

# Meeting notes

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

**Date:** 28 / 7 / 25

**Time:** 6pm

**Location:** Online meeting

**Chair:** Bruce Turner

**Minute taker:** Josh Lim

**Meeting number:** 3

### Attendees

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	
Barbara Marshall	Arthur Tsoutsoulis, Senior Project Manager – State Projects (City of Whittlesea)
Bronwynne McPherson	Charlotte Claney, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (MRPV)
Claire McMorron	Daniel Kollmorgen, Senior Project Manager - Southern Package (MRPV)
Evan Woolnough	Helena Woolums, Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager (MRPV)
Felicity Gordon	Josh Lim, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (MRPV)
Joanne Jamieson	Leigh Crump, Deputy Program Director (MRPV)
John Huitt	Paul Reeves, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (MRPV)
John Yeomans	Bruce Turner, Independent Facilitator (Phoenix Facilitation)
Pamela Kalms	

Apologies (Name/Organisation)	
Aimee Dima	Liz Lambropoulos, Strategic Transport Planner (Nillumbik Shire Council)
Bill Papanestoros	Angela Vorng, Senior Project Manager - Northern Package (MRPV)
Tony Field (CFA)	

### Key discussion points/decisions

Who	Item
Bruce Turner	<p><b>Welcome, apologies and agenda</b></p> <p>Bruce opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country, noted apologies, provided an overview of how the first online meeting would run, and called for outstanding items.</p> <p>John Y shared that Decmil had mentioned in a recent meeting that design changes at Doctors Gully Road may be possible to improve access to their property and reduce design impacts on nearby properties. Leigh confirmed the design is under review and he would provide an update during this meeting.</p> <p>Evan and John H raised a concern from a resident about access for properties between Laurie Street and Bannons Lane once the upgrade is completed. Charlotte confirmed the topic was on the agenda and would be discussed.</p>
Leigh Crump	<p><b>Outstanding actions</b></p> <p><b>Action 2.1:</b> MRPV to provide a design update for the Doctors Gully Road tie-in, when available  <b>Action 2.2:</b> MRPV to investigate and confirm the Laurimar sewer line status</p> <p>Both action items on the agenda are still in progress, with updates to be provided on Action 2.1 in the project update. No update available on Action 2.2.</p>
Leigh Crump and Daniel Kollmorgen	<p><b>Project update</b></p> <p><b>Northern section update</b></p> <p>Construction for the northern section on track to begin in November 2025, current focus on design and utilities. Contract not awarded yet but work continuing with preferred contractor Decmil. Further site investigations scheduled for August, including geotechnical testing and feature surveys to assist design, and Non-Destructive Digging (NDD) works to locate utilities. Design will reach preliminary design stage in September and feedback will be sought from DTP and Councils.</p> <p>Design refinements being explored to reduce the footprint of the Bridge Inn, Yan Yean and Doctors Gully Road intersection and Doctors Gully Road tie in, as well as improve access for 25 Doctors Gully Road. A land reduction scope and potential relocation of the heavy vehicle U-turn opportunity on Doctors Gully Road to Activity Way is being considered. Both Barbara and John Y expressed appreciation for the consideration of these changes and a hope that they would be integrated into the design.</p>

Who	Item
	<p>Pamela enquired about access to her property at 50 Doctors Gully Road. Leigh responded that she should be able to turn left and right as the current conditions allow. Additionally, the two-to-one lane merge that Pamela raised as a concern in a previous CRG meeting should not be an issue in the updated design.</p> <p><b>Southern section update</b></p> <p>Southern section in the concept design stage, construction planned to begin in mid-2026. Daniel confirmed southern section will be delivered as a single package of works by one contractor with the procurement process to start later in the year. MRPV has reached an agreement with Yarra Valley Water to relocate the pump station. Consultation with Nillumbik Council and Belgravia Leisure regarding the golf course redesign is ongoing. Previous design still posed a risk of golf balls entering the road. Updated design under consideration that requires redesign of three golf holes but will provide a safer outcome. Agreed plan is to begin construction on a practice 19<sup>th</sup> hole this summer, so it is up and running before works begin on the other three holes.</p> <p>Joanne asked if construction for the southern section will take longer than Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 1? Daniel confirmed that it is expected to take up to 3.5 years to reach practical completion. He said the team are very conscious of the length of time construction will be underway on Yan Yean Road and the level of disruption that it will have on traffic, road users, and the local community.</p> <p><b>Community topic request: Yarrambat Park access arrangement</b></p> <p>The project is exploring the possibility of installing traffic signals north of the Yarrambat Park Golf Course to provide a right turn into the golf course from the southbound lanes. The project is also investigating access to Yarrambat Park from the northern end to allow for right turns in and out of the park. 3D modelling is in progress to understand the geometry of the road to determine if these changes are feasible.</p> <p>Joanne asked if the additional traffic signals would be synchronised with the traffic signals at Jorgensen Avenue? Daniel advised VicRoads typically phase lights on the same cycle.</p> <p>John H noted a correction to the June CRG meeting notes. The notes said he had spoken to a Councillor about plans to improve Yarrambat Park. He clarified that the Councillor said Council may bring a consultant on closer to the end of the year to develop a Master Plan to improve access to Yarrambat Park, not specifically including a four-way intersection at Bannons Lane.</p> <p><b>Community topic request: Access to properties on Yan Yean Road between Laurie Street and Bannons Lane</b></p> <p>Investigations are ongoing with several design options under consideration to allow vehicles to safely access the properties between Bannons Lane and Laurie Street. The project team aims to resolve this matter within the next few months, so that the tender period for the project can commence with a solution confirmed.</p> <p>John H asked if a service lane involving tree removal had been explored earlier in the design process. Daniel confirmed it had but would require compulsory land acquisition from the properties and the project is avoiding land acquisition and tree removal from these properties.</p> <p><b>Community topic request: Jorgensen Avenue intersection temporary safety improvements</b></p> <p>Discussions underway with DTP to determine if interim solutions are necessary/appropriate to improve safety before construction starts. Once construction starts, the lower speed limits along Yan Yean Road will improve safety until the intersection is upgraded. John H asked if it was possible to get a set of portable traffic lights. Daniel advised Jorgensen Avenue and Yan</p>

Who	Item
	<p>Yean Road are already operating over capacity. Adding traffic signals would shift additional queuing traffic from Jorgensen Avenue onto Yan Yean Road, significantly impacting traffic flow and safety on Yan Yean Road. The project is working through other potential solutions, but temporary traffic lights would likely be deemed unsuitable for this reason.</p>
<p>Helena Woolums</p>	<p><b>Environment and sustainability update</b></p> <p>Currently working with Decmil to create Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to manage water runoff, dust, construction noise, etc. Once ready, the plans will go to the Councils for feedback and then be reviewed by an Independent Environmental Auditor (IEA). The IEA will then audit adherence to these plans during construction. Government policy requires the project to undergo carbon footprint modelling, which will continue to change as the design is modified. The project has also assessed whether current vegetation conditions are still in line with the surveys conducted earlier in the project lifecycle. Overall, findings are that the native vegetation habitat has increased slightly, while the quality has decreased slightly.</p> <p>Barbara asked if virtual fencing had been considered and if the project had looked at some of the options for wildlife protection crossing Yan Yean Road. Helena advised experts had been engaged to assess wildlife data in the area and present mitigation options. High collision areas were identified near the golf course and dam. Options for mitigation are limited, and while some may assist, none fully solve the issue. The project has looked at several options, including virtual fencing, physical fencing and variable speed limits. Physical fencing is unsuitable as it may trap animals on the road and moves the issue elsewhere on the road. Virtual fencing has been investigated and not recommended by experts for this project. The root of the issue is that wildlife movement is a landscape issue, and not one that can be solved by a single road project.</p> <p>Barbara asked how much work will be done to understand the foraging requirements of the swift parrot, noting there had been some recent news that a sizeable flock of swift parrots had been spotted in Victoria. Also, what options are being considered to sustain wildlife? Helena advised that this was considered as part of the EES. Some foraging and habitat trees will have to be removed as part of the project, but the project has requirements to minimise removal. While trees will be reinstated, placement and habitat need to be carefully considered as the project does not want to replant along the road corridor and encourage swift parrots to forage or reside near a busy roadway. The environment team is trying to find a compromise that balances both sides.</p>
<p>Paul Reeves</p>	<p><b>Communications and stakeholder engagement update</b></p> <p>Two community drop-in sessions were held to speak about the project with the community. Key discussion points raised included construction timeframes for each package, the design of the southern package, the status of land acquisition, tree removal, traffic noise once construction is finished, and public transport disruptions during construction.</p> <p>A Community Update newsletter went out to 5,000 properties in early July. The next newsletter is planned for late August. Paul said that conversations at the recent community drop-in sessions revealed that some residents with PO Boxes did not receive the newsletter, as it was letterbox-dropped and not posted. We've spoken to Nillumbik Shire Council about how best to address this. The team are looking to increase signups for email communications and to provide copies of the Community Update newsletters to local post offices for residents who use PO Boxes. It would also be possible to provide some copies to local clubs and organisations. Paul invited feedback from the group on this proposal.</p>

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	<p>Pam, Joanne and Barbara noted that they hadn't received the Community Update. Paul asked which post offices are best to target besides the Yarrambat Post Office. Pam said that she mainly uses the Doreen Post Office. Barbara suggested that Hurstbridge Post Office or the Hurstbridge Community Hub might be a good location as well, as lots of Doreen locals use the hub to access services.</p> <p>Paul reminded members to provide requests for agenda items for the next meeting as soon as possible, to give the team enough time to prepare information to present. Leigh added that the team is keen to map out a timeline of when information on key topics of interest will be ready to be discussed at the CRG.</p>
All	<p><b>Open questions and discussion</b></p> <p>John Y asked when the group will get confirmation on the various design changes and proposals discussed at this meeting for the northern section. Leigh advised that confirmation should be available by the September CRG meeting. Daniel advised that design refinements proposed in the southern section would most likely be confirmed in November.</p>
Bruce Turner	<p><b>Close</b></p> <p>Bruce confirmed that the next meeting would be face-to-face again, scheduled for Monday 25 August at Rivers of Yarrambat.</p>

#### Outstanding actions

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
2.1	MRPV to provide a design update for the Doctors Gully Road tie-in, when available	MRPV	September 2025	Open	Design options under assessment, discussion ongoing with DTP
2.2	MRPV to investigate and confirm Laurimar sewer line status	MRPV	Ongoing	Open	N/A