FoCC

Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated

No: A0097535B ABN: 65 669 025 773

March 8th 2026

Western Freeway and Brewery Tap Road intersection upgrade

Big Build Project

contact@bigbuild.vic.gov.au

Dear Project Team,

Re: The Western Highway and Brewery Tap Rd intersection public consultation.

The Friends of Canadian Corridor (FoCC) welcomes this project and the opportunity to have input into the design. The FoCC have a long-held interest in the reconstruction of the intersection and two important environmental opportunities that should arise from the project

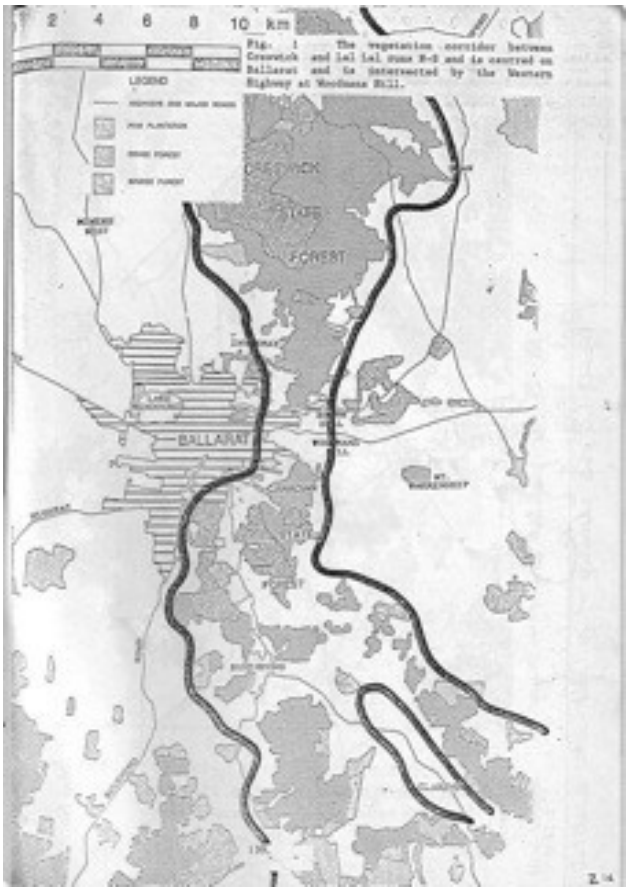
1. **Biodiversity and Bio link**

The first opportunity is the enhancement of the Bio Link across the highway to the west side of intersection. This link was identified and addressed in the City of Ballarat, 2015 C173 Woodman's Hill study. Items such as mid Highway vegetation and animal/possum ropeways should be part of the project.
Native plantings down the adjacent Orchard Lane and Brewery Tap Rd on the North side and further plantings along the Highway on the south side should be part of the biodiversity enhancement aspect of the project.

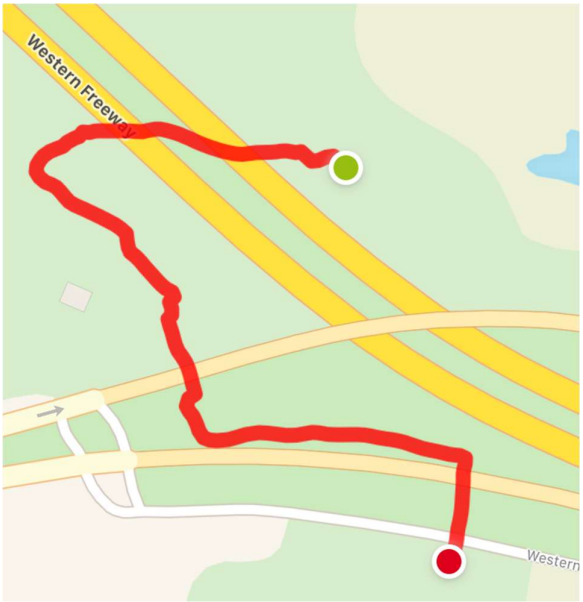
The Bio link was identified in the late 1980's whilst undertaking biodiversity studies in preparation for the planning for the Western Highway By Pass.

The report by Mr Patrick Prevett, Senior Lecturer in Wildlife management at Ballarat University College, to Mr Adam Parrott of the COB on July 29 1991 makes it clear that the corridor existed with recommendations to be undertaken. His report identified:

> That "arrangements are being made with Vic Roads for the safe passage of koalas under the Western Highway and Ballarat Bypass using culverts"
>
> That "koalas will be prevented from accessing the roads by special electric fences"
>
> That "urban Ballarat is part of a natural vegetation corridor which passes through Ballarat in a North South direction." Map shown below.



A wildlife underpass was built in the early nineties under the Western Highway at the Brown Hill turn off.



The wildlife crossing in 2023. FoCC image

FoCC map of highway wildlife crossing

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In 2014 the FoCC identified the Biolink on the eastern side of Ballarat on the map below.

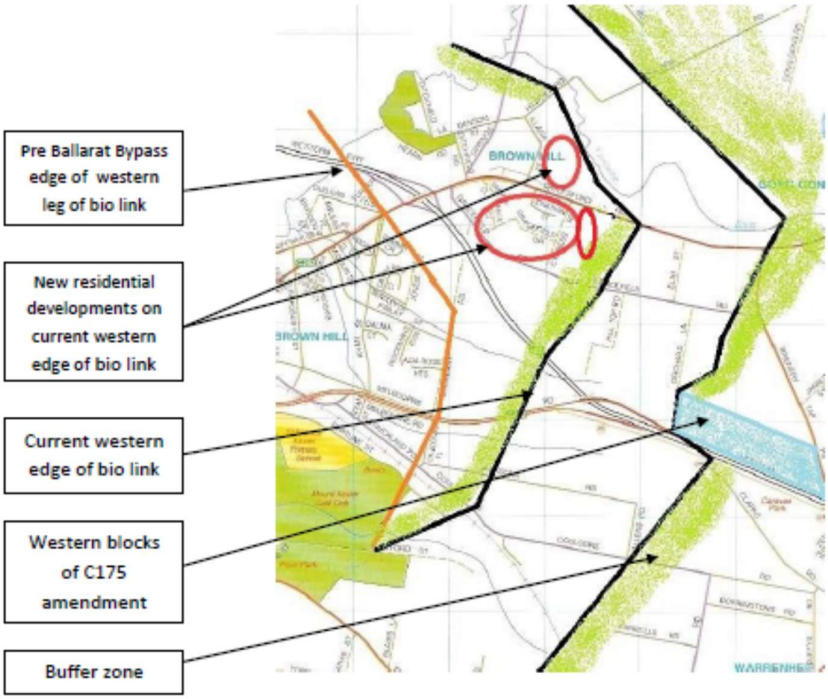


Image: 2014 prepared by the FoCC for the C173 Woodmans Hill Master Plan and C175 amendment.

The C173 planning panel recommended the following:

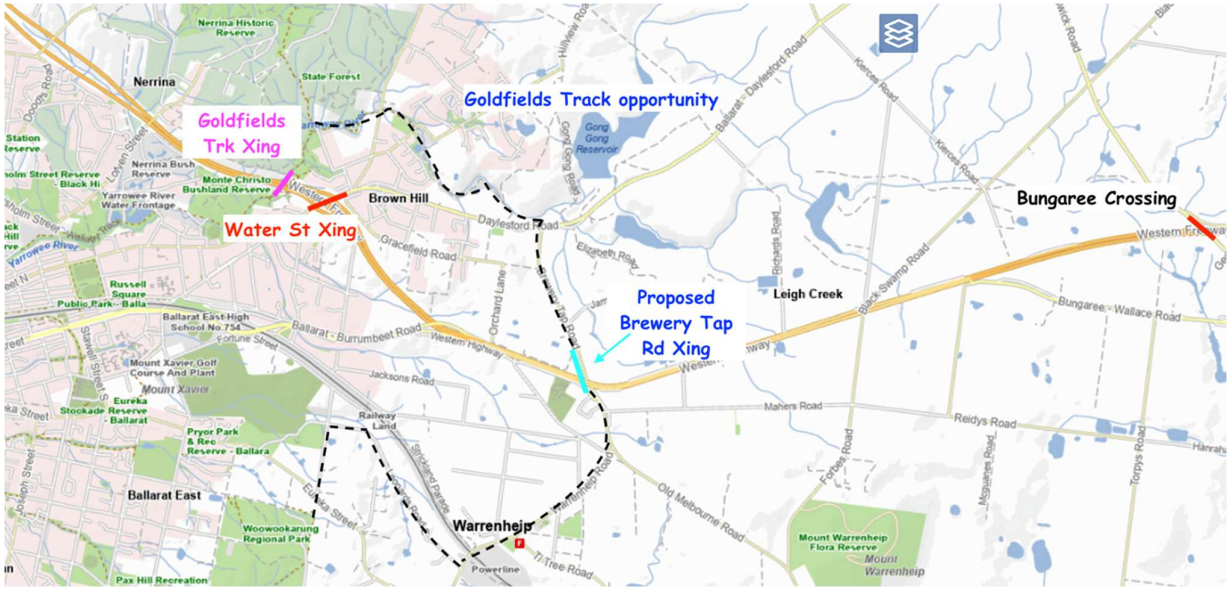
The provision of a pedestrian/wildlife crossing will be a matter for VicRoads during the detailed design phase of the new Western Highway extension"
Ref: Page 25 C173 Panel Report, Ballarat Planning Scheme Amendment C173 Woodmans Hill, 1 December 2014

The FoCC submission to the Woodmans Hill Planning C173 in 2014 was made in anticipation of the eventuality of the road project going ahead. The submission is attached.

2. **Walking and Cycling connections**

The second opportunity is to connect the north and south side of the highway with a shared walk/cycle path beside or on the proposed overpass.

At the moment the highway is a dangerous barrier for walkers and cyclists. The first safe crossing on the west side of the highway is 2.75kms away at Water St Brown Hill. There is the Goldfields Track under road walk/cycle trail tunnel further west under the highway. On the east side of Brewery Tap intersection the first safe crossing is 3.6 kms away at Bungaree.



Map of walk/cycle connections. FoCC Map

A full width shared cycle/walk path across the highway at the Brewery Tap intersection would allow connection between the Goldfields Track from where it crosses the Yarrowee River near Springs Rd, Brown Hill and the south side of the Highway and Warrenheip.

The connection would enable a trail from Warrenheip across the Railway line on Warrenheip Rd, along Fortune St and Blairs Ln to the north east corner of Woowookarung Regional Park. On the North side of the intersection the trail could run beside Brewery Tap Rd through to Daylesford Rd and the Gong Trail.

There is a pedestrian crossing footbridge further west along the highway at Nerrina. This crossing was installed a part of the construction of the highway in the early 1990's to meet the needs of the local community on either side of the highway.

Nerrina Foot bridge

The FoCC would be very happy to meet and talk through our request with the project planners and to provide further information to assist.

Kind regards

Jeff Rootes

FoCC President

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