



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

JUNE 2021

YAN YEAN ROAD UPGRADE – STAGE 2

## We're upgrading Yan Yean Road to help get you home safer and sooner

The Minister for Planning has assessed the Environment Effects Statement (EES) for Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2. And we've been busy too.

We've been working hard to complete site investigations and continue to refine a design that will provide the best outcome for road users, the local community and the surrounding environment.

Now that the Minister for Planning has made their assessment, we're able to share the outcome and outline the next steps for the project.

### Public exhibition

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) for Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2 was on public exhibition from 31 August to 9 October 2020.

During the public exhibition period, 69 public submissions were made directly to Planning Panels Victoria about the issues that matter most to the community.

All views expressed in the submissions were considered in planning decisions for the project.

### Key EES submission themes



Project design



Land acquisition and private property impacts



Environmental impacts



Access to private and community facilities



Traffic and transport



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## Project benefits of the Yan Yean Road Upgrade



### Better traffic flow

Extra lanes and upgraded intersections will ease traffic congestion and improve travel times.



### Safer roads

Safer journeys through Plenty, Yarrambat and Doreen.



### Greater connectivity

New walking and cycling paths will better connect you to local schools, shops and public transport.

The purpose of an EES is to examine the potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts a project could have and identify how those impacts will be avoided, reduced or managed.

## Engaging with the community

Four webinars were held throughout September 2020 to provide the community with the opportunity to find out more about the project design, the EES and to ask questions directly to the Project Team.

We held webinars in place of our traditional face-to-face community drop-in sessions due to the COVID-19 restrictions at the time.

## Inquiry and Advisory Committee

The Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) was an independent panel appointed by the Minister for Planning to consider and advise on the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) prepared for the project.

# Minister for Planning's recommendations

## Minister's Assessment

After the Public Hearing concluded, the IAC prepared a detailed report and made a recommendation to the Minister for Planning on 15 February 2021. The Minister considered the IAC's report, the EES, the 69 public submissions received and MRPV's response to these submissions.

The Minister released their assessment on 23 March 2021 and concluded that the project can proceed with some recommended updates to the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) and Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) for the project.

## Design development

The Minister has endorsed the design that was exhibited in the EES. This includes realigning the Bridge Inn Road intersection to the north east to protect the two River Red Gum trees and the old Doreen Post Office building currently on the corner of Doctors Gully Road and Yan Yean Road.

There were some recommendations in the Minister's Assessment that MRPV will explore while continuing to develop the design for the project:

- improved connectivity in and out of the Doreen Business Precinct and Doreen Recreation Reserve
- directional signage into the Doreen Business Precinct to improve visibility from Yan Yean Road

- improve access to community facilities where possible along the road
- develop a Fauna Management Plan that includes kangaroo-specific management measures
- work closely with Yarrambat Park Golf Course to realign golf holes avoiding the need for a fence that could impact local flying fauna
- develop and implement a Bridge Inn Road/Yan Yean Road Surplus Land Use Plan to support the landscaping outcomes at the Bridge Inn Road intersection.

We'll work closely with key stakeholders to make sure the Minister's Assessment requirements are met and the community are involved in the project's design, landscaping and environmental outcomes.

## Public Hearing

In early October 2020, the Minister for Planning appointed the IAC to evaluate the project, the EES, the PSA and all public submissions received during the public exhibition period.

The Public Hearing for the project's EES took place online between 30 November and 16 December 2020. The Public Hearing provided an opportunity for people to speak in support of their written submission.

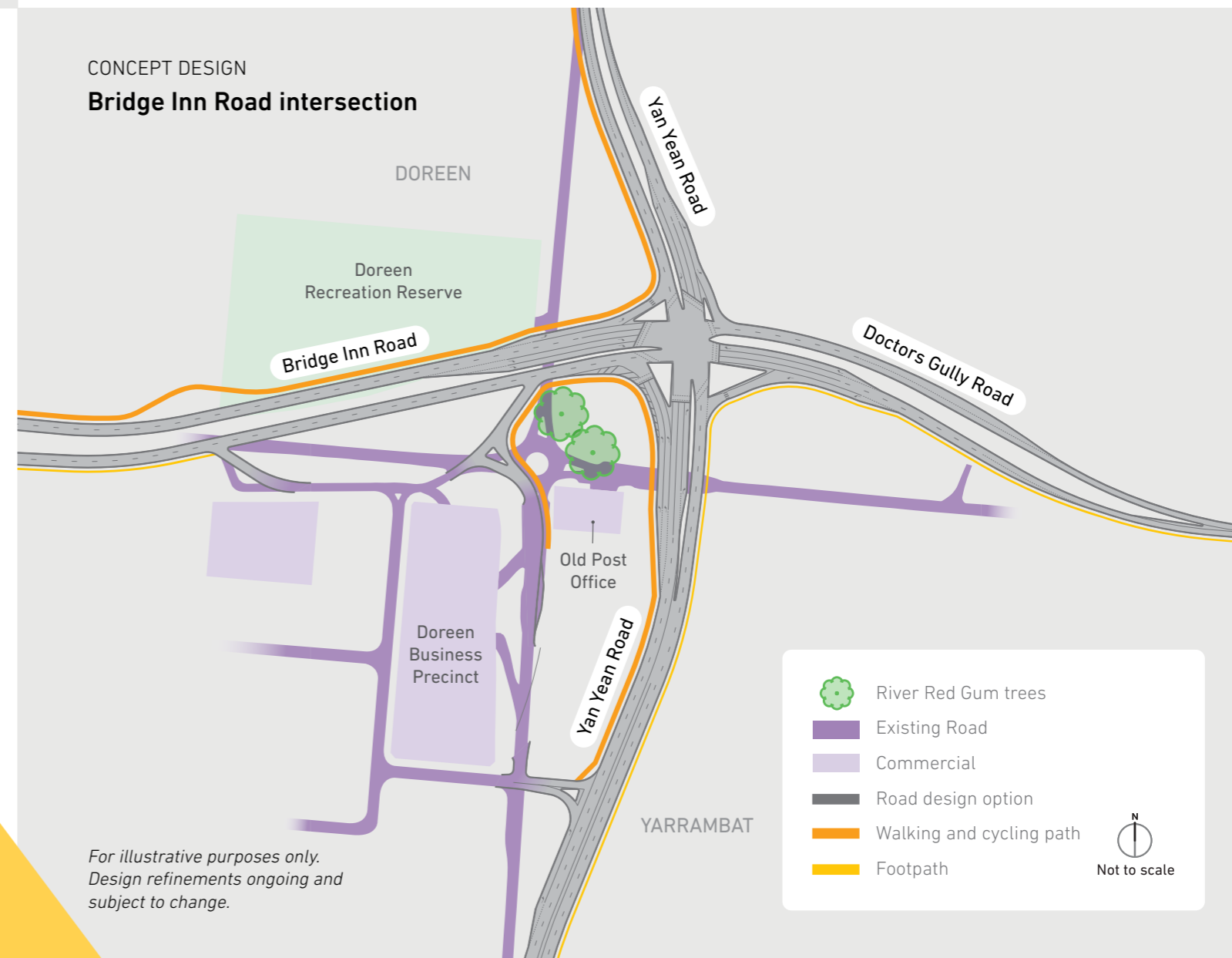
During the Public Hearing, the IAC was able to hear from, and ask questions to Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV), Nillumbik and Whittlesea Councils, impacted residents, local businesses, members of the community, environmental advocacy groups, community organisations and a series of expert witnesses.

The key themes to come out of the Public Hearing were:

- **Environmental impact** – primarily vegetation removal management, timber re-use and fauna management, including mitigation measures
- **Noise** – managing noise impacts during construction and after project completion
- **Social and economic** – working with local businesses to minimise and manage project impacts
- **Planning Scheme** – land zoning and the proposed Specific Controls Overlay (project area) for the project
- **Land acquisition** – the amount of land proposed to be acquired for the project, including private and crown land.



Now that the project has been approved, we can progress the design and share the next steps for the project with the community.



## Site investigation design refinements

As a result of our ongoing site investigations, we have made some necessary changes to the design.

An introduction of a split carriageway between Jorgensen Avenue and Orchard Road is being explored. A split carriageway will mean the southbound lanes would be at a different level to the northbound lanes, which would allow us to reduce impacts to private properties through this area.

Previously, wire rope safety barriers were proposed to be installed in the centre medians to improve safety. Due to the narrow width of the centre median, wire rope safety barriers are no longer considered the most suitable safety barrier option. The design now proposes to install flexi guard rail through the centre medians, as was used through some sections of Stage 1 of the Yan Yean Road Upgrade.

## Next steps

Now that the Minister's Assessment is complete, we'll continue to refine the design.

We'll obtain the relevant planning and environment approvals required to upgrade the road, including Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC), Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA).

We'll also commence the land acquisition process to make sure we have the land required to build the project. We'll reach out to individual landowners to discuss impacts to their properties and work with the Department of Transport (DoT) during the land acquisition process.

The project will adopt a program delivery approach, similar to other projects in the area such as the Epping Road and Bridge Inn Road upgrades.

This means that Yan Yean Road will be upgraded by a dedicated contractor selected from a pre-approved panel.

This approach will help the project get underway sooner, provide more certainty around timelines, contribute to the creation of a more sustainable contractor market and help to stimulate the local job market.

We're still aiming to complete the construction for the project by 2025. We'll know more about the exact timing of construction later this year, once the environmental and planning approvals have been obtained.

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**We'll continue to update the community throughout the year and provide an update on the design and project timing when it's confirmed.**



Artist impression of Ironbark and Yan Yean roads intersection – 15 year progression

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