

Meeting notes

Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 Community Reference Group

Date: 25 / 8 / 25

Time: 6pm

Location: Rivers of Yarrambat

Chair: Bruce Turner

Minute taker: Josh Lim

Meeting number: 4

Attendees

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	
Alex Dao (CFA) – Proxy for Tony Field	Liz Lambropoulos, Strategic Transport Planner (Nillumbik Shire Council)
Bill Papanestoros	Angela Vorng, Senior Project Manager - Northern Package (MRPV)
Bronwynne McPherson	Daniel Kollmorgen, Senior Project Manager - Southern Package (MRPV)
Claire McMorron	Helena Woolums, Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager (MRPV)
John Huitt	Joshua Lim, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (MRPV)
Pam Kalms	Paul Reeves, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (MRPV)
Arthur Tsoutsoulis, Senior Project Manager – State Projects (City of Whittlesea)	Bruce Turner, Independent Facilitator (Phoenix Facilitation)

Apologies (Name/Organisation)	
Aimee Dima	John Yeomans
Barbara Marshall	Tony Field (CFA)
Evan Woolnough	Charlotte Claney, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (MRPV)
Felicity Gordon	Leigh Crump, Deputy Program Director (MRPV)
Jo Jamieson	

Key discussion points/decisions

Who	Item
Bruce Turner	Welcome, apologies and confirm the agenda Bruce welcomed the group and noted apologies, performed an Acknowledgement of Country to cover this term of the CRG, and discussed MRPV representatives signing on to the Code of Conduct.
Angela Vorng	Outstanding actions Action 2.1: MRPV to provide a design update for the Doctors Gully Road tie-in, when available - Progress on this item to be discussed in the project update. Action 2.2: MRPV to investigate and confirm Laurimar sewer line status - Angela reported that the sewer line was investigated and found to be redundant.
Angela Vorng Daniel Kollmorgen	Project update Northern section update The project team has been working with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on refinements to the Doctors Gully Road design, as well as with Nillumbik Shire Council to extend the path along Doctors Gully Road to reach Doreen Primary School. Site survey works are scheduled to start from 1 September, finishing in late September to assess location and condition of underground services, including the gas main along Yan Yean Road. Works hours will be from 9.30am to 3pm to minimise traffic impact. While works are in progress, a temporary site compound will be set up in the Doreen Recreation Reserve car park. John H said he was interested in the relationship between the road and gas main, including at his gate (he is connected to gas). Angela and Daniel indicated the intention is to leave the existing infrastructure as is, as much as possible. Southern section update

Who	Item
	Process to select a construction partner for the section has started. Request for proposal has been released to industry. Proposals will be assessed and a preferred contractor selected for the development phase. Process is expected to take until the end of the first quarter of 2026. Works on project design are ongoing, and the team is working with DTP to get design changes approved to meet the project's Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs). Pam asked if the CRG will be briefed on the project design before it gets communicated more widely, particularly around the design decisions for access to Yarrambat Park. Liz added that Nillumbik Shire Council supports traffic signals of some kind to enter Yarrambat Park. Daniel advised that the team is aiming to run through the design of the southern section with the CRG in a future meeting and will cover this design outcome, along with all the other design updates on the project. John asked if lights will be built at the Golf Course entrance, and more lights at Bannons Lane down the road, just 60m apart. Liz and Daniel clarified that there are no detailed designs yet, as those discussions are pending, but this will be on the list of topics for future meetings. John emphasised that he believes there should be a signalised intersection at Bannons Lane, and that Nillumbik Council should push for that outcome. He also suggested that the Archery Club should be relocated to accommodate these changes. Liz reaffirmed that Council's position is that all sporting clubs remain where they are. Daniel advised that, at this stage, the project is working with DTP to provide appropriate signalised access to Yarrambat Park, but discussions are still ongoing. Last month, the team shared that it was working with DTP to look at temporary options to improve safety at Jorgensen Avenue. DTP has reviewed the crash records in the last 5 years and, while recognising the poor performance of the intersection, will not be taking any action at Jorgensen Avenue between now and when MRPV takes possession of the site. Once MRPV takes possession, the project will be able to put out safety barriers and reduce speeds, which will improve safety. There are competing objectives for the project when it comes to the section of Yan Yean Road between Laurie Street and Bannons Lane. One objective is to improve safety, catering for large vehicles like caravans reversing into properties. A competing objective is to save and retain trees by building a wider median between the carriageways in that location. If the design makes changes to make the area safer, that will result in tree loss. MRPV is working with DTP and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to negotiate these changes and strike a balance, requiring approval from DTP to manage safety outcomes, and approval from DEECA to manage tree loss. Bronwynne shared that she was speaking to a resident in that area recently who strongly supports a service road in that section for safety. Arthur asked if there was any right turn capability in this section, Daniel confirmed there was not, as it's a divided carriageway. This area has around 125 trees in the median, some of them being ecologically significant.
Helena Woolums	Environment and sustainability update The project's management plans are being finalised. An Independent Environmental Auditor has been appointed to audit the plans before construction starts. The Environmental Management Framework (EMF) will also be published on the website soon. Regarding the management of vegetation, high value species like the Studley Park Gum and Matted Flax Lily require special treatment. For instance, if the project can't retain the Studley Park Gum, MRPV will collect seeds and propagate them, and the Matted Flax Lily will be translocated if needed. It's best to avoid replanting endangered species back in the roadway,

Who	Item
	as future protections aren't guaranteed. Instead, they'll be replanted in a permanent protected conservation site with a management plan. A heritage impact statement will also be prepared for management of the Doreen River Red Gums. The project is continuing to investigate options for fauna management, most recently assessing an animal detection driver warning system that detects if wildlife is on the road and flashes up warnings on signs to warn drivers. The project wouldn't be installing any of these kinds of fauna management measures until after the road is built. Technology moves fast in this space, so the team will continue to monitor options and determine what the best solution is at the time of installation. Claire raised the fencing discussion from the previous meeting and asked if it would work if the fencing was only on one side, and not the other due to the houses there. Helena advised that fencing only works if it's on both sides, and the project can't fully seal off the road due to needing to accommodate driveway access. Even if that was possible, it would form an uncrossable barrier and lead to other fauna issues like genetic isolation. Structures like tunnels and bridges for fauna have also been looked at but were ruled out after a multi-criteria analysis and feasibility process.
Paul Reeves	Communications and stakeholder engagement update Update letters will be going out soon to properties within the Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) and Special Controls Overlay (SCO), which covers properties near the roadside within the project area. The PAO allows for land acquisition while the SCO gives permissions to MRPV to build the project. A Community Update will be going out in early September. The project team has arranged with Yarrambat and Doreen post offices to distribute printed materials into PO boxes and will also get as much electronic communications out as possible. The project team is also looking at doing a community pop-up further north in Laurimar, to update community closer to the northern package of the project. Members agreed this is a good idea. Bronwynne mentioned there are several community Facebook pages around the area and asked if we'd tried talking to the admins to share information through those. Paul responded that had been attempted on a previous project, but with some difficulties. The best way forward would be to provide information to the admins and have them direct questions to Big Build Roads.
All	Open questions and discussion The group discussed options for the December CRG meeting. Consensus was to continue with the current schedule of online and in-person meetings, skip the December meeting, and potentially hold the January 2026 meeting on Monday 19 January 2026 in-person (as Monday 26 January is a public holiday). Bruce raised that he'll be away during the next meeting in September and suggested someone from the project team chair in his stead. After discussion, the group nominated Charlotte to chair the next meeting.
All	Close Next meeting to be held online on Monday 29 September.

Actions

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
1	MRPV to provide a design update for the Doctors Gully Road tie-in, when available	MRPV	Sep 2025	OPEN	Design options under assessment, discussion ongoing with DTP