categorised into five landscape character zones.

Each character zone has recognisable common traits that make that area unique. Each of the five-character zones are different from one another.

Social and cultural values of vegetation

Culturally valuable vegetation is identified as vegetation that helps us understand the past, enriches the present and provides value to future generations.

Vegetation along the entire Project area provides value to the community, with particular trees or clusters of trees providing more social and cultural value than others.

The assessment was informed by a number of reports and technical assessments, including:

- Biodiversity Existing Conditions Report
- Biodiversity Impact Assessment
- Arboriculture Assessment
- Social Impact Assessment
- Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
- feedback received from the community during consultation.

We assessed the cultural value of vegetation in the area. Our studies found that:

- approximately 35% of trees and plants found in the Project area were identified as having some form of cultural value
- five areas of public open space are considered to have social value because of their contribution to public amenity.
- These include Doreen Recreational Reserve, Orchard Park, Werther Park, Yarrambat Park and Yarrambat War Memorial Park

- To effectively assess the social and cultural values of vegetation we looked at the aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and spiritual values of the trees.

What you told us:



Preserving the existing ecology and landscape character is important to you



Project should avoid impacting the two River Red Gum trees on the corner of Doctors Gully Road and Yan Yean Road



There's community concern over potential impacts to local flora and fauna



Walking and cycling paths are highly valued



You want a softer approach to be taken to the urban and landscape design with a strong preference for indigenous plant species



Trees are spread throughout the Project area and are often clusters of native trees that provide foraging habitat for wildlife, such as the Swift Parrot.

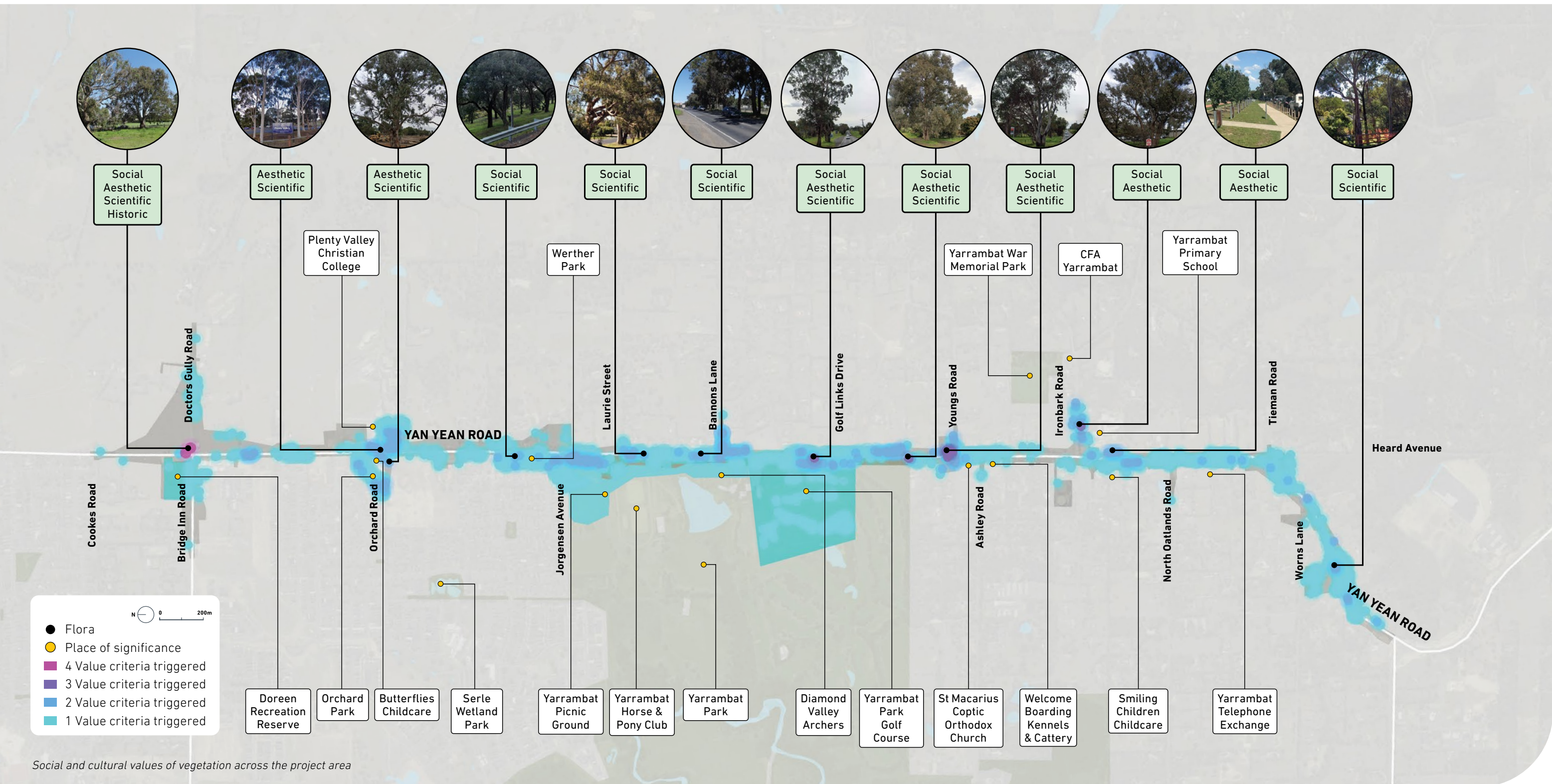
What we heard

In May 2020, we consulted with the community to find out what you value most about the look and feel of the local area, and what landscaping and streetscaping features you'd like to see included as part of the Project.

We also held a series of meetings and workshops with other relevant agencies including the Department of Transport, Office of Victorian Government Architect and local Councils to get their input on the landscape values and principles to help develop the Landscape Strategy.

By combining the ecological value of vegetation with the feedback from the community and other relevant agencies about what is valued most about the look and feel of the local area, we were able to effectively assess the social and cultural value of the trees and vegetation.

→ We used these social and cultural values to guide us while we developed the Landscape Strategy for the Project.



Minimising the impact

To achieve that balance, we've created a Landscape Strategy that:

- identifies the existing values of the landscape character, visual amenity and vegetation in the Project area
- assesses the likely Project impacts to these values
- develops strategies to prevent and mitigate impacts
- enhances the identified values through robust landscape and urban design treatments.

The project acknowledges that the removal of trees and vegetation combined with the increased size of the road will reduce the rural qualities of the existing landscape and increase the dominance of the road infrastructure through the area.

The landscape character of the Project area includes a contrasting mix of rural agricultural scenes and rapidly urbanising growth precincts.

Local landmarks in Yarrambat and Doreen include:

- large and significant trees, including those used as foraging habitat for the Swift Parrot
- the two River Red Gum trees on the corner of Doctors Gully Road and Yan Yean Road
- the old Doreen Post Office building
- the Avenue of Honour trees along Yarrambat Primary School.

We'll continue to work closely with the relevant agencies to make sure landscaping and streetscaping treatments around the Bridge Inn Road and Ironbark Road intersections support the local Council visions for township gateways in these areas.

➔ To help maintain the character of the area, in addition to new planting, the Project will retain and minimise impacts on distinctive local landmarks.

Our commitment

We understand and share the value the community places on the environment and the look and feel of the local area. We've developed an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) that provides a transparent and integrated basis for managing the Project's environmental impact.

The EMF establishes Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) that set the environmental outcomes that must be achieved during design, construction and operation of the new road.

EPRs have been developed to address the Project's identified impacts and deliver environmental benefits.

You can view this as part of the EES documentation available for the Project.

We're committed to preserving the character of Yarrambat and Doreen and using landscaping and streetscaping to enhance the environment as part of this important and much needed road upgrade.

EES Documentation

The EES, including the Landscape Strategy, is available to view and on display for public comment from 31 August to 9 October 2020.

Commenting on the EES gives you a chance to have your views considered as part of the planning approvals decisions for Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2. You can read the EES on our website. Copies are also available on USB by request.

More Information

For more information about the EES process, where to read the document and how to make a submission visit roadprojects.vic.gov.au/yyr-ees.

For more information about the project, email contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au or call 1800 105 105.

Contact us

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