

# Bacchus Marsh Eastern Link Planning Study

## Engagement Summary

September 2019

We're undertaking a planning study for an eastern link road in Bacchus Marsh to reduce congestion and improve safety in the town.

### What we asked

In May 2019, we presented four study areas and asked you to share your local knowledge to identify opportunities and constraints for a future eastern link road. Your feedback will help us refine our plans and designs.

### What we're doing now

We're currently reviewing 730 pieces of community feedback and investigating options identified for further consideration.

Using information from environmental surveys, cultural studies, technical assessments and traffic modelling, as well as community feedback, we are completing a rigorous assessment of potential corridor options.

Seasonal surveys and more detailed specialist assessment are being undertaken to assist with corridor and route selections, including:

**July - August:** Spiny Rice Flower  
**Sept - Oct:** Golden Sun Moth  
**Oct - Nov:** Striped Legless Lizard

### Community engagement



2

information sessions held in May



232

people attended community information sessions



54

feedback forms were submitted by information session attendees



2289

people visited the interactive map, which was live across 3 weeks



198

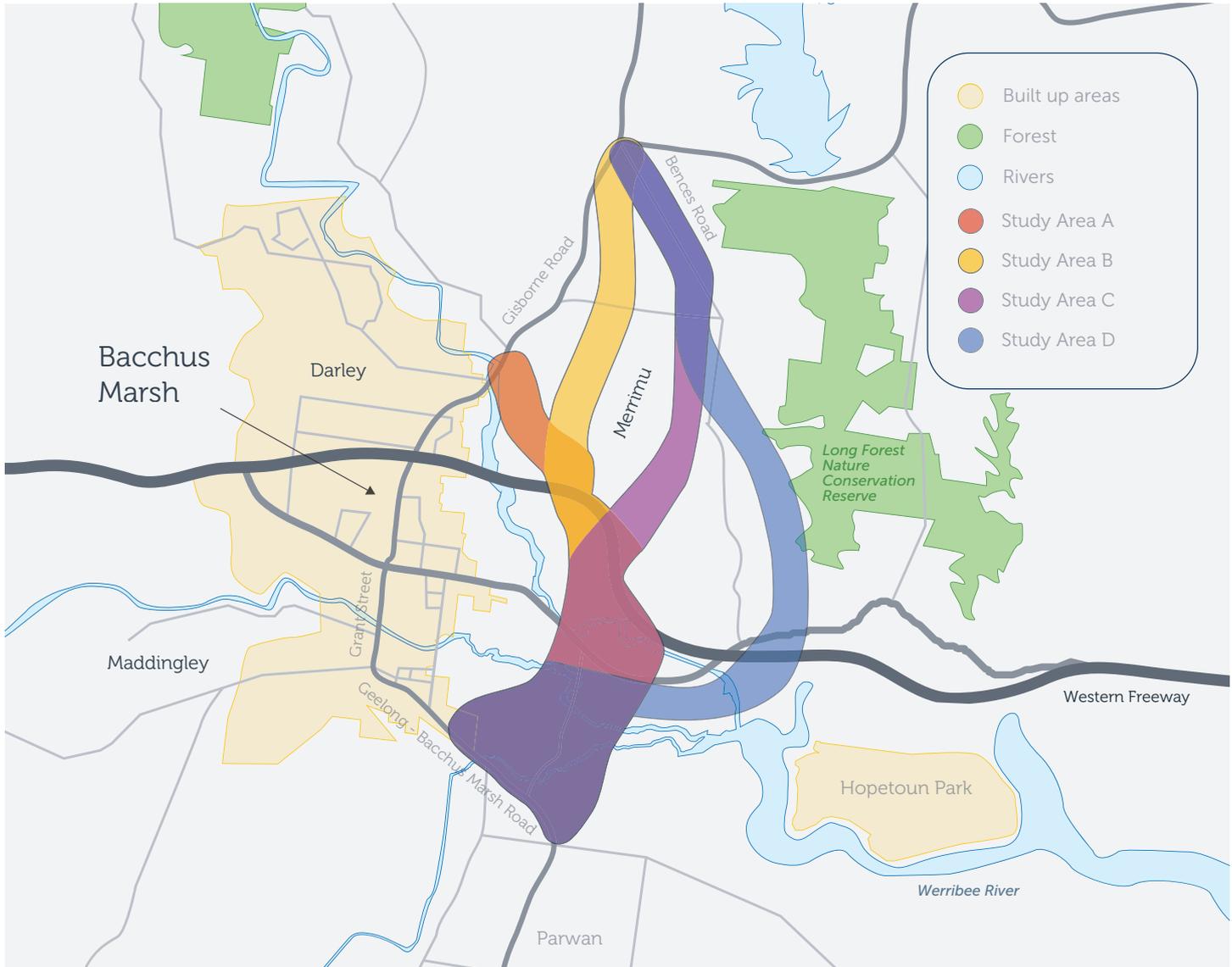
people gave feedback online



61

people met one-on-one with the project team

## We presented four study areas for a future Eastern Link Road



Bacchus Marsh Eastern Link Planning Study - Map.

### Themes explained

We asked you to provide feedback on each study area based on key themes:

- **Access – general:** access onto the freeway, to town and to properties
- **Agriculture/horticulture:** the irrigation district, farm land and market gardens
- **Amenity – general:** quality of day-to-day life affected by close proximity to a new road
- **Economic impact:** impacts to the value of properties and agricultural land
- **Design:** length and design features including bridges, tunnels, roundabouts or intersections
- **Native wildlife:** particularly close to Lerderderg State Park
- **Heritage – European heritage:** the Avenue of Honour and the Hopetoun Cemetery
- **Traffic impacts:** congestion in Bacchus Marsh and preferences of routes that are closer to or further away from the town

### Other issues include

- Land acquisition
- Air quality
- Processes related to environmental assessments
- Freight
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Indigenous heritage
- Light pollution
- Noise – post construction
- Property value
- Road maintenance
- Tourism
- Travel times

## What we heard: key themes

### Study Area A:

This is the shortest and most direct option. Due to the steep and winding section of Gisborne Road, this option requires complex engineering design. It has a high impact on the irrigation district and crosses the Avenue of Honour.

### What you liked:

- Access (general)
- Amenity
- Design
- General and economic impact

### What you didn't like:

- Agriculture/horticulture
- Amenity (general)
- Design
- Economic impact and traffic impacts
- Heritage (European cultural)

### Study Area B:

This option avoids the steep and winding section of Gisborne Road. It has a reduced impact on the irrigation district. It runs along the edge of the proposed Merrimu development area and crosses the Avenue of Honour.

### What you liked:

- Access (general)
- Agriculture/horticulture
- Design

### What you didn't like:

- Agriculture/horticulture
- Design
- Heritage (European cultural)

### Study Area C:

This option has less impact on the irrigation district but divides the proposed Merrimu development. This option crosses the Avenue of Honour.

### What you liked:

- Agriculture/horticulture
- Amenity (general)
- Design
- Economic impact

### What you didn't like:

- Agriculture/horticulture
- Amenity (general)
- Native wildlife
- Heritage (European cultural)

### Study Area D:

This option is the longest and least direct for north-south traffic. This option avoids most of the irrigation district, Merrimu development and the Avenue of Honour. The community has expressed concerns that this study area has the most environmental impacts.

### What you liked:

- Agriculture/horticulture
- Design
- Heritage (European cultural)

### What you didn't like:

- Agriculture impacts
- Amenity (general)
- Design
- Native wildlife

## Next steps

We're working to determine a preferred study area. We expect to return to the community to present options for feedback on specific routes in February 2020.

## Contact us

### Email:

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**Visit:** [regionalroads.vic.gov.au](http://regionalroads.vic.gov.au) and search 'Bacchus Marsh Eastern Link'