



# Ballan Road Upgrade - State Government Advocacy

Community Engagement Report

March 2022

## Background

Many sections of Wyndham's arterial roads have reached capacity and require urgent State Government investment. The State Government is responsible for building and maintain freeways and arterial roads in Wyndham, including Ballan Road.

At the Council Meeting on 30 November 2021, the following Notice of Motion was passed:

That Council:

1. Notes the importance of the Ison Road overpass to the Wyndham Westlink arterial, providing much needed Freeway access for residents in Wyndham's West;
2. Undertakes community consultation via The Loop in February 2022 to ascertain community feedback in relation to the Ballan Road duplication, as recognised as an advocacy priority in the Securing Wyndham's Future Advocacy Strategy;
3. Seeks feedback from the community as part of the consultation process as to the prioritisation of the signalisation of the Ballan Road and McGrath Road intersection; and
4. Receives a report in March 2022 outlining the feedback from the community and associated action plan, where required.

From Tuesday 1 February to Monday 28 February 2022, the Wyndham community were provided with the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to the Ballan Road duplication, as recognised as an advocacy priority in the Securing Wyndham's Future Advocacy Strategy. Feedback was also sought regarding the prioritisation of the signalisation of the Ballan Road and McGrath Road intersection.

Feedback was sought using the following methods:

- Online via a mapping tool on Council's community engagement platform, The Loop asking for feedback on which parts of Ballan Road need improvement and any key problems or issues faced while travelling in the area.
- An online form on The Loop for general feedback about the need for the duplication or the signalised intersection.
- Printed postcards where feedback could be handwritten and submitted to Council.
- Direct feedback from community members via email.

## Community Engagement Process Overview

Community members were able to provide their feedback on Ballan Road for a period of 28 days, from Tuesday 1 February to Monday 28 February 2022. The community engagement opportunities were promoted extensively prior to and throughout the four-week period.

Key promotional activities included:

- Online community engagement page on The Loop: <https://theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au/budget>
- E-newsletters to The Loop online engagement community of 6,800 active participants
- Promotion through Council's communications channels – Wyndham website and social media
- Social media from Wyndham City Councillors

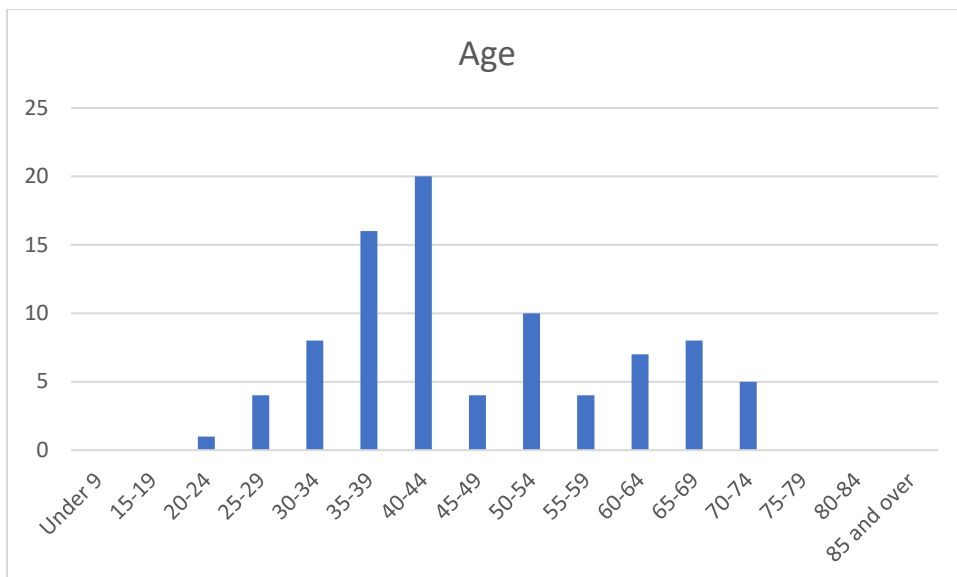
- Postcards printed and distributed via community groups and available at the Annual Plan & Budget pop up events

## Community Engagement Findings Summary

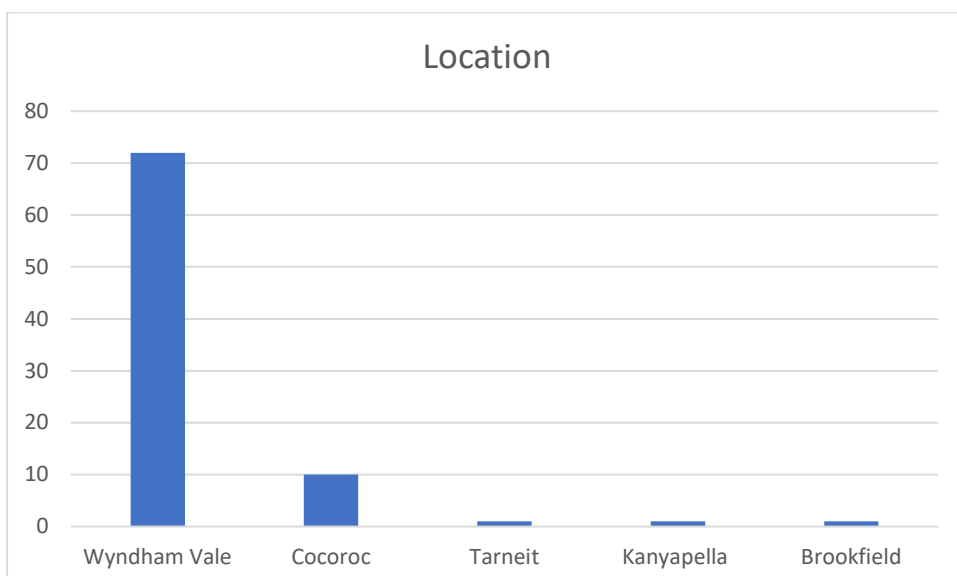
All communication tools directed community members to The Loop. The project page on The Loop had 1,440 views by 963 different people with additional ways of people providing feedback throughout the engagement period. The total feedback contributions were as follows:

- 82 contributions were provided via the mapping tool on The Loop
- 50 contributions were provided via the feedback form on The Loop
- 4,551 engagements via social media
- 7 community members emailed their direct feedback

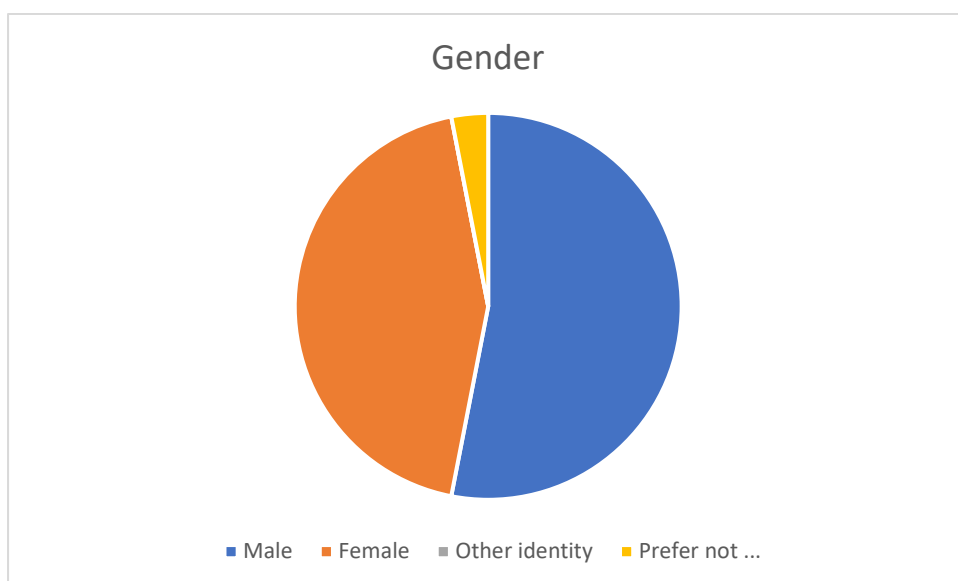
The representation of responses from community members via The Loop is shown below:



### Age overview of community members who contributed via The Loop.



### Location overview of community members who contributed via The Loop.



### Gender overview of community members who contributed via The Loop.

#### Feedback submitted via The Loop Mapping Tool and feedback form

The Loop Mapping tool gave community members the opportunity to provide feedback which directly related to a location around Ballan Road. Community members were asked to 'Let us know via the 'Add Marker' button below what parts of Ballan Road you think need improvement and any key problems or issues you face while travelling in the area. Use the 'Add Marker' button to also tell us your view on upgrading the Ballan Road/Greens Road/McGrath Road intersection. You can also leave feedback or comments about the need for the duplication or the signalised intersection.'

#### A summary of the comments received included:

##### Road Upgrades

- Significant feedback (31 comments) was received stating that the duplication of Ballan Road between Armstrong Road and Bolton Road is not enough, further duplication is required to account for residents in Manor Lakes and Jubilee Estate.
- Significant feedback (12 comments) was received asking for a signalised intersection at McGrath Road due to the heavy traffic trying to turn onto Ballan Road from McGrath Road during peak times.
- A river crossing to connect Wyndham Vale/Manor Lakes to Tarneit is needed to reduce pressure on other roads which go through to Tarneit – this would ease congestion on Ballan road, Heaths Road and the Cottrell Street river crossing.
- The importance of Ison Road should not be overlooked which will free up a number of local roads in the area from trucks and heavy traffic.
- Bolton Road and Heaths Road also need upgrading to accommodate traffic from Ballan Road.

## Community safety and wellbeing

- In addition to duplicating Ballan Road, community members (55 comments) called for further upgrades to the road to make it safer and accessible.
- New intersections or roundabouts are required along Ballan Road to improve road safety, including at the intersection of Ballan Road and Kinglake Drive. Evergreen Drive and Greens Road.
- Pedestrian crossings or traffic lights are needed to support community members crossing the road. Especially near Wyndham Vale Christian College.
- Sections of Ballan Road are poorly lit at night and cars are unable to safely see pedestrians.
- The introduction of speed cameras would improve driver behaviour along Ballan Road.
- A number of trucks drive along Ballan Road daily from nearby construction sites making the road dangerous to travel on.
- Improving Ballan Road will improve social, cultural and economic activity in Wyndham Vale, Manor Lakes and the surrounding suburbs

## Public Transport

- Improved public transport connectivity to Wyndham Vale station, including bus timetable improvements, will reduce road usage.
- A new train station will promote active travel and reduce road congestion.
- Public transport options from Jubilee Estate to Wyndham Vale station will support active travel and reduce the number of cars on Ballan Road.
- Bus stop access needs to be improved along Ballan Road, including upgrades to bus shelters, to promote active travel.

## Future Planning

- Further estate development along Ballan Road will increase traffic flow if no changes are made.

## Feedback submitted via social media

Significant feedback was also received via Wyndham's social media channels.

Comments received included:

- Duplication is required all along Ballan Road from Bacchus Marsh to Geelong Road to safeguard for future development.
- Turning lanes are also needed in addition to the duplication to make the road safer.
- Important to preserve the existing trees along Ballan Road as they shade the area and protect the local wildlife.
- Damage to Ballan Road has often been reported to Vic Roads with no response.

## Direct feedback submitted

Direct feedback was provided by community members through the engagement process.

Comments received included:

- Traffic around Ballan Road decreases the quality of life of community members who reside nearby.
- The new temporary road on Ballan Road in Wyndham Vale where the new Ison Road intersection is being constructed is extremely dangerous.
- The section of Ballan Road between the end of Jubilee estate and the entry to the quarry often floods with a small amount of rain.

### Ballan Road issues to consider

Whilst community feedback has indicated support for the full duplication of Ballan Road, Ballan Road has different issues and challenges along its length that are best divided up and considered in separate sections. Upon viewing the sections, it is important to note that signalising and undertaking localised duplication at intersections is the key to increasing vehicle capacity on Ballan Road where traffic volumes do not currently warrant full duplication. Starting from the north:

- Bacchus Marsh-Geelong Road to Welcome Parade – This section does not require duplication as the traffic volumes are under the levels requiring duplication and are not expected to increase significantly.
- Welcome Parade to Armstrong Road/Hobbs Road - The traffic volumes are increasing but are not at the levels that warrant duplication.

The developer of the Jubilee Estate is expected to begin constructing the Tuppal Drive/Ballan Road intersection this year and this will include additional street lighting and provide a pedestrian crossing point. The Department of Transport is also planning to provide and activate bus stops on both sides of Ballan Road (between Tuppal Drive and Spearmint Boulevard).

The major signalised intersection at Ballan Road/Ison Road is under construction and will provide an alternative and safer access for residents in this area.

The Kinglake Drive/Ballan Road Intersection will be upgraded to a signalised intersection for a new road to be constructed opposite Kinglake Drive by the developers of the Jubilee Estate. The timing of when this intersection will be signalised is dependent on the rate of land sales triggering the need for the fourth leg of this intersection to be constructed.

- Armstrong Road/Hobbs Road to Bolton Road – The traffic volumes warrant the duplication of this section. The current advocacy position is seeking the duplication of Ballan Road in this section, including the signalisation of the Ballan Road- Evergreen Road intersection.

The duplication of this section of road would also require the duplication of both the Ballan Road/Armstrong Road/Hobbs Road intersection and the Ballan Road/Bolton Road intersection, and the Ballan Road/Manor Lakes Boulevard roundabout should be replaced with traffic signals. Signalisation would provide safer pedestrian access across this intersection to access the school, shopping centre and other local services.

The duplication would however require the removal of many of the mature trees along the northern side of Ballan Road, from Evergreen Drive to Bolton Road.

- Bolton Road to Greens Road/McGrath Road - The current advocacy position is seeking the signalisation of the Ballan Road/Greens Road/McGrath Road intersection. Duplication of this

section of road is complicated by the existing residential properties that have direct driveway access.

Duplication would also require the removal of the shared use path and most of the trees located either side of it. Any relocated shared use path will not have the same amenity or attractiveness to users.

- Greens Road/McGrath Road to Bulban Road to Cottrell Street - The traffic volumes increase south of this intersection due to the additional traffic using Greens Road. These volumes have reached a level that indicates duplication is needed but until Westlink Stage 1 is constructed (connecting Armstrong Road and Ison Road to the Princes Freeway), there are few alternative routes for residents to use.

By providing a direct connection to the Princes Freeway, Westlink Stage 1 is expected to reduce the amount of traffic needing to use this section of Ballan Road. Duplicating this section of Ballan Road would only encourage more traffic to continue travelling through the Werribee City Centre.

Duplicating this section of road would also require the removal of many mature trees along the entire length.

## Recommendation

It is important for Council to continue to advocate to the State Government on behalf of community members.

That Council's Advocacy Strategy, Securing Wyndham's Future maintains the current position on Ballan Road, which advocates for the duplication of Ballan Road (Armstrong Road to Bolton Road), Ballan Road and Evergreen Drive signalisation, and Ballan Road and McGrath Road signalisation.

That Wyndham City continues to advocate to State Government for:

- Road upgrades that provide an integrated network (including pedestrians and cyclists), and which respond to maintenance and safety concerns.
- Improved public transport services, including extensions to bus routes and increased frequency to provide alternate transport options across the City.
- Full funding for the Ison Road bridge, for the additional funding needed for Stage 2 of Wyndham West Link, and to fund upgrades to the state-owned roads in Wyndham.