



Project Update

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination project over the last few months.

The ideas, issues and concerns raised by locals and visitors have played an important role in shaping the planning of this world-class mountain biking facility.

It has been wonderful to receive positive and constructive feedback from so many community members and stakeholders. At each stage we have improved and refined the project in response to what we've learned.

The Warburton Mountain Bike Destination team has been working hard, preparing our assessments and technical reports for the project's Environment Effects Statement (EES).

An EES is a comprehensive assessment process to ensure major projects are designed, constructed and operated to minimise adverse environmental and community impacts.

Council is working collaboratively with a Technical Reference Group (TRG) to prepare the EES. This includes the development of avoidance and mitigation strategies, and ensuring all potential impacts are thoroughly considered.

The TRG was appointed by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and includes representatives from:

- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Heritage Victoria, Aboriginal Victoria
- DELWP Planning and Biodiversity
- EPA Victoria
- Parks Victoria
- Department of Transport
- Melbourne Water.

Warburton Mountain Bike Destination

A WORLD-CLASS MOUNTAIN BIKE DESTINATION IN THE HEART OF THE YARRA RANGES

rideyarraranges.com.au





We undertook consultation in December 2020 and March 2021, which was focused on informing the EES technical studies. We sought feedback on potential impacts from the trails and any ideas for improvements and inputs to the design. Around 500 people participated, providing more than 2500 individual comments.

Yarra Ranges Council CEO, Tammi Rose, thanked local communities for helping to shape this project.

“Community feedback and local knowledge of the area plays an important role in developing the technical assessments of the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination” CEO Tammi Rose said.

“The EES technical studies and reports address the potential impacts of the project in its entirety – it’s crucial that community concerns and feedback have been considered through this rigorous process” CEO Tammi Rose said.

What we heard

Throughout the project design and development, we have heard from a range of stakeholders including Warburton locals, nearby residents, interest groups and mountain bike riders. Feedback we heard covered a range of topics including:

- potential positive impacts for businesses and the local economy
- questions about how the project’s potential environmental impacts would be managed
- concerns about amenity for local residents; how to manage changes to traffic and parking and increased visitation
- anticipation about the attraction of a significant new mountain bike trail

- Trails and proximity to houses and driveways and maintaining safety for other users like horse riders
- considerations of fire and emergency evacuation plans.

All comments, ideas, suggestions and issues raised during the consultation were provided to the relevant specialists to be considered as part of their technical assessments.

A report outlining the consultation process and outcomes will be included as part of the EES documentation and available to the public during the Exhibition period later this year.

What we’ve done about it

One of the primary objectives of the consultation process is to find ways to develop and refine the project so it can respond to the needs, considerations and ideas of stakeholders.

Proximity of trails

Residents raised concerns about the proximity of some trails and how this might impact access to their homes in Old Warburton. As a result, the project team made several key design modifications to move Trail 63 away from nearby homes and driveways.


Impacts to habitats

The project team recently met on site at Mt Donna Buang with specialists in Leadbeater’s Possum and Mt Donna Buang Wingless Stonefly to identify opportunities to avoid or minimise impacts on the species. As a result of this meeting several sections of trail are being realigned to avoid critical habitat areas near the summit of the mountain.


Traffic in Warburton

Pressure on traffic, parking and local amenity continues to be an area of concern. Some participants want to know more about how Warburton’s infrastructure will cope with increases in visitation as a result of the project and other local attractions.


Our technical assessments have investigated visitation to Warburton as a result of the project, including peak periods, number of additional vehicles and overnight stays generated.



In 5 yrs the predicted no. of cars on the busiest day is 298 arriving and departing over a 12 hr period



We are planning to increase parking with 300 new car spaces



We are planning to implement small shuttle buses to help with traffic reduction using a park and ride model

The traffic assessment being done as part of the EES will assess the impact of the project to local traffic and look at the best way to manage and mitigate this particularly during events and peak periods.

In the meantime, we’ve been looking at more ways to address concerns about traffic and safety and identified that including additional parking with the proposed Wesburn Park trailhead would better distribute the flow of traffic and help to reduce pressure on roads and parking in Warburton.

Emergency management

Yarra Ranges Council is committed to ensuring the safety of trail users and the broader community. The project team is working with recognised experts in emergency management to prepare a Bushfire Management Statement (BMS). The BMS is part of the EES process and will assess bushfire hazards associated with the project and provide a plan for managing associated risks.

Council will work collaboratively with land managers and emergency services to develop and implement an Emergency Management Plan (EMP) for the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination. The EMP will be developed before operations commence and will consider all likely hazards and provide a structure for preventing, preparing for, and responding to incidents and emergencies.

Gathering community and stakeholder feedback, ideas and concerns is integral to the project design development and planning.

At each stage of consultation, we have improved and refined the project in response to what we have heard and learned from the community.





Project Timeline

What's next?

The project team are continuing with assessments and have been out and about in the hills with environmental planners, specialists and Wurundjeri Elders ground truthing, documenting and discussing local conditions. We have also been working with specialists to identify ways to avoid and mitigate potential environmental impacts and help us further refine the design.

Preparation of the EES is well underway, with technical reports and assessments being finalised ahead of Exhibition in the coming months.

The EES will include chapters on:

- biodiversity and habitat
- socio economic
- traffic and transport
- cultural heritage
- waterways and catchments
- land use and planning

Technical specialists have been working for more than a year, writing hundreds of pages of technical reports and summary chapters to assess the impacts of the project in each study area.

You can find out more about the technical study areas and key scoping requirements of the EES study areas in the technical discussion papers here:

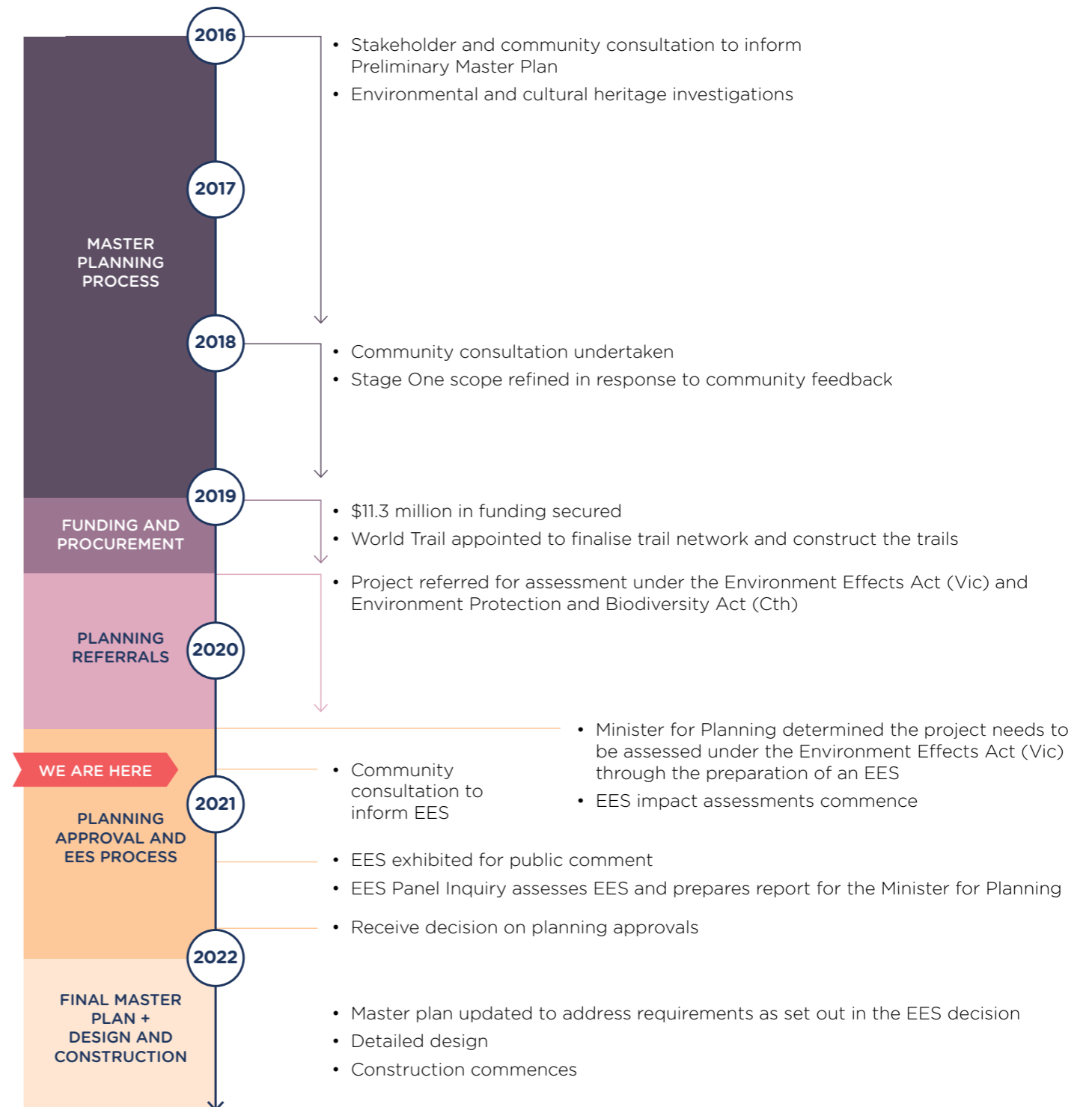
<https://www.rideyarraranges.com.au/warburton-mtb-destination/#docswarburtonmtb>

Local communities and people with an interest in the project will have an opportunity to view the EES documentation and make a submission to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Once the Exhibition dates are confirmed, we'll provide more information about how to view the EES documents and make a submission to DELWP.

For more information about the EES process visit planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessment or contact DELWP's Impact Assessment Unit on (03) 8392 5503 (Monday to Friday).

To find out more about the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination and stay up to date with the project, visit rideyarraranges.com.au or call 1300 368 333 to chat with the project team.



Find out more and stay involved

Community input is an important part of the EES process and the project's continued development.

📍 Sign up for project updates, find the latest information or ask a question on our website rideyarraranges.com.au

✉ mtb.planning@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

☎ 1300 368 333

