

	Old Heidelberg Road - Have Your Say - SUBMISSIONS - Miscellaneous
1.	<p>I am making a submission on behalf of Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC). We would like to see the eastern section of Old Heidelberg Road remain open to the public. Further, we would like to see the road connected to the Darebin Creek Shared trail through construction of a public path running along the southern bank of Darebin Creek to just south of the Sparks Reserve bridge.</p> <p>Currently there is no connection between South Alphington and the shared trail meaning that school children on bikes and pedestrians have to use the narrow and dangerous footpath on the Heidelberg Road Bridge to reach the shared trail via Sparks Reserve. Access to the shared trail via Old Heidelberg Road would benefit students commuting to Alphington Grammar from south of the Yarra as well as South Alphington students commuting to Kew Schools.</p> <p>Darebin Creek Management Committee Inc.</p>
2.	Allow the school to use the land but give segregated public access to the creek
3.	<p>We need access to the creek which we have had for the 40 years I have lived in the area. For years we have walked via public access across the school grounds; long before Alphington Grammar came into existence. There was a trade off when the bike path was put through but we have been left out of access to the bike path that promised so much 20-30 years ago. The footbridge should be restored so we can once again safely access Ivanhoe on foot or bike. We urgently need proper access to the bike path on the South side of Alphington.</p>
4.	<p>Maybe you should look at the real issue, we do not need bike lanes on Heidelberg road, watch how many users use it during the day!!! Hardly any!! Maybe in covid families were cycling as we had limitations in place, numbers are no longer high. Yes one child went to Alphington but we live in Fairfield which has the same postcode.</p>
5.	<p>We live in Eaglemont and regularly walk along the Darebin Creek trail and Streets nearby.</p> <p>As members of the public and residents living nearby we seek Council's assurance that the access to the Darebin Creek and it's surrounds remain open to and accessible to the public.</p> <p>This can be done whilst protecting the security of the Grammar School which can locate fencing on it's own boundary.</p> <p>Problem solved</p>

6. As a resident who lives on Lucerne Crescent in Alphington I have witnessed the increase in bicycle and pedestrian recreational traffic coming from the city (west) end of our street. This tells me that people from within and beyond our suburb feel a connection to the streets that border the river corridor and see this as a possible continuous journey, albeit that they need to deviate to Heidelberg Rd at various points along that journey. This traffic will increase with the gradual completion of the Paper Mill site in the years to come and if we retain bicycle lanes on Heidelberg Road.

I enjoy and value this use of our street for recreation and travel.

In reality, there is no gate through which locals can access the Darebin Creek Trail through the school. Pedestrians need to climb through a marine wire fence - so this is not a realistic and accessible option for many people.

I also value the presence of two schools in our immediate part of the suburb even though my children attend schools in another suburb, and despite the traffic challenges at some times of the day, I think that we need to continue to value the access to education for young people as a priority in our community.

These two uses of the river and Heidelberg Rd corridor create a further challenge and risk in that pedestrians and cyclists (of all abilities) travelling through the area south of Heidelberg Rd need to return to either the narrow footpath on Heidelberg Rd to cross the bridge at Darebin Creek, before accessing the trail to travel north or east on the creek trail or to cross Heidelberg Rd on the northern side. Both these options bring cyclists close to the busy road at a point where cars from both directions are gathering speed on downhill approaches.

From a travel and recreational perspective it makes clear sense to open a permanent and safe connection between Lucerne Crescent and the Darebin Creek Trail at some point so that there is safer grade separation between foot, bicycle and vehicle traffic.

While the planning option exists for the Council to reinstate public access for pedestrians and bicycles to Old Heidelberg Rd and I would support this if the students and the school can be safely and practically accommodated and compensated for the possible loss of amenity on their site, I would also argue that there is another possible solution which is to make the connection through Farm Road. This could provide a simpler and safer solution to providing access to the Darebin Creek Trail. This would have the greater benefit of limiting the collision of schools traffic and pedestrian and cycle traffic, improving safety for all user groups. Golf patrons would represent a much smaller group and therefore create a safer combination of traffic. I also have some sympathy for the school in needing to manage the safety and security of students with through traffic passing very close to campus - though there may also be ways to accommodate and manage this risk.

While respecting the amenity of the members of the golf club, I cannot see that the increased traffic would do anything to harm their business at

	<p>the points required for access and egress at the point where Farm Road comes near to the Darebin Creek trail.</p> <p>Given the limited space on which the school can expand I would also support discussion about whether some land should be annexed from the golf club if the school is asked to reinstate the public use of Old Heidelberg Road.</p> <p>The other option, which I imagine would be less attractive to the LaTrobe Gold Club, would be to cut through the golf course at another point further back along the river corridor, e.g. on the river side of Alphington Park, though this may have an impact on the wildlife and wetlands which would be unlikely to gain support from local residents.</p> <p>If the decision is made not to proceed with a safer and more permanent connection between Lucerne Crescent and the Darebin Creek Trail, then the Council should consider a safer permanent bicycle bridge on the southern side of the bridge crossing Darebin Creek on Heidelberg Rd.</p>
7.	Public pedestrian and cycling access to link with the creek OR sell it / lease it at market rates to Alphington Grammar and donate the funds to Darebin Parklands

8.	Looks like an adverse land possession claim by the school. Public pedestrian access to Darebin Creek needs to be maintained. If gates needed then appropriate signage allowing access are needed.
9.	I am a resident of Old Heidelberg Road. While I value access to Darebin Creek, I do not support the idea of a foot thoroughfare via Old Heidelberg Rd. I am concerned about the potential increase in traffic and pressure on the already limited car parking in the area. I would consider supporting the idea if permit parking were designated (including the possibility of visitor passes) for Old Heidelberg Road residents.
10.	<p>As a resident of Old Heidelberg Road, I would like this to remain closed for public access. Old Heidelberg Road is an already crowded street, and the increase in foot and car traffic from creating this thoroughfare will be a challenge for nearby residents.</p> <p>Although I can appreciate the sentiment behind this initiative, the entrance to Sparks Reserve is only a short 350m away, along Heidelberg Road, and is readily accessible to residents to the west of Darebin Creek, so I do not feel that this gate is essential for the community.</p> <p>If the Council were to go ahead and open this up, it would be good to employ some "opening hours" for this gate, as is done in other parks in other Council areas - eg. Maranoa Gardens (Boroondara). Another concern for my household is an increase in crime due to the proximity and ease of access to/from the park, particularly in the evening. Providing a closing time for this gate will reduce the risk of this.</p>
11.	This section of the road should remain open for pedestrian access outside school hours. It could be put to even better use by allowing access to the Darebin Creek bike path. This would provide cheaper & better access than the state government's Farm Rd access proposal
12.	<p>I am a property owner in Lucerne Crescent - and would like to see this piece of land opened to the Public (at a minimum - it should be opened outside of standard schools hours)</p> <p>We regularly walk to the Darebin Creek path with our young dogs - with the narrow bridge quite dangerous to cross at times if the dogs become distracted or there are people passing etc</p> <p>Re-opening Old Heidelberg Road to the public will make it safer for families in our area to be able to enjoy Darebin Creek.</p>
13.	Would like to see it open for certain pre determined times for public access. A balance between security for their staff and students and the public amenity is needed. Existing footpath on Heidelberg Rd is too dangerous.

14.	<p>I fully support the opening of the east section of Old Heidelberg Road to the public.</p> <p>As a resident of Lucerne Crescent, this would allow access to the Darebin Creek to be much easier and safer. Currently we have to use the bridge on Heidelberg Rd, the footpath of which is very narrow. This can be unsafe when walking our dogs.</p> <p>At the very least it should be open to the public outside of standard school hours.</p>
15.	<p>This should be configured to allow public access without endangering or interfering with school children. As a matter of safety because it feels like a matter of time before a car mounts the footpath in the area from the Boulevard to Old Heidelberg Road. Also with young students riding bikes along this very narrow foot path.</p>
16.	<p>Leave as is ,as security to the school is paramount ,there is plenty of access to the darebin creek.</p>
17.	<p>Public spaces should have public access, regardless of what's between a road and that public space. Keep the gate if you like, but make the space accessible to the general public.</p>
18.	<p>I live in Como Street Alphington (a short distance from Alphington Grammar) and make use of the new Darebin Creek Trail on a daily basis. To access the trail I walk along the Heidelberg Road footpath - which I consider to be the most dangerous footpath I have ever encountered. The footpath is relatively narrow and immediately adjacent to the very busy Heidelberg Road. On a number of instances I have been walking along this footpath and a large truck or bus has passed me with less than a meter of clearance. I often take my children along this footpath to access the Darebin Creek Trail and every time my concern for their safety is extreme - just one little silly lapse of judgement could have catastrophic consequences. Given this, I would see the provision of an alternative and much safer access path to the Darebin Creek Trail as a very high priority and I would like to see this land used towards this purpose. To the extent that this would require the cooperation of Alphington Grammar, I would highlight that the Alphington community accommodates the traffic challenges that accompany the school with good grace - and these challenges are not insignificant. Cooperation with access to the Darebin Creek Trail could be presented as a reasonable gesture of goodwill back to the community.</p>

19. The land was originally leased to Parade College, I assume Alphington Grammar took over that lease
Access to the Creek and the Fairy Hills side was always available to the public until the bridge was washed away. It appears that the school administration used the removal of the bridge as an opportunity to begin closing off access to the public.
With the advent of the pathway connection to the Main Yarra Trail, Alphington residents always assumed they would once again gain access to the creek and to the new trail from the Alphington side of the creek. That has not happened Residents need to go to Darebin Parklands, Darebin; Sparks Reserve, Banyule or the Access adjacent to the Guide Dogs Site in Kew to gain access.
Yet, there are at least two locked gates in Alphington which could provide direct access.
As the Alphington Grammar gates are electrically controlled surely they could be timer enabled to provide access to the creek or from the path to Alphington outside of school hours and during weekends. And access to the claimed part of Old Heidelberg Rd could be opened up on weekends.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.