

MAY 2020

# Yan Yean Road Upgrade - Stage 2 Environment Effects Statement Consultation Plan

*Version 15*



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# 1. Introduction

Public participation is an important part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process that is being carried out for Yan Yean Road Upgrade - Stage 2 Project (the Project).

This document highlights our commitment to working with the community and key stakeholders during the preparation and public exhibition of the EES. This document may be updated as the Project develops in collaboration with the Technical Reference Group (TRG) members.

Our engagement process aims to achieve meaningful participation on key issues and solutions. Importantly, feedback from impacted communities and stakeholders will be used to help inform the final project design.

## 1.1. Planning and environment assessment process

An Environment Effects Statement (EES) is a transparent and rigorous process that looks at the potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of a project. This process ensures that these potential impacts are considered and managed appropriately.

In October 2018, the Victorian Minister for Planning announced an EES would be required for the Project under the *Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)* due to the potential significant effects the Project, and other projects in the area may have on the environment. A copy of the Minister's decision is available on the [Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website](#).

These potential significant effects include:

- clearance of vegetation on the critically endangered Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*)
- clearance of high retention trees of ecological, social and cultural value

The Minister for Planning released the draft Scoping Requirements for public comment between April and May 2019. The EES Scoping Requirements were finalised in June 2019 and outline the assessment requirements of general and specific environmental effects for the Project, including:

- **Transport efficiency, capacity and safety:** provide an effective corridor through the northern outer suburbs of Melbourne, improving road safety, capacity and travel times.
- **Biodiversity:** minimise and where possible, avoid impacts to the habitat of the Swift Parrot, the Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*) and removal of trees.
- **Social and cultural values:** minimise changes in landscape and Aboriginal, historic or cultural values, including impacts to large, old trees.

We will also undertake a variety of other studies to ensure we investigate a broad range of environmental matters that may be impacted as part of the Project.

The EES will be prepared by the Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV) in close consultation with:

- the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP),
- and the TRG consisting of:
  - Parks Victoria
  - City of Whittlesea
  - Nillumbik Shire Council
  - Melbourne Water
  - Aboriginal Victoria
  - Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

MRPV will continue engaging with the public and stakeholders to provide opportunities for input and feedback during the following phases. Note that we will also find other opportunities to engage with the community on aspects of the design where possible.

- draft scoping requirements (complete)
- public exhibition of the EES
- panel hearing

The communication and engagement activities outlined in this plan are designed to enhance public participation and understanding of the EES process.

MRPV also referred the Project to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, to assess the Project impacts under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. In April 2019, the delegate for the Commonwealth Minister determined that the Project is a “controlled action” requiring assessment under the *EPBC Act* and will be assessed through a bilateral agreement.

A joint inquiry and advisory committee will be appointed by the Minister for Planning to independently assess the EES investigations and draft planning scheme amendment documentation once the EES has been exhibited.

The Victorian government will then prepare the assessment report, refer to the Commonwealth government and a decision will be made by both governments.

## 1.2. About the Project

### 1.2.1. Project description

Melbourne’s outer suburbs are some of the fastest growing in Australia, making up around 60 per cent of the country’s growth in the past decade. Increased growth in the north is putting more pressure on the road network. The higher traffic volumes can lead to increased travel times for residents and road users in Plenty, Yarrambat and Doreen. The Project aims to improve traffic flow, safety and access to employment, education and social centres for the people of the City of Whittlesea and Nillumbik Shire Council.

#### The Project scope:

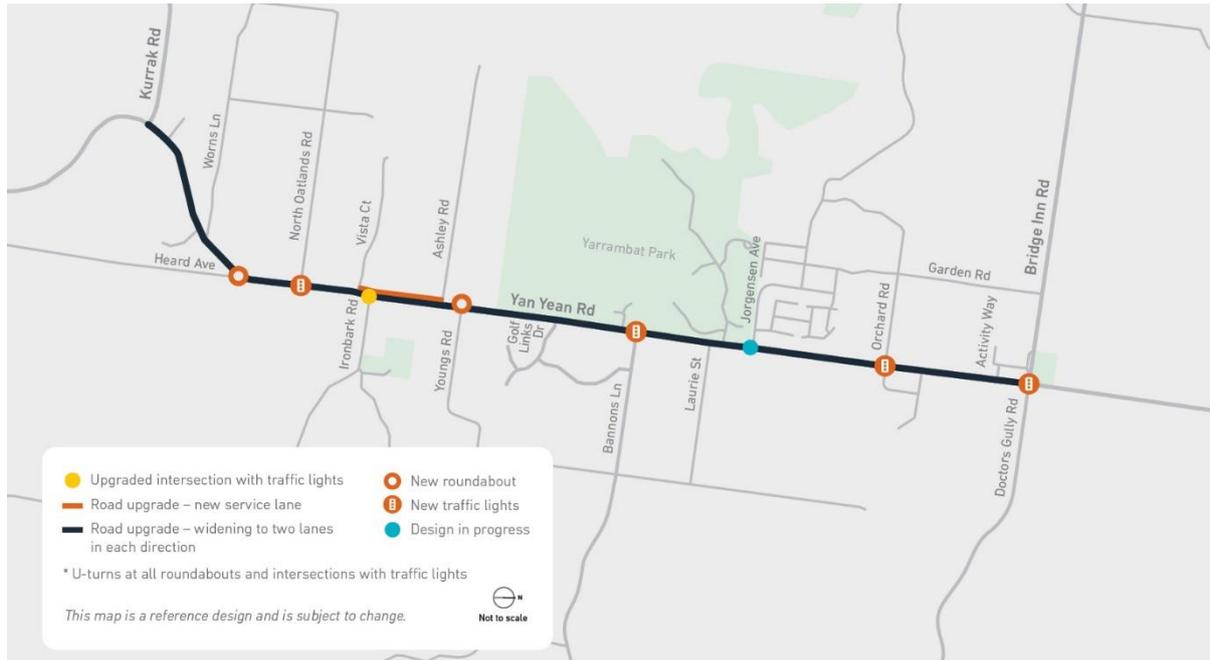
- widen the road from one to two lanes in each direction between Kurrak Road and Bridge Inn Road
- install traffic lights to replace the roundabouts at Orchard Road and Bridge Inn Road
- install new traffic lights at North Oatlands Road and Bannons Lane
- install new roundabouts at Youngs Road and Heard Avenue
- upgrade the intersection at Ironbark Road and Jorgensen Avenue
- build new walking and cycling paths along the full length of the road
- add a centre and kerb side safety barriers along the road

#### Proposed construction activities:

- Detailed investigations and baseline monitoring, remediation of contaminated land, removal of hazardous material, implementation of mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) measures, service relocations and environmental studies
- Vegetation lopping and removal
- Clearing and grubbing, temporary sediment and erosion control works
- Widening of existing rock cuttings (approximately 750m of existing cut along the Project is being widened by approximately 20m)
- New cuttings (approximately 1300m of new rock cut will be required to a width of approximately 5m along the Project)
- Bulk earthworks and haulage
- Drainage works along the length of the Project
- Pavement works
- Walking and cycling path and footpath construction and connections
- Traffic management systems and landscaping.

New drainage and utility service upgrades and relocations will occur along the length of the Project. Relocation of services, where required, will occur adjacent to the road pavement and where service protection is not sufficient. It is anticipated that the area within the Project footprint is sufficient for all service relocations (if required).

## 1.2.2. Proposed design



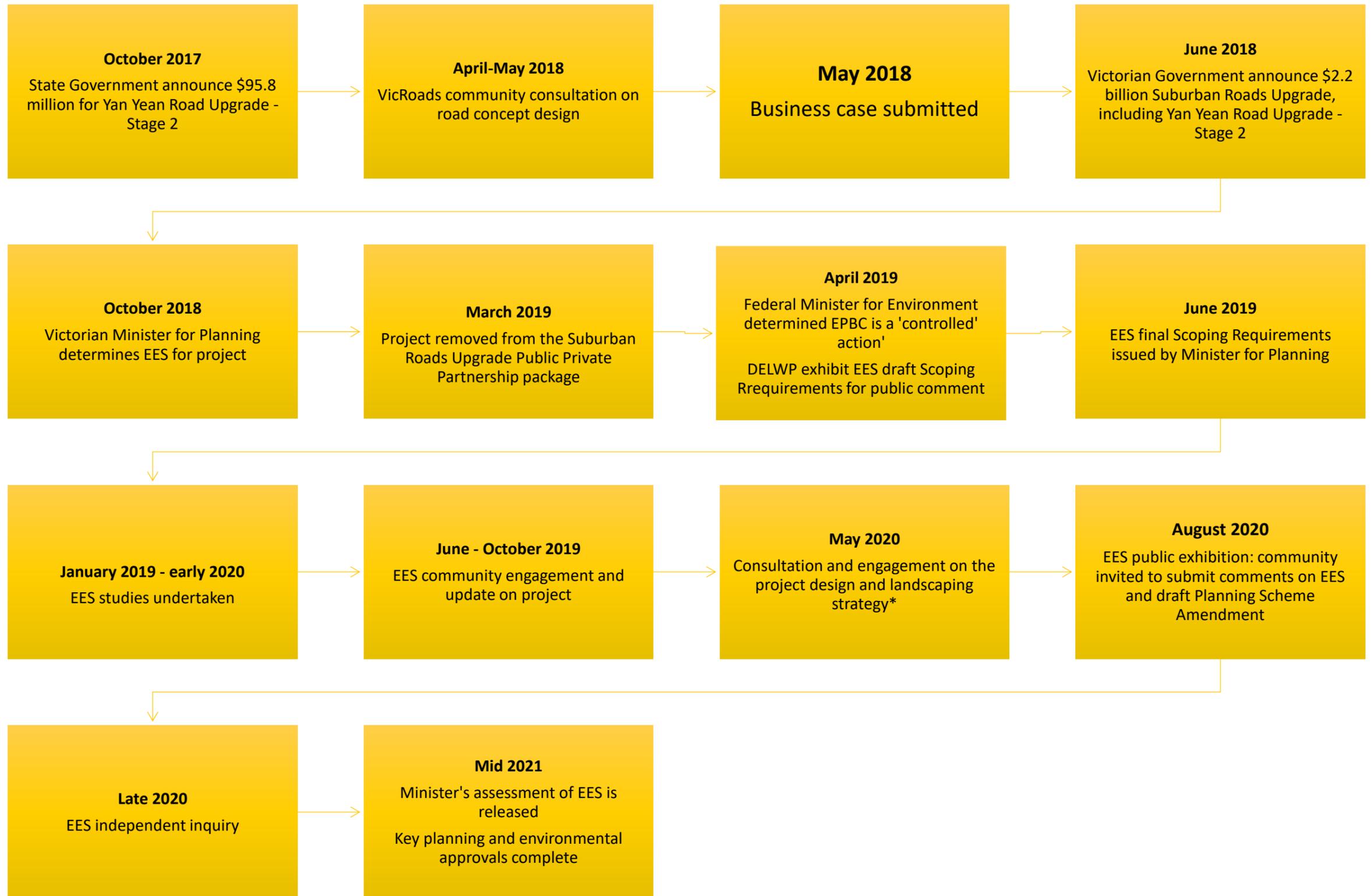
## 1.2.3. Benefits

The Project will:

- improve traffic flow and travel times
- improve access to local and growing residential and recreational centres in the north
- make it easier and safer for you to walk or cycle around your local area
- provide two lanes in each direction between Plenty and Doreen
- lower the risk and severity of crashes with safety barriers in the middle and on either side of the road.

## 1.2.4. Project timeline

The Project timeline is presented below.



\*Note that the physical distancing restrictions in place due to COVID-19 have limited and may continue to limit the ability to undertake traditional face-to-face consultation during periods of 2020.

## 2. Communications and engagement framework

The EES process provides a comprehensive and transparent analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the Project and how they will be addressed. This process is an opportunity for public participation and facilitates consideration of the views of the community, local councils, businesses and industry in planning decisions.

### 2.1. Guiding principles

MRPV will carry out communications and engagement activities in accordance with the Victorian Auditor-General's Office *Public Participation in Government Decision-making – Better Practice Guide 2015*<sup>1</sup>.

Principle	MRPV approach
<b>Responsiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• acknowledge queries and/or concerns in a prompt manner</li><li>• respond to all issues raised, no matter how big or small.</li></ul>
<b>Openness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be open and honest in all interactions with the public</li><li>• continue to meet with residents and stakeholders as requested</li><li>• request community input on design options where possible.</li></ul>
<b>Inclusiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• set up a Community Reference Group (CRG) during the formal planning phase to communicate project information and capture community and stakeholder views</li><li>• ensure materials and documents provided are in accessible formats, so that the widest range of community members can access information and participate.</li></ul>
<b>Transparency and integrity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provide timely updates on project progress through various communication channels</li><li>• request community input on design options where possible to encourage feedback on the design</li><li>• provide information with enough time for people to understand and ask informed questions, before requesting feedback.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• take ownership of issues that arise and can impact residents or stakeholders</li><li>• provide key points for contacting MRPV about any community queries.</li></ul>
<b>Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• target neighbouring suburbs when implementing broad EES communications and opportunities for involvement</li><li>• use a range of communication channels to tap into different audiences (such as online, letterbox drops, face-to-face, newspapers).</li></ul>

### 2.2. Goals and objectives

#### 2.2.1. Goals

The Project provides major benefits for the northern suburbs of Melbourne, but it also involves some complex decisions. The engagement goals during the EES are to:

- build trust, so stakeholders and the community can be confident they are receiving accurate and timely information
- gather feedback from stakeholders and the local community to inform the Project design and development
- encourage public participation in the Project.

This will help achieve the best possible outcomes for the local and broader Victorian community.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/20150130-Public-Participation-BPG.pdf>

### 2.2.2. Objectives

Our goals will be supported by measurable objectives to enhance public participation. We will:

- inform stakeholders and the impacted community of the EES process
- raise awareness of opportunities to formally participate in the EES process
- build awareness about the Project’s purpose, scope and timelines amongst key stakeholders
- investigate stakeholder and landowner needs, ideas and any issues to inform delivery and refinement of:
  - project design
  - potential environmental and social impacts
  - contractor performance standards
- engage with residents and businesses at a local level about the Project, seeking local knowledge, experience and feedback on the proposed project design.

### 2.3. How feedback will be used

Community and stakeholder feedback will be collected, recorded and considered as part of the Project at various stages.

Project stage	How feedback is informing the Project
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• community and stakeholder feedback indicates that congestion is increasing and that the upgrade will enhance safety and reduce travel times</li> <li>• the environment and amenity of the area is important to the community</li> <li>• supporting the design options assessment at Bridge Inn Road</li> <li>• desire to provide input into the urban design and landscaping strategy.</li> </ul>
Project Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be considered in preparing the EES, including impact assessments.</li> <li>• help inform measures to avoid, mitigate and manage impacts and environmental performance requirements.</li> </ul>
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ongoing communication regarding project design, construction and expected impacts.</li> <li>• opportunities to inform construction methods and ways to reduce impacts.</li> <li>• dedicated communications and stakeholder relations team to handle issues or concerns during construction.</li> </ul>

### 2.4. Further context for public participation

Government legislation and policies provide guidance around the need for community engagement. They are:

- the *Transport Integration Act 2010*, which includes the principles of stakeholder engagement and community participation in decision-making
- guidelines under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, which provides formal opportunities for public engagement
- *Victorian Government Accessible Communications Guidelines 2014* which ensures:
  - communication materials are presented in a way that allows access to information by all Victorians
  - communication and engagement activities by Victorian Government bodies are effective, well-managed and respond to the Victorian community’s diverse needs
- the Victorian Auditor-General Office’s *Public Participation in Government Decision-Making Guide 2015* that provides a high-level framework for the public sector to use when deciding how best to involve the public in government decision-making and implementation.

## **2.5. COVID-19**

During the development of the EES for the Project, the Australian Government (based on advice from the Chief Health Officer) developed physical distancing restrictions in an attempt to manage the spread of COVID-19. Due to this, public gatherings were restricted and therefore some consultation milestones did not allow for face-to-face engagement.

MRPV is committed to consulting with the community as part of the development of this Project and therefore consultation undertaken from March 2020 onwards when restrictions were effective has shifted to being conducted primarily online to comply with the State of Emergency requirements. We recognise that parts of the community may not have online access, so some traditional forms of communication have been maintained, including hardcopy communications e.g. letter box drops and hard copy feedback forms.

In the circumstance that physical distancing restrictions are eased, our consultation approach will change to allow for some face-to-face meetings and other physical communication opportunities in compliance with the State Government advice at the time.

### **3. Stakeholder Analysis**

The Project impacts a range of stakeholders including people and interest groups who live, work and travel near the project area, as well as local, State and Commonwealth governments.

An overview of the Project's stakeholders and their interest is indicated below. This overview has been used in previous community engagement activities for this project (*see section 5 Working with the Community*).

### Victorian Government

- Premier and MPs
- Relevant departments / agencies
- Infrastructure Victoria

#### • Interest

- community benefits and value
- creating jobs
- road network operation
- approvals
- impacts and benefits.

### Federal Government

- PM and MPs
- Relevant departments
- Infrastructure Australia

#### • Interest

- approvals
- impacts and benefits
- environment
- traffic and freight operation.

### Local Government

- City of Whittlesea
- Nillumbik Shire Council

#### • Interest

- local impacts and benefits
- traffic and transport
- council assets operation
- approvals
- design.

### Business & Industry

- Peak bodies
- Industry groups
- Freight operators

#### • Interest

- safety
- jobs
- productivity
- access.

### Community

- Residents
- Businesses
- Local services and facilities
- Schools

#### • Interest

- amenity
- environment
- wellbeing
- traffic / access
- safety
- local benefits and impacts
- construction impacts.

### Interest groups

- Friends of groups
- Environmental groups
- Community action groups
- Cycling
- Public transport

#### • Interest

- environment
- wellbeing
- amenity
- local benefits and impacts
- active transport
- safety
- access.

### Media

- Local
- State
- Social
- Radio
- Television

#### • Interest

- process
- impacts
- community involvement
- economic evaluation.

### Transport Users

- Commuters
- Local

#### • Interest

- congestion
- safety
- access
- connections
- construction impacts

## 4. Communication and engagement channels

The following sections indicate the range of communication and engagement activities that will be used to keep people informed of the EES process and to provide opportunities to participate.

### 4.1. Digital and print communications

Engagement Channel	Tool
Interactive: web and social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interactive engagement (with the use of <a href="http://engage.vic.gov.au/yyr">engage.vic.gov.au/yyr</a>) including;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ surveys</li> <li>○ webinars</li> <li>○ interactive maps</li> <li>○ videos</li> <li>○ Q&amp;A's</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Facebook, Twitter</li> <li>• project web page.</li> </ul>
Print and online material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAQs</li> <li>• fact sheets and brochures</li> <li>• letters / postcards distributed to homes and businesses in the area</li> <li>• subscriber email newsletters</li> <li>• maps and visual aids</li> <li>• reports.</li> </ul>
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advertising and releases</li> <li>• editorial contributions</li> <li>• interviews and responses.</li> </ul>

### 4.2. Community engagement

- online engagement via the Engage Vic website (including webinars)
- community information sessions and presentations
- stakeholder briefings
- pop-up information stands at local community events/shopping centres
- email and phone
- letter / postcard for surrounding residents and businesses
- face to face /online meetings with impacted landowners and key stakeholders.

### 4.3. Business and industry engagement

- face to face /online meetings with impacted business landowners
- presentations and workshops with special interest groups.

### 4.4. Government and agency engagement

- briefings
- presentations
- workshops.

Government departments and agencies, local government, statutory authorities and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation are represented on the **Technical Reference Group (TRG)**. The TRG is run by DELWP to provide expert advice throughout the preparation of the EES.

## **4.5. Hard to reach audiences**

- consultation with community group leaders to identify vulnerable and hard to reach communities and to provide culturally sensitive ways to approach and involve different communities
- information for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities
- translations of printed materials as required
- use of a language line for interpreters
- collaboration with local government to use their networks.

## 5. Working with the community

### 5.1. What we've done: pre EES engagement summary

#### 5.1.1. 2018 proposed design

Consultation with local government, communities and special interest groups was undertaken from December 2017 - May 2018. Its purpose was to:

- provide information about the scope of the Project
- seek feedback on the concept road design
- gather information about what was important to all stakeholders.

A summary of activities is indicated below.

Activity	Description
<b>Electronic Direct Mail (eDM) - 911 subscribers</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>eDM #1</b> Invite to the community drop-in sessions.</li> <li>2. <b>eDM #2</b> Thank you for attending the sessions and directing community to provide feedback on the design on the engage VicRoads web page</li> </ol>
<b>Meetings with key stakeholders and special interest groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings and project briefings provided input from key stakeholders including local government, various government departments and agencies, resident groups, businesses and special interest groups.</li> <li>• discussed Project plans with the Community Reference Group</li> </ul>
<b>Telephone enquiries</b>	Public enquiries received on the project community information line.
<b>Email enquiries</b>	Emails from the public asking questions or providing feedback, which all received individual responses from the project team.
<b>Project website</b>	<p>Web page content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project overview and benefits</li> <li>• preliminary reference design</li> <li>• project overview fact sheet</li> <li>• managing the environment fact sheet</li> <li>• proposed access changes fact sheet</li> <li>• access changes map and 5 cross sections</li> </ul> <p>Website was regularly updated with information.</p>
<b>Post card mail drop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sent a letter to people who may be directly affected by the upgrade, explaining how the proposed design may change how they access their homes (within 2km of alignment)</li> <li>• invited 4,600 people who live in the project area by mail to our drop-in community information sessions</li> <li>• sent those same 4,600 people a reply-paid feedback form. 39 people sent feedback forms to us via reply paid envelope.</li> </ul>
<b>Online feedback forms</b>	<p>The proposed designs were uploaded onto <i>engageVicRoads</i>, and feedback forms were provided online to seek community feedback and comment on arterial road design.</p> <p>120 completed feedback surveys submitted online</p>
<b>Community information sessions</b>	<p>Hosted community information sessions at Plenty Valley Christian College and Yarrambat Primary School to display the concept road design and access to the project team to answer questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 180 people attended the drop-in community information sessions</li> <li>• 55 people who attended a community information session submitted a feedback form.</li> </ul>

Activity	Description
<b>Letters to potentially impacted landowners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter was sent on 6 December 2017 by registered post to 135 properties either in vicinity of the works, affected by land acquisition or possibly affected by land acquisition.</li> <li>• A further 8 follow up letters were sent to properties who did not reply to initial mail out.</li> <li>• 250 letter sent informing potentially impacted residents of proposed access changes and advising U-turn opportunities, in advance of reference design public release.</li> </ul>
<b>Face to face meetings</b>	<p><b>Landowners (x63)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual landowner meetings for properties affected by land acquisition because of the proposed Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO).</li> <li>• Contact has since been made with all directly impacted properties.</li> </ul> <p><b>Schools (x2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project team has been in consultation with Yarrambat Primary School and Plenty Valley Christian College to discuss the proposed design, impact on the school property (including any land acquisition) and any disruptions because of the proposed works.</li> </ul> <p><b>Service Providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several service providers including Yarra Valley Water, Telstra and AusNet have been contacted to discuss services with exist in vicinity of directly within the proposed right of way. These discussions included the early relocation of services, procurement and timing of such works to minimise disruption to the public and to work collaboratively.</li> </ul> <p><b>Councils (x2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Nillumbik and Whittlesea Councils have been involved throughout the planning and land acquisition process. They have provided information to the project team to facilitate the planning and design process and have been kept informed of the design features as it progresses.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Reference Group – 8 members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Community Reference Group (CRG) was established in March 2018.</li> <li>• Meetings will continue bi-monthly as the project progresses. The CRG will provide input and challenge the project team to develop better solutions over a range of disciplines including environmental, social and road design.</li> </ul>
<b>Impacted businesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All directly impacted businesses have been given project information regarding proposed disruptions, expected timelines and compensation process.</li> </ul>

## 5.2. What we've heard

One hundred and sixteen hard copy feedback forms were received during April and May 2018.

### Environment

- Trees are a large part of why we live here and we want to keep the green feel of the area.
- The two River Red Gum trees are important to us and the amenity of the area.
- We'd like you to take measures to preserve and enhance the natural environment.
- We understand the need to remove some trees for safety reasons.

### Local access changes

- Safe and easy access to local sporting facilities and clubs is important to us.
- The proposed access arrangements will change driveway access to some local streets off Yan Yean Road.

### Safety

- We support the road widening from a safety and traffic flow perspective.
- Safety of the bus stops along Yan Yean Road is important to us.
- We're pleased about the plans for walking and cycling paths along the road.
- Despite changing the way we access some roads, we understand how the centre median barrier will make it safer to drive through the area.

### Traffic congestion

- There needs to be a better drop-off area at school pick-up and drop-off times.
- The area is currently congested, and there is the support for the upgrade to lessen travel times

As part of the exhibition of the draft Scoping Requirements, seventy-six submissions were made to DELWP. Of the 76 submissions, 62 referred to the two river red gum trees on the corner of Yan Yean and Doctors Gully Road. Other submissions were about:

- • the loss of total trees along the alignment, including ecosystem concerns
- • protection of wildlife and wildlife corridor
- • the protection for the culturally significant post office on the corner of Doctors Gully/Yan Yean roads
- • justification around traffic volumes and need for the duplication.

### 5.3. What we'll continue to do: EES engagement

The EES planning and engagement program will continue through the Project's design and delivery timelines and will require regular, open communications about the Project and the process for providing feedback. An overview of engagement phases and indicative dates is shown below. Specific implementation plans will be developed as required to support the delivery of the engagement program. Note, these dates have changed as we have continued to progress with the EES.

Date	Status	EES milestone	Engagement purpose	MRPV to lead engagement activity	DELWP to lead
Oct 2018	Complete	EES announcement	VicRoads referral of the Project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victorian Minister for Planning under the <i>Environment Effects Act 1978 (Victorian)</i>. Minister determined an EES is required</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DELWP establishes project page on <a href="http://planning.vic.gov.au">planning.vic.gov.au</a></li> </ul>
Dec 2018	Complete	Establish the TRG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure key stakeholders are involved in the development of the EES</li> <li>Meet the requirements of the EES process.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send letters of invitation to TRG</li> </ul>
Dec 2018	Complete	EPBC Referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referral of the Project to Federal Minister for Environment (DoE) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) (Commonwealth).</li> </ul>		
April 2019	Complete	EES exhibit draft scoping requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encourage feedback on draft scoping requirements</li> <li>increase awareness of the Project, gather local knowledge</li> <li>identify issues, opportunities, and provide information about the EES process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>email to subscribers</li> <li>notification letters/community updates</li> <li>online survey</li> <li>website update</li> <li>meetings with Yan Yean Road Upgrade CRG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>formal exhibition of draft scoping requirements</li> <li>advertisement in national, metro and local newspapers</li> </ul>
June 2019	Complete	EES final scoping requirements announcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>determine community knowledge and understanding of project scope, EES process and understand key concerns for locals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>website update and social media posts</li> <li>meetings with Yan Yean Road Upgrade CRG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>publish scoping requirements</li> <li>contact submitters and advise of scoping requirements</li> </ul>
August-October 2019	Complete	Inform community about EES process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase awareness of the Project</li> <li>provide information about the EES process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community group presentations as required</li> <li>meetings with impacted business owner / landowner as required</li> <li>email to subscribers</li> <li>notification letters/community updates</li> <li>fact sheets on investigations</li> <li>website update and social media posts</li> <li>online Q&amp;A's</li> </ul>	

Date	Status	EES milestone	Engagement purpose	MRPV to lead engagement activity	DELWP to lead
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pop-ups at community events/local shopping centres</li> <li>meetings with Yan Yean Road Upgrade CRG</li> </ul>	
<b>May 2020*</b>	Current	Finalising the design and project area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consult on aspects of the design</li> <li>understand community sentiment on new design options</li> <li>develop the landscape strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>online engagement via the <a href="#">Engage Vic website</a> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>interactive maps</li> <li>online webinars</li> <li>survey</li> <li>Q&amp;A tool</li> </ul> </li> <li>online meetings with impacted business owner / landowner as required</li> <li>email to subscribers</li> <li>notification letters / community updates</li> <li>website update and social media posts</li> </ul>	
<b>August 2020</b>		EES and draft planning scheme amendment public exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promote public exhibition</li> <li>encouraging public review and feedback.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>advertisement in national and local newspapers</li> <li>community group presentations, as required</li> <li>community information sessions</li> <li>email to subscribers</li> <li>notification letters/community updates</li> <li>social media posts</li> <li>website update</li> <li>meetings with impacted business owner / landowner as required</li> <li>video</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>formal exhibition of EES and draft planning scheme amendment</li> </ul>
<b>Late 2020-</b>		EES inquiry (led by Planning Panels Victoria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inform the community of the public inquiry, the process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>email to subscribers</li> <li>social media posts</li> <li>website update</li> </ul>	
<b>Early-mid 2021</b>		EES process complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promote the Minister for Planning's EES recommendations</li> <li>draft planning scheme amendment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>media articles in local newspapers</li> <li>community group presentations</li> <li>email to subscribers</li> <li>notification letters/community updates</li> <li>social media posts</li> <li>website update.</li> <li>meetings with impacted business owner / landowner as required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>release the Minister's Assessment</li> </ul>

**\*Note face-to-face engagement has been substituted with online engagement due to COVID-19 restrictions.**

**It is important to note that engagement on the project will continue through the construction phase.**

## 6. Reporting, evaluation and continuous improvement

This engagement plan will be continually monitored and updated to reflect themes emerging from engagement. This will ensure that consultation is tailored to address engagement opportunities and community preferences.

Market research and media monitoring will be undertaken to better understand project sentiment, highlight areas of importance, test messaging and effectiveness of the program.

The effectiveness of our communications and engagement will be monitored, measured and evaluated on an ongoing basis in the following ways:

- community understanding, level of awareness and sentiment of the Project and planning process captured through media monitoring and submissions
- participation in engagement processes and interaction with project during public engagement activities
- participation and desire for involvement demonstrated by subscribers to email updates, social media statistics and visits to project website
- feedback on the engagement approach and information as measured by the survey and anecdotally from activities and stakeholders
- reach into local communities from interest groups, Community Reference Group and local government support channels
- comments received during public engagement that can be used to support EES and design development.

## 7. Frequently asked questions

### What is an Environment Effects Statement (EES)?

An Environment Effects Statement (EES) usually contains:

- A description of the proposed project
- A public and stakeholder consultation plan to be undertaken during the process, including key issues raised
- A description of the existing environment in the project area that may be affected
- A rigorous assessment of the environmental effects of the Project and proposed measures to avoid, minimise or manage these
- A program for monitoring and managing environmental effects during project implementation.

### Why is an EES required for the Yan Yean Road Upgrade – Stage 2?

The Victorian Minister for Planning determined an EES is required for the Project due to the potential for significant effects on biodiversity values as a result of the proposed removal of vegetation and trees, and the potential contribution to impacts other projects in the area may have had on the critically endangered Swift Parrot. The Swift Parrot is protected by the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

### What is the process for an EES?

The EES process looks at the potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of a project and how they will be managed during the construction of the Project.

### Is the EES taking into consideration the environmental impacts from Stage 1 of Yan Yean Road?

MRPV is committed to minimising and avoiding, where possible, the impact to the environment. The EES process will ensure the contractor appropriately manages the environmental impact of the Project. The EES process will consider environmental impacts from Stage 1, as well as other projects in the area.

### What is the outcome of the EES process, and can it stop the Project from going ahead?

The final stage of the EES process is the Minister for Planning's assessment of potential environmental effects of the Project, and the process concludes with the Minister's recommendations about whether the environmental effects are acceptable, and whether the Project should be modified or subject to environmental mitigation or management measures.

The EES process is not an approval process itself, rather it enables statutory decision-makers, such as Ministers, local government and statutory authorities, to make decisions about whether or how a project with potentially significant environmental effects should proceed.

### How do we get to have our say on the EES?

Community feedback is an integral part of the EES process and MRPV will continue to find aspects of the Project that the community can provide feedback to influence some EES outcomes. The community will also be invited to review the EES documentation, which will include multiple specialist technical reports, assessing the potential impacts and proposed management measures. We encourage the community to provide formal feedback through the submission process.

Submissions can be made both online or in writing with details to be provided by DELWP at the commencement of public exhibition.

### How long does the EES process go for?

The EES process consists of approximately 10-12 months of investigations and then 6-8 months of exhibition and formal assessment. It is expected that the entire EES process will take approximately two years, with the conclusion of the process being the release of the final assessment from the Victorian Minister for Planning.

### **Why is the EES taking so long?**

MRPV is ensuring that the EES looks at the design in detail to make decisions on how the Project can avoid and minimise the impact to the environment. As the design changes, the reports that are being developed need to be reassessed for exhibition.

We are taking the time to ensure the design is in line with community expectations and is meeting the scoping requirements of the EES. We will commence exhibition of the EES once we have completed this process.

### **What is involved in the EES process?**

The Scoping Requirements are formalised after public comment and issued by the Minister for Planning. The scoping requirements were formalised in June 2019. Investigations will be undertaken to address these requirements and the studies will be included with the EES exhibited for public comment.

The community and key stakeholders will be invited to make submissions on the EES during the public exhibition period and an independent inquiry panel will assess the EES and submissions. The inquiry will submit a report to the Minister for Planning, who will make the final assessment of the potential environmental effects of the Project and their acceptability, having consideration of the EES documents, public submissions, MRPV's response to submissions and the inquiry report.

### **When was it known that the Project will require an EES?**

On 14 October 2018, the Minister for Planning decided the Project would require an EES. Since then, DELWP has formed a Technical Reference Group (TRG). The TRG will provide technical advice to both DELWP and the proponent (MRPV) throughout the preparation of the EES.

### **Who manages the EES process?**

The Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) manages the process on behalf of the Minister for Planning. MRPV is responsible for coordinating the investigations and technical studies, and preparing a quality EES, which clearly describes the potential impacts to the environment and local community.

MRPV will also provide opportunities for input and feedback with the community, in conjunction with the formal public consultation stages of the EES process.

### **When will the EES be complete?**

It is expected that the entire process will be complete in mid-2021. The final step is the Minister for Planning making a decision on whether the impacts are managed appropriately or not.