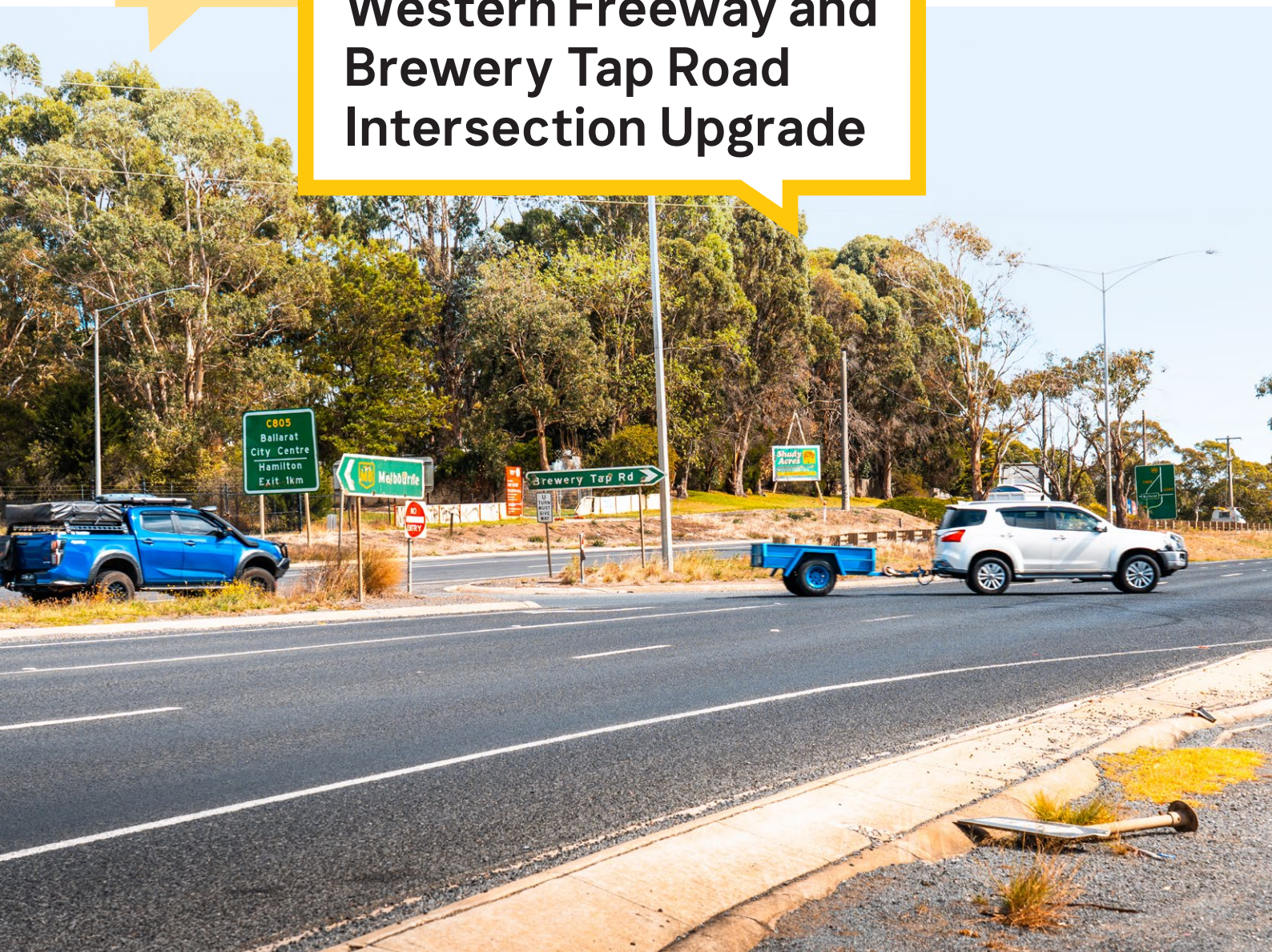


**What you
said**

Western Freeway and Brewery Tap Road Intersection Upgrade



SEPTEMBER 2026

Community Consultation Summary

bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads

WESTERN FREEWAY AND BREWERY TAP ROAD INTERSECTION UPGRADE

Planning and early works are underway for a future upgrade to the Western Freeway and Brewery Tap Road intersection in Warrenheip.

Community consultation

From 16 February to 8 March 2026, we asked for community feedback to help inform our planning. Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide feedback.

441 ONLINE SURVEYS COMPLETED

| 75 COMMENTS ON THE INTERACTIVE MAP

134,269 REACHED VIA SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING

5,725 UNIQUE VISITORS TO THE ENGAGE VICTORIA WEBPAGE | 90 PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR COMMUNITY POP-UP

What you've said

Your feedback has provided important local insights and helped us understand how the community and local businesses use the intersection. People also shared their views on safety, traffic flow and what we should consider in our planning.

“U-turn must give way sign needs to be clearer as it almost causes crashes regularly.”

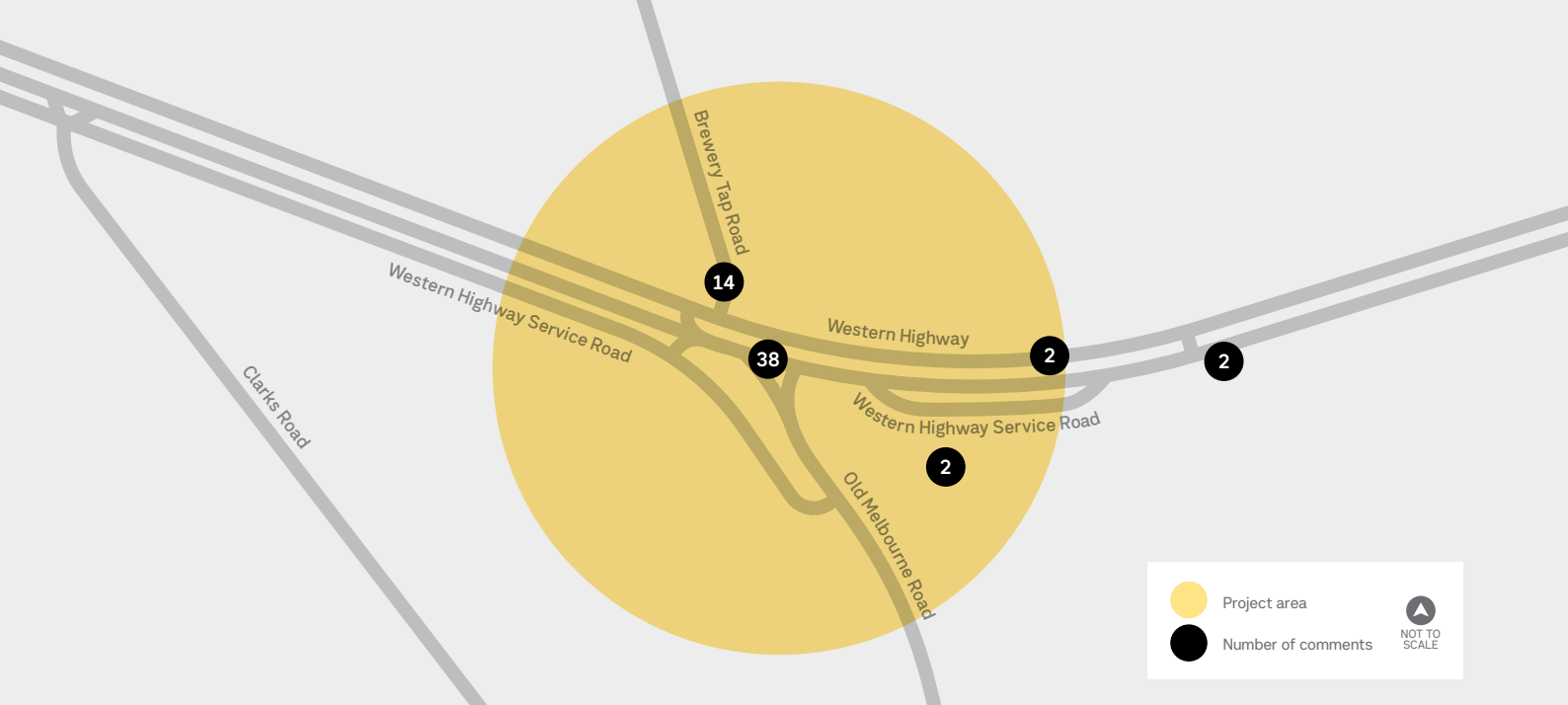
“Create service road for motel, mini golf, etc.”

“This area has been a major problem for years. It needs a complete overhaul to ensure safe navigation of all vehicles.”

“A service road would be make it safer for homes along Western Highway.”

“An upgrade would make access safer and more reliable.”

“Drivers are confused about who has the right of way when doing the u-turn towards Melbourne. Signage to confirm this would help prevent accidents.”



COMMUNITY SURVEY

The community survey received **441** responses.

36% of respondents live in the area, **30%** commute through the area, **19%** travel to the area for other work purposes, **11%** work in the area, **3%** have children that attend school in the area and **1%** study in the area.

79% of respondents said they felt unsafe or very unsafe the last time they travelled through the intersection, **12%** said they felt neither unsafe or safe, and **9%** said they felt safe or very safe.

86% of respondents said they experienced traffic congestion last time they travelled through the intersection. **31%** said they experienced delays of 1 to 2 minutes, **27%** said they experienced delays of 2 to 5 minutes, **21%** said they experienced delays of less than 1 minute, and **7%** said they experienced delays of greater than 5 minutes.

52% of respondents indicated they have deliberately avoided the Western Freeway and Brewery Tap Road intersection. The most common alternate routes identified include the Western Freeway Service Road, Daylesford Road and Eureka Street.

When asked what their main concerns were when using the intersection, the top concerns raised were: safety (**26%**), poor road user behaviour (**23%**), traffic flow (**19%**), traffic builds up at certain spots (**13%**), and unpredictable travel times (**6%**).

59% of respondents indicated they were either supportive or very supportive of changing the way people access local businesses to make the intersection safer, **20%** were neither supportive nor unsupportive, **21%** were unsupportive or very unsupportive.

When asked which of the following improvements would make them feel most safe when travelling through the intersection, respondents identified the following as top priorities: removing intersections across the freeway (**42%**), improved safety along the Western Freeway between Ballarat-Burrumbeet Rd & Bungaree-Wallace Rd (**35%**), reducing the number of direct entry and exit points to the freeway (**16%**) and increasing speed limits (**7%**).

When asked what improvements they would most like to see as part of an upgrade to the intersection, the top priorities were:

- Grade separation, such as a new overpass or underpass (**37%**)
- Improved road signage (**12%**)
- Additional road lanes (**11%**)
- Reducing entry and exit points to the freeway (**10%**)
- Clearer line marking (**9%**)

Other suggestions included introducing a continuous speed limit through the section, improving lighting and adding a roundabout or traffic lights at the intersection.

Interactive map feedback

The interactive map on Engage Victoria received **75** comments.

Community feedback highlighted safety concerns at the intersection, particularly due to high-speed freeway traffic, heavy vehicles and complex turning movements. Many respondents reported difficulty turning right from the Western Freeway onto Brewery Tap Road or merging into fast-moving traffic, with several noting near misses. U-turn movements, multiple access points and limited visibility were also identified as contributing to confusion and increased crash risk.

There was support noted for an overpass to separate local traffic (Brewery Tap Road and Old Melbourne Road) from freeway traffic.

Some respondents asked for safety improvements, including extending slip lanes and clearer merge line-marking, a service road for business access to reduce direct driveways onto the freeway, and clearer signage, including larger “U-turn must give way” and high-speed approach warning signs.

Feedback highlighted the need for a long-term solution that prioritises safety and supports future traffic growth.

Face to face engagement

90 people attended our community pop-up on 21 February at the Warrenheip Memorial Hall.

Most attendees were nearby residents and business owners who shared their experiences using the intersection and provided suggestions for how it could be improved.

- Many attendees shared safety concerns, citing near misses, confusing traffic movements and difficulty safely crossing or merging with high-speed freeway traffic.
- There was support for a grade-separated interchange (overpass with entry and exit ramps) to maintain effective traffic flow on the Western Freeway.
- Feedback highlighted challenges turning right onto Brewery Tap Road or merging onto the Western Freeway, particularly when accelerating from a standstill into fast-moving traffic.
- Several attendees noted that U-turn movements, closely spaced entry and exit points and vehicles entering or leaving nearby businesses create confusion and increase crash risk.
- Concerns were raised about trucks and vehicles travelling at high speeds, making the intersection harder and more intimidating to navigate.
- Some participants suggested a range of complementary measures for consideration, including clearer and earlier warning signage (particularly on high-speed approaches), extending merging and acceleration lanes, improved sight distances through vegetation maintenance and lighting, and safer options for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the freeway.

- Attendees emphasised the need to maintain easy access to Warrenheip, neighbouring towns, Old Melbourne Road and local businesses while improving safety. They asked us to explore a continuous service-road arrangement and simpler movements by relocating or rationalising U-turns and right turns. People also suggested consolidating or closing high-risk direct driveways, including service-station exits, to reduce conflict points.

Social media

We advertised on Facebook and Instagram during the consultation period. In total, these posts received **120** comments. Feedback showed strong support for upgrading the intersection, with many people recommending a grade-separated solution such as an overpass to separate local traffic from freeway traffic.

The main concerns raised were safety risks, difficulty turning or merging with high-speed traffic, conflicts caused by U-turns and multiple access points, and heavy vehicles travelling through the intersection at high speeds.

Next steps

Community feedback will be used to inform planning work and design options.

Initial planning work will be complete in 2027 and will be used to inform the design, cost and timeline of the upgrade.