

# October Meeting Minutes

## Community Reference Group



**Subject:** Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Community Reference Group

**Date:** Monday 8 October 2018      **Time:** 6.15pm for 6.30pm-8pm

**Location:** The Gallery, Rivers of Yarrambat - 28 Kurrag Road, Yarrambat

**Meeting number:** 7

**Chair:** Warren Bradshaw

**Minute-taker:** Charlotte Claney

### Attendees

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	Apologies (Name/Organisation)
Anne Trueman (AT)	Ben Matters (BM), MRPA
Barbara Marshall (BaM)	Damian van Dyke (DvD), MRPA
Joanne Jamieson (JJ)	Neisha Forbes (NF)
John Yeomans (JY)	
Milton Embling (ME)	
Pam Hoyne (PH)	
Susan Farley (SF)	
Chinthaka Arachchige (CA), MRPA	
Charlotte Claney (CC), MRPA	
Nerilee Kerslake (NK), MRPA	
Warren Bradshaw (WB), MRPA	

## Actions - previous

#	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
6.1	Provide update to group about overhanging tree limbs revisit with Jonathan Risby (Nillumbik Council)	CA	8 Oct 2018	Ongoing	CA had passed on request to JR at Nillumbik Council but advised group that JR has since left Nillumbik Council. CA advised he will follow up Nillumbik Council and update group at next meeting. CA advised he would check on locations provided by AT with MRPA's surveillance officers in the meantime
6.2	Include Memorial Drive and Daviesia Drive in September/October local traffic count survey	CA	8 Oct 2018	Closed	Confirmed that suggested local roads will be included in late October local road traffic counts
6.3	Bring local traffic count survey results to October CRG meeting for group to review	CA	8 Oct 2018	Closed	Group advised that local road traffic surveys will commence in late October, so to avoid school holidays period and planned traffic switches. Confirmed that previous traffic counts surveyed 15 local roads. CRG has suggested new locations that will be added
6.4	Supply construction planning information for October CRG meeting	SG	8 Oct 2018	Closed	CA comfortable to speak on topic on behalf of SG. CA will include in Item 3 discussion
6.5	Bring final design roll plot to October CRG meeting	CC	8 Oct 2018	Closed	Communications materials from October community update sessions, including final design, were displayed around the function room at October CRG meeting
6.6	Circulate materials for community sessions ahead of time to CRG members	CC	Prior to 3 Oct 2018	Closed	Group confirmed that they had received communications materials sent through by CC in the lead up to community update sessions

## Key discussion points

Agenda item	Discussion summary
Item 1 – Welcome and apologies	BM, DvD and NF are apologies this evening. JJ arrived 7.15pm.

Agenda item	Discussion summary
Item 2 – Confirming the agenda	Agenda confirmed with group. PCAG talking topics added to other business agenda item.
Item 3 – Stage 1 project update	<p>CA began by telling the group that a traffic switch was successfully completed on 20 September in Zone 8. A previous traffic switch, earlier in September, in Zone 2 was also successful. CA said that that allows important works to be undertaken on the existing sections of Yan Yean Road in those areas.</p> <p>CA said that excavations and bulk earthworks are now underway in all 10 construction zones.</p> <p>CA advised that construction of the retaining wall through the gully in Zone 4 is nearly complete. CA said that next, traffic barriers, fill and road construction will commence in that area. CA added that a number of retaining walls are currently being constructed in Zones 3, 4 and 10, and that retaining wall installation will be ongoing.</p> <p>CA told the group that the first stage of switching power services over to newly installed power lines has been successfully completed in Zones 2 and 3. CA said that power began being switched over in Zone 10 recently, and will be complete by the end of the month. CA added that gas assets were recently connected at Mackelroy Road, and that other gas assets near the Diamond Creek Road intersection would be connected shortly.</p> <p>CA shared with the group that tree removal for the project is mostly complete but that some tree removal would continue while services are relocated. JY asked how many trees had been removed to date. NK responded that tree removal figures are currently under 2,100. JY asked for clarification on original estimates. CC responded that this figure was down from the 2,800 trees estimated would be impacted in February, which was down further from the original estimate of 3,900 impacted trees. AT asked if the reduction from 3,900 to 2,800 was due to retaining walls being installed along the alignment. NK answered that strategic retaining wall installation in key location did lead to a significant number of trees avoiding impact. CA added that 23 retaining walls will be installed at select locations to avoid impacting trees. CA added that another measure undertaken has been to abut fences with existing trees with property owner consent, rather than removing the tree.</p> <p>PH asked what wildlife had been encountered and relocated, stating this was important to the community. CC responded that so far, 24 animals has been encountered. Consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a hive of bees</li> <li>• skinks</li> <li>• sugar gliders</li> <li>• ringtail possums</li> <li>• microbats</li> <li>• brushtail possums</li> <li>• a gecko</li> <li>• a tawny frogmouth</li> </ul> <p>Of those encounters, nine animals were moved under the supervision of a wild life specialist. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a gecko</li> <li>• two skinks</li> <li>• a sugar glider</li> <li>• two microbats</li> <li>• two possums</li> </ul>

Agenda item	Discussion summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a beehive</li> </ul> <p>CA spoke about the upcoming traffic switch at Kurrak Road intersection, schedule for 26-28 October. CC told that group that those living in the area would receive a works notification about the traffic switch in their letter boxes on 19 October.</p> <p>PH asked if the proposed Diamond Creek Road shutdown would take place early next year. CA responded that was an option being investigated to attempt to avoid lengthy disruption and instead undertake key construction activities in a few weeks blitz. CA advised that it is only being investigated at this stage to see if it is possible and can happen from a disruption standpoint.</p> <p>CA spoke next about vibration. CA said that monitoring is being undertaken consistently and that vibration levels are within allowable limits. CA said low impact rollers are being trailed on the project because even though levels are within limits, the vibration can be disruptive and unpleasant. The trails have been successful so far and are continuing. PH thinks low impact rollers should be introduced on Stage 2 if they are trialled successfully on Stage 2. WB agreed with PH's statement.</p> <p>CA shared with the group that MRPA are in the process of procuring transponders for Plenty CFA to assist in helping them get to emergencies faster.</p> <p>WB asked CA how the road closure went in August to safely relocate the former Plenty Church building. CA responded that it went smoothly, with no significant traffic impacts. WB asked CA to clarify how long the closure was for. CA confirmed that Yan Yean Road was closed for four hours that day. WB asked SF if she noticed drivers rat running in local streets during the closure, as SF had been concerned about that during the August CRG meeting. SF agreed that she observed no rat running behaviour. WB complimented the communications efforts around the road closure, as traffic detours were handled well and traffic disruption was reported to be minimal. ME said that some power relocation works were also undertaken during the road closure. CC agreed that other works were done at the same time in order to avoid further disruption later.</p>
Item 4 – Stage 2 project update	<p>WB addressed the group in BM's absence. WB told the group that MRPA are continuing with preconstruction activities. WB said that MRPA are continuing to refine the reference design, which forms part of the documentation in the request for tender process.</p> <p>WB advised that the Northern SRU package of seven projects was on track to go to market in December 2018. WB shared that MRPA are close to being able to announce who the successful tenderers are that will advance through to the expression of interest phase.</p> <p>WB said that MRPA are still awaiting a decision from DELWP about the planning attributes on Yan Yean Road but that it had been posted on the DELWP website around six to seven weeks ago.</p>
Item 5 – Enviro update	<p>NK talked the group through the landscaping plans, planting schedule and images of mature plants for Stage 1 Yan Yean Road Upgrade that were on display at the meeting.</p> <p>NK said that one thing this project is doing, that few projects do, is to incorporate native grass mix as part of the landscaping works. NK said that the project was also planting trees back as much as possible, and focussing on native planting and screening mixes to provide additional privacy in key areas for residents. NK further advised that Ephemeral planting mixes will be used in detention basins, and Accent plantings will tend to feature in medians. Predominantly local species. NK said the project had favoured grassed areas instead of heavily mulched areas to retain a softer look, more in keeping with the natural feel of the local area. NK told the group that the landscaping plans they were looking at had been through 6-8 significant updates. Simplifying what was originally quite a complex landscape plan with over 20 planting mixes.</p> <p>PH said that landscaping is very important to members of the Plenty community impacted by the project. NK told PH that the majority of seeds collected from the project area and propagated will</p>

Agenda item	Discussion summary
	<p>go towards a private planting initiative to benefit impacted local residents. CC added that 15 properties so far had registered their interest in participating in the initiative. NK said that seedlings for private planting and landscaping were being propagated now, in anticipation for planting in autumn/winter 2019. CC passed around images of planting mixes for group to look at examples of mature plant species.</p> <p>PH said it is very important to show visually what is happening along the alignment in terms of landscaping, that people need to see what it will look like outside their properties. NK asked CC if the artist impressions had been received yet from the Contractor. CC replied not yet. PH reiterated that this aspect was so important to the community.</p> <p>NK told the group that usually maintenance contracts are for two years, and the contractor handles maintenance, but that this project is three years maintenance by an approved landscape specialist. NK also said that MRPA requested plants for landscaping were tube stock plants, which are larger than other stock. NK went on to say that other plants and trees will be semi-mature and grown in a special pot for enhanced root growth. NK added that MRPA are serious about looking after everything that is planted in the ground.</p> <p>ME asked how people found out about the private planting initiative. CC responded that eligible residents received letters outlining the initiative and inviting them to participate, and that registration sheets were also available at the October community update sessions.</p>
Item 6 – Key discussion topic	<p><i>JJ arrived 7.15pm</i></p> <p><i>The group got up and walked over to a display of corflutes showing retaining wall colour options and a timber totems and benches feedback form, and discussed retaining wall colour options and timber reuse initiatives.</i></p> <p>CC went through the timber reuse initiatives with the group. CC advised that mulch had been delivered to Yarrambat Primary School for use in play areas, timber had been delivered to Plenty CFA to undertake chainsaw training with then to raffle off the remaining timber for fundraising purposes. CC advised that the local Hockey Club had also received timber to raffle off as firewood and assist with their community fundraising efforts.</p> <p>CC told they group that we wanted everyone’s feedback on the proposed six timber totems and eight timber benches. CC walked the group through the feedback form everyone had been provided, and said that one bench would become a memorial bench in memory of Stephen Bourke but that we wanted the community to tell us what they’d like to see and where for the remaining seven benches and six timber totems to be carved by local chainsaw artist Leigh Conkie. The group thinks the Yarrambat Post Office would be a good spot for a timber totem.</p> <p>AT asked about graffiti on the retaining walls. CC answered that the textured surface is unattractive to graffiti vandals and that from a maintenance perspective, VicRoads have plentiful stock of the colour options to paint over any graffiti. ME asked if the colour of the paint will fade over time. NK answered that it will weather slightly. BaM said it should last for 20-25 years, and WB agreed.</p> <p><i>CA talked the group through the final design and connectivity map corflutes on display at the other end of the room.</i></p>
Item 7 – Other business	<p>PCAG asked for a status update on solar panels on bus stops. CA updated the group that solar panels on bus stops is still being investigated. CA advised that bus stops are now closer to signalised pedestrian intersections with lighting but that if a bus stop is away from a signalised intersection and needs lighting, lighting will be provided, and solar power is being explored as a possible option. CA added that the street lighting design was being done as we speak.</p> <p>PCAG asked which community groups had received timber from trees felled during construction. CC reminded the group that the environmental initiatives and timber reuse initiatives had been</p>

Agenda item	Discussion summary
	<p>discussed earlier in Item 6, and were also detailed in the Environment and Heritage information brochure that was available at the community updates sessions and on the project webpage, and had been handed out to the group at the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>PCAG asked if the land care role would be filled. NK advised that Tori Harvey is in the land care role, doing a great job, enjoys it and is very personable. CC added that the environmental team meet weekly to discuss environmental initiatives and timber reuse, and regularly meet with Nillumbik Council to progress these initiatives. NK added that MRPA are no longer actively recruiting for this role, as TH is doing a great job in it.</p> <p>PCAG asked for a status update on securing local offsets in Plenty. NK said she had received an email recently from Council about offsets. NK updated the group that Council is in the process of recruiting for a new environmental manager, so the process had been slowed slightly. NK went on to add that the situation is further complicated by many local offsets having a bushfire management overlay on them. NK advised that it is still a work in progress but MRPA have approached Council to formally reserve offset sites and are awaiting formal written notification from Council that they have been secured. CA added that a consultant has been engaged to review the local offset sites and confirm if they are the most appropriate sites, NK is reviewing a report, and MRPA are liaising with Council. WB said that if we have something further to share by December, we will share it at the December CRG meeting.</p> <p>PCAG asked about the results of local traffic surveys. WB said that as previously advised, the local traffic count surveys will take place in late October 2018.</p> <p>PH said some property owners going through partial acquisition are still confused about the land acquisition and compensation process. WB acknowledged that statement and reminded the group that MRPA and VicRoads Property Services had attended and presented at a PCAG earlier in the year to provide clarification on the process. PH asked if MRPA will undertake more community consultation around land acquisition and compensation. WB replied no, it is independent negotiation with landowners at this late stage. CA contributed that 30% of impacted landowners had submitted their claims or have finalised. CA clarified that the other landowners need to participate in the process, nothing can progress until they have submitted their claims. JY said that it depends too on whether landowners are zoned as developable land or green wedge land with how happy landowners are in the end. WB said it is difficult to comment on individual cases.</p> <p>AT asked if Stage 2 will be along the same alignment as it was 35 years ago when she moved into the area because it would impact less people if they've known for 30 years that the road would be coming through. WB said the road hasn't moved but it depends how many people knew about it 30 years ago.</p> <p>JY asked if there was any update for the property owners between Laurie Street and Bannons Lane who had requested a service road. WB answered not yet but we are hoping the contractor who comes on board will have some additional creative solutions for this issue.</p>
Item 8 – Close	<p>WB ran through the actions that arose from this meeting. The group confirmed the actions.</p> <p>WB confirmed the next CRG meeting is scheduled for 10 December. WB advised that the first meetings for 2019 would be held on 11 February and 8 April. CC suggested we ask the group if they are comfortable extending their commitment and continuing the CRG into 2019 at the December meeting. WB agreed.</p> <p><i>Meeting concluded 8.10pm</i></p>



## Actions - new

#	Action	Owner/s	Due
6.1	Provide update to group about overhanging tree limbs revisit with Nillumbik Council and MRPA's surveillance officers at December CRG meeting	CA	10 December 2018
7.1	Bring results of local traffic surveys to December CRG meeting to share with the group	CA	10 December 2018
7.2	Bring information about Diamond Creek Road intersection shutdown to December CRG meeting to share with the group	CA	10 December 2018
7.3	Progress artist impressions showing landscaping and distribute to group and publish online when available	CC	10 December 2018
7.4	Drop off excess timber totems and benches feedback forms to JJ to letterbox drop at Diamond Creek Police Station after 3pm on Wednesday 10 October 2018	CC	10 October 2018
7.5	Provide status update to CRG about securing local offsets in Plenty at December CRG meeting	NK	10 December 2018
7.6	Discuss membership and the continuation of the Community Reference Group into 2019 at the December CRG meeting	WB	10 December 2018