

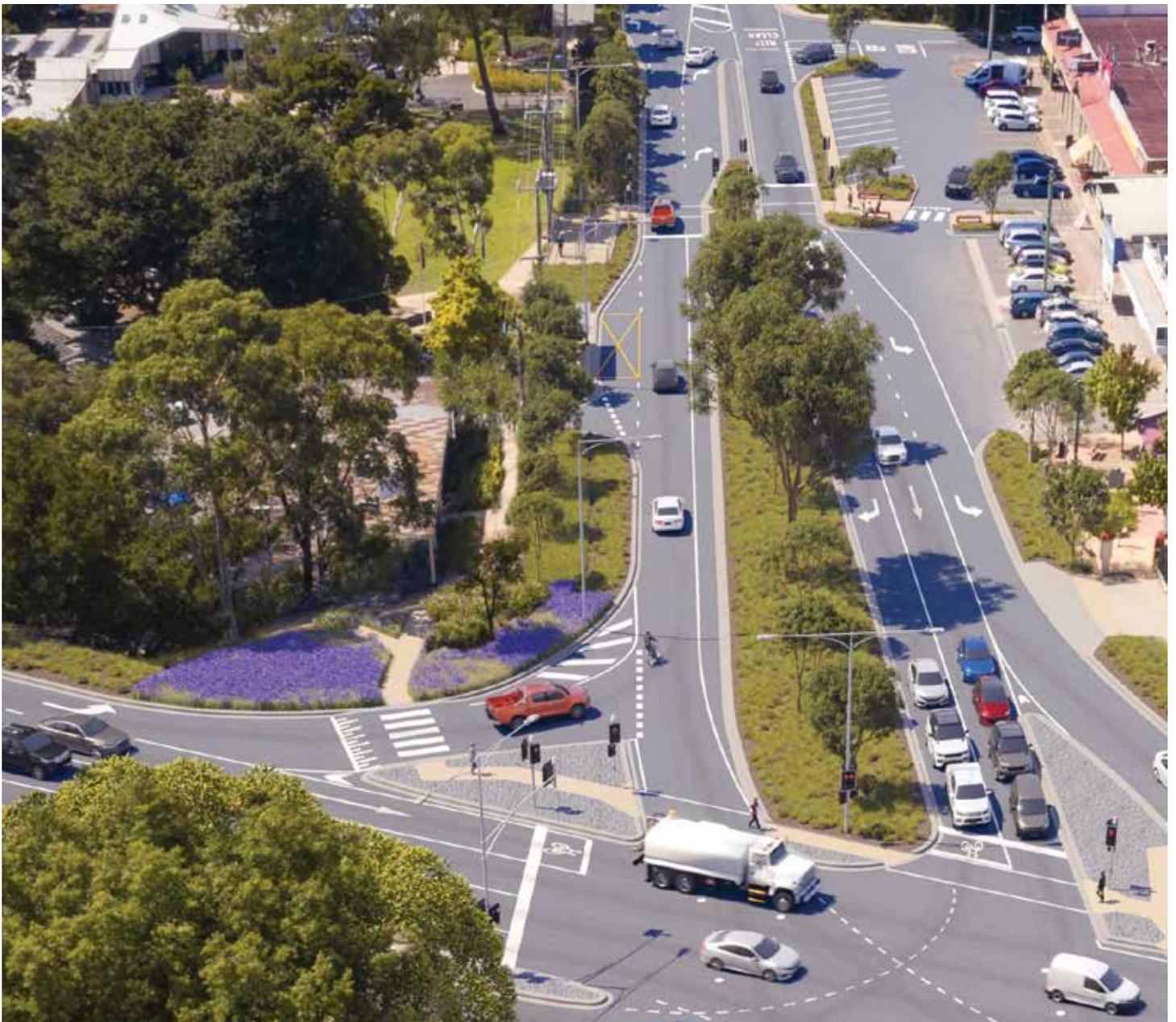
Connecting
our communities

Montrose Report

Engagement Summary

April 2021

Artist impression of the new Montrose intersection design





Thank you for helping to shape the Montrose intersection upgrade

Your feedback is valued

Community input and feedback is an important part of planning the future of our roads and intersections.

Through engagement with a range of different user groups, we are able to learn the experiences of local residents, motorists, business owners, pedestrians and visitors.

This information helps us plan and ensure we achieve better outcomes.

Project update

To help ease congestion and improve traffic flow, the Australian Government is investing \$44.5 million to upgrade Canterbury Road between Bayswater and Montrose. As part of this investment, an upgrade of the Montrose roundabout to a signalised intersection is proposed.

In December 2020, we consulted with the Montrose community to gather feedback on newly developed designs for the roundabout.

These followed earlier designs - presented to the community in 2017 - which drew extensive initial input.

From across Montrose and the local region, we received a strong response to these new designs, with over 40 people providing feedback via an online survey or our mailbox.

We also received more than 100 registrations for the four information sessions held across December with more than 60 people attending and providing feedback on the new design.

The township

The Montrose township has grown over the past decade, and so too has the need to manage the many needs of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists more effectively.

The intersection of Mount Dandenong Road and Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, in the centre of Montrose, is an important junction providing access to the Dandenongs and to the Yarra Valley region.

More than 33,000 vehicles use Mount Dandenong Road each day, with many of the vehicles using the road, doing so during peak periods.

Why traffic lights?

The key to the intersection upgrade is the introduction of a signalised intersection to streamline traffic flow.

Traffic data and analysis shows that the existing roundabout cannot cope with the current traffic volumes, particularly during peak periods.

Adding to the current problem is the significant traffic volumes entering the roundabout from Mount Dandenong Road during the afternoon peak period making it difficult for optimal traffic flow.

Roundabouts work best when there is even traffic demands from all approaches to the roundabout, which is no longer the case at this intersection.

There is also the risk at a congested roundabout that motorists will not take a safe gap to enter the roundabout.

By installing traffic lights and upgrading the layout of the intersection, more vehicles will be able to move through the intersection, more often.

We'll also be able to streamline traffic flow, providing more green time and a smoother journey to cater for the traffic demands along Canterbury Road during the peak periods.

Who took part in the engagement?

We are very grateful to the large number of people who took time in late 2020 to share their experiences and ideas for the intersection upgrade.

Our goal was to understand the needs of the local community, who uses the intersection, how frequently they use it and their thoughts on the proposed design.

In the lead up to our December information sessions with the local community, we met with key stakeholders including Yarra Ranges Council, Montrose CFA and the Montrose Township Group to understand their views about the project.

We hosted four online community information sessions via digital platform Zoom, where we provided 60 attendees with a presentation showcasing our design plans, proposed township identity signage and timber reuse options and replanting opportunities in the local area.

What did we hear?

The feedback told us that the newly designed intersection upgrade was well supported, with some residents seeking clarification on some areas of the design.

Feedback received focused on safety, traffic flow and neighbourhood amenity, and included:

"(The) safety of pedestrians and road users should be the number one priority."

"The pedestrian crossing on Leith Road is an important part of the project that needs to be looked at from a safety and traffic flow perspective."

"Traffic signals (need)...to be sequenced appropriately to allow for the smooth flow of traffic."

"The new design fits in more appropriately with the character and fit of Montrose than the previous design."

"The roundabout has to go. It can't cope with the current traffic volumes."

"With the changes to Tourist Road, more cars will be making a U-turn at the intersection when leaving the shops to head back to the Dandenongs."

"Safe and reliable access to the Montrose CFA station (is important)."

"A safer speed limit when travelling through Montrose needs to be investigated."

"Please hurry up and get it done!"

How will we use this feedback?

Since 2017, community feedback has helped influence the design to better suit the needs of the community. What we heard during our latest consultation will help us to deliver an effective intersection upgrade, that will meet community needs for many years to come.

While we are not able to accommodate every suggestion or comment provided by community members, we're working hard to find a balance that addresses as many of these issues as possible.

In particular, maintaining the character of Montrose, providing a safer and more reliable intersection and improving traffic flow.



Next steps

As we continue to move through the planning process, we'll be engaging with Council, residents, businesses, schools and community interest groups about design updates, construction impacts and the timber reuse and replanting opportunities that exist.

If you'd like to be involved in our timber reuse planning or replanting strategy, send an email to our project mailbox.

Email: canterburyroadupgrade@roads.vic.gov.au

Find out more

For further information about the project, visit the VicRoads website and search 'Montrose intersection upgrade'.

