



Yarra Valley Trail

Feasibility Study Report

Executive Summary



The journey

The 40km Yarra Valley Trail is ready to be transformed into a rail trail, priority on-road cycling route and aqueduct trail.

The Yarra Valley Trail will wind its way around the undulating countryside of the Yarra Valley and through the Yarra Ranges National Park to connect with the iconic Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail. The trail will encompass spectacular vistas of Christmas Hills and the Dandenong Ranges, providing a unique recreation and cultural experience for the local community and visitors to the region.

Located on the outskirts of Melbourne, the Yarra Valley Trail will be accessed via a short drive or directly from the Lilydale train line. There is no need for a car to access the trail. The trail will provide a convenient day trip to the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges and its well-established wineries and food destinations, significant national and state Parks and the Healesville

Sanctuary Zoo – considered major tourist destination for visitors to Victoria.

The Yarra Valley Trail will connect the local townships located between Lilydale, Yarra Glen, Healesville and Warburton and – with the popularity of walking, jogging and cycling in natural areas increasing – people in these communities will be encouraged to lead healthy and active lifestyles.

The Yarra Valley Trail

**Will attract 210,040 users each year
and generate \$30,317,188 in economic benefit
and 222 jobs to the region**

It will also attract new business and help to position the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges as a cycling, running and walking destination.

Over 1200 responses to the on-line survey were received with 98% in support, stating they would use the Yarra Valley Trail proposal. Nearly 50% of responses were from Yarra Ranges residents.

The survey results highlighted:

- The primary catchment of the trail is within one to two hours (38%) of the Yarra Valley. Responses were received from interstate highlighting the appeal to domestic travellers.
- 97% identified that they would use it for health and fitness, whilst 70% identified that it would be good for family gatherings.
- The predicted spend per visit to be \$250 to \$500 (24%). Also, 98% of respondents stated they would eat at cafes and restaurants along the trail.
- 72 businesses (6% of responses) responded in support of the proposal.

The design report has explored short- and long-term options for the Yarra Valley Trail and includes design specifications for the trail surface, bridges and culverts, and on-road and crossings treatments. The report outlines a preferred route and costs.

The total costs of the project are:

\$10,654,000

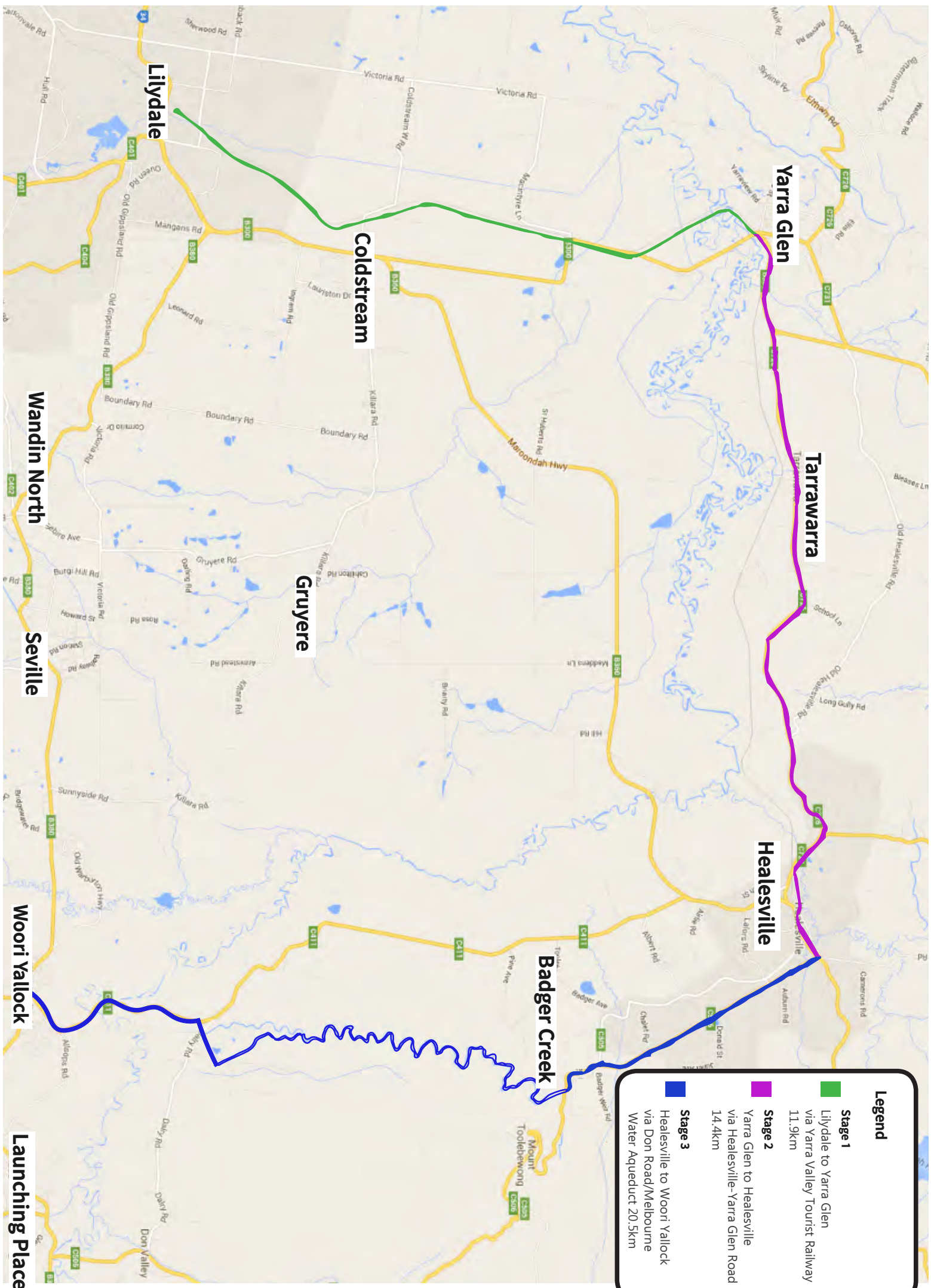
The total asset renewal, maintenance and staffing costs are estimated at:

\$503,000

All options cross land tenures and require planning approvals from VicTrack, VicRoads and Melbourne Water. All land managers provided in-principle support for the project and have provided advice on the next steps to proceed with the Yarra Valley Trail.

The preferred route is:

- Stage 1 via the Lilydale to Yarra Glen railway reserve with the construction of a rail trail to the recently renovated, historic Yarra Glen Railway Station.
- Stage 2 via a shared-use path from Yarra Glen to Healesville-Yarra Glen Road reservation and then an existing footpath through the Healesville township.
- Stage 3 via the Coranderk Aqueduct and connecting with Yarra Bridge Reserve down Timberline Road and onto the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail in Woori Yallock. This option is considered the long-term option due to access not being granted by Melbourne Water until the aqueduct is decommissioned, scheduled in five years.



Lilydale

Coldstream

Yarra Glen

Tarravarra

Gruyere

Healesville

Badger Creek

Wandin North

Seville

Woori Yallock

Launching Place

Legend

- Stage 1**
Lilydale to Yarra Glen
via Yarra Valley Tourist Railway
11.9km
- Stage 2**
Yarra Glen to Healesville
via Healesville-Yarra Glen Road
14.4km
- Stage 3**
Healesville to Woori Yallock
via Don Road/Melbourne
Water Aqueduct 20.5km



YARRA VALLEY TRAIL

\$30M

Benefit local economy

\$13.7M

Overall Project Cost

Healesville

SHOP

72

Business support project

Lilydale - Warburton Rail Trail

222

New Jobs

210,040

Visits Predicted

Yarra Glen

1223

Responses to survey, 98% in support

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Poor

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Yarra Ranges 3rd worst state for overweight

Trail projects target improving community health

Lilydale

The Yarra Valley Trail takes high priority in the Hike and Bike Strategy

An active trail linking major tourism experiences and businesses

Catchment area is within 2 hours of Yarra Valley and includes 4 million people

Project will attract 210,000+ of people each year to walking, riding and adventure running events





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