

	<b>Old Heidelberg Road - Have Your Say - SUBMISSIONS – Open Gate</b>
1.	The corner from Old Heidelberg Rd and Lucerne Crescent is hazardous during high traffic for pedestrians, cyclists and cars (school drop off and pick up) and creates traffic back ups to Heidelberg Rd. The gated area should be repurposed to relieve these issues (turning circle or drop off car parking)
2.	My family and I live next to Sparks Reserve in Ivanhoe and my children attend Alphington Primary School. We would like to be able to walk/ride to and from school safely. Having access through Old Heidelberg Road and avoid crossing the dangerous bridge on Heidelberg Road would make a huge difference to us. I hope that a solution can be found before a child has a nasty accident.
3.	<p>I strongly support the move to reopen Old Heidelberg Road access to Darebin Creek and Trail. I walk along the Darebin Creek Trail and Main Yarra Trail daily from Lucerne Crescent. I find having to access the Darebin Creek Trail by walking along Heidelberg Road to Sparkes Reserve is both unpleasant and unsafe. Due to fast moving traffic on this section of the road cyclists also ride on the narrow footpath adding significantly to the risk from traffic.</p> <p>I usually drive to Sparkes Reserve as I am nearly 70 and too frightened to walk this section of road/path to access the trails by walking from my home. I would really appreciate being able to access the trails via the section of road currently closed and inaccessible to the public.</p>
4.	I have lived in Alphington for nearly fifty years and with my family have been dismayed by the old Heidelberg Road closure at Alphington School, blocking public access to Darebin Creek. It is a grievous case of private interests overriding public facilities. The school should be required, at the very least, to enter discussions with the Council to provide a solution with easy public access.

5.	<p>Today the banks and surrounds of Darebin Creek immediately south of the Darebin Parklands are practically inaccessible to the public due to three main factors: (1) the substantial transport infrastructure (Hurstbridge rail line overpass and Heidelberg Road bridge); (2) the fact that LaTrobe Golf Club has closed the southern end of Farm Road; and (3) the recent gated closure of Old Heidelberg Road by Alphington Grammar School.</p> <p>Nothing much can be done about factors (1) and (2), but factor (3) can and should be alleviated immediately. AGS's gates constitute the unlawful closure of a public road reserve. They should be removed.</p> <p>Increasing access to this area would assist to protect and preserve it for future generations. It would also encourage more people to get out into the environment and enjoy its many benefits. For example, it would enable the numerous schoolchildren who have to cross Heidelberg Road each day to get to school in Alphington to walk or cycle to school without having to cross a very busy and dangerous road.</p> <p>An added reason why it is a great idea to reopen access to this part of Darebin Creek as soon as possible is that it will assist the development of a continuous walking (and maybe cycling?) trail along the north bank of the Yarra from the old APM mill site on Chandler Hwy, which is presently being redeveloped and is expected to have a final population of 5,000 residents when it is completed. A path from there to the junction of Darebin Creek and the Yarra would be a terrific community asset and be well used by thousands of people every day. It would make a significant contribution to improving the health and well-being of the whole local community.</p>
6.	<p>I am an Alphington resident, living a few streets away from Alphington Grammar school. My family consists of two active young children who would love to have safe and direct access to Darebin Creek. Whilst I understand that re-opening access to Old Heidelberg Rd to the public would not provide access to the Darebin Creek Trail immediately, we hope that the Department of Transport would consider constructing access to the path in the near future. In the meantime, accessing Old Heidelberg Rd on the portion of land currently licensed to Alphington Grammar would allow for more public outdoor space for the whole of the community to benefit from. Given the terms of Alphington</p>

	Grammar's licence with the Council has not been revisited since 1953, it is entirely appropriate that Yarra City Council reviews this licence to consider the many changes made to the local residential community and re-enters a licence that allows for unrestricted public access to the Darebin Creek.
7.	My wife and I are local residents and frequently walk the Darebin Creek Trails. We would use the trails even more if ease of access was permitted both via Old Heidelberg Rd, and via Farm Rd/ the golf course gates at the end of it.
8.	As a local resident, I would love to see public access opened up again, for more ease of access to the bike path. It's very frustrating that access is blocked (both by the school and by the golf club). As someone who lives on St. Bernards Road, it means a near 10min walk down via Heidelberg Rd just to get to the trail. During the lockdowns, it was very frustrating to pass both the school and the golf club gates all shut, despite the very present need for public to get into nature with ease.
9.	With two young children, having more direct access to Darebin Creek, Sparks Reserve and surrounding parklands — without having to negotiate a treacherous stretch of Heidelberg Road — would make for a safer, more inviting experience for our whole family. At the moment, the prospect of riding our bikes down that portion of road means we look elsewhere. Direct access would allow for more regular use of this fantastic local amenity.
10.	Keep open
11.	Remain open and be fully accessible to the public.
12.	The locals have have been using this access for many years. I have lived here for 21 years and use this path regularly, this path was shown to me by my mother in law who had been using it to walk her dogs since 1965. The locals who enjoy and use this access have done so respectfully and out of school hours so it has no affect on the school. I cannot understand why the school would want to deny this access to locals. I would think that the school would be grateful for the presence of locals which if anything deters thieves and vandals. They should be encouraging locals to use that area.

13.

The map in the letter to residents dated May 2021 indicates 'the section of road that is currently closed'. The actual area of road reservation now closed is over six times greater in area than the indicated area. Furthermore the road reservation provides access to other significant areas of public land and other land, hence the letter does not tell the full story.

It is understood that the current locked gates erected across the road by AGS (Alphington Grammar School) have been illegally erected. They must be left open and the 'no trespassing signs' removed immediately (within say 7 days). Council should direct this action immediately. The brick walls across the road imply ownership of the area by AGS and deter public access, so they must be removed by AGS in the short term (within say 28 days).

Currently residents are forced to access Darebin Creek and the Darebin Creek Trail from Sparks Reserve, Ivanhoe which requires us to cycle and/or walk across the Heidelberg Road bridge which is unsafe for both pedestrians and cyclists. Access for residents of Alphington to the Darebin Creek Trail along Old Heidelberg Road is very desirable – particularly when heading north (to Northland, Darebin Park, Ivanhoe, etc). While there may eventually be other access to the Trail from Farm Road, the other potential access is not as suitable for us. All residents of Alphington who live in the Heidelberg Road area have to use the narrow Heidelberg Road bridge – including those with young children, strollers, disabled, students, elderly, cyclists, etc. Such access is unsafe, inconvenient, and adds route length. In summary, the existing access is unsafe and unsatisfactory.

The location of the old footbridge (Heritage Place HO79 in the Planning Scheme) built in 1914 and damaged in a flood in 2003 should be noted. The bridge created a link to Clarke Road, Ivanhoe. Public access was available to the footbridge over Crown Land from the end of the Old Heidelberg Road reservation. We have lived in the area for over 25 years and were regular users of access along Old Heidelberg Road to Darebin Creek and also the footbridge. We have no information regarding plans to replace the footbridge, now or in the future.

Students of AGS who travel along the Darebin Creek Trail to go to AGS, from Thornbury and other northern suburbs, from Kew and other southern suburbs, or even from Ivanhoe cannot directly access AGS from the Trail. They are forced to use alternative, longer, less-safe routes which is totally unsatisfactory.

Parking associated with AGS in the surrounding streets and traffic congestion at certain times are major concerns to the residents of Alphington. AGS should be encouraged to maximise the area of 'off-road' car parking both on AGS grounds and on the Old Heidelberg Road reservation.

We have no objection in principle to Council entering into a legal agreement of limited duration with AGS which only allows use of the road reservation (east of the line of the existing gates) by AGS for outdoor recreation and to provide exclusive vehicle access to AGS. The key requirements in the agreement would include:

- there shall be no restrictions by AGS on pedestrians/cyclists using the road reservation;
- no structures are to be built by AGS on the road reservation;
- AGS is required to maximise the number of car parking spaces for staff on the road reservation and in the school grounds; and
- AGS raises no objection to the installation of an unlocked gate or gap in the fence along the Darebin Creek Trail in the vicinity of the bridge

	<p>over the Darebin Creek to allow access to the Trail.</p> <p>An appropriate gate on Old Heidelberg Road could be installed to allow access for AGS staff vehicles at start/end of the school day. Bollards on either side of the gate to control vehicular access would be required, but a brick fence is not acceptable.</p> <p>AGS could also be encouraged to include a future major off-road car parking facility in their Master Plan for the AGS property (similar to Ivanhoe Grammar in City of Banyule).</p>
14.	Nothing should happen to the land that precludes it from being an option for use/access for the Darebin Yarra Trail link.
15.	The Old Heidelberg Rd (gates) should remain open and accessible to the public outside of normal school hours.
16.	Yeah would love to get through the gates to be able to walk the whole old Heidelberg rd. Schools being a bit selfish

17.	Open it up completely and let the public access green space with the least barriers. Green space is proven to improve mental wellbeing. Safe entry to bike trails is inclusive and safe.
18.	<p>Until recently I used to live in North Alphington (Bennett Street) where we have easy and safe access to the Darebin Creek Trail. This trail is a magnificent asset to the community along the creek and provides easy, safe access to outdoor space for exercise and recreation. While we lived in Bennett Street, my young children were 7 and under and loved to cycle every day, especially during lockdown. We would ride up and down the trail for hours each weekend.</p> <p>Now that I have moved to South Alphington (Riverview Grove), my children barely cycle any more because they are cut-off from the Darebin Creek trail by the fencing along Alphington Grammar School &amp; LaTrobe Gold Club. They are frightened of cycling along the narrow pavement around the Grammar School to get to the creek.</p> <p>It is so sad to see their love of cycling and riding in the outdoors being replaced by fear due to the Grammar school refusing access to public land.</p> <p>I strongly believe that the Old Heidelberg road should be open to the public and would have minimal impact on the School. I do not think the school should have the right to "own" this public land just because it is next to the school. It is their civic duty to the community to be a role model and focus on the physical and mental health of our children by allowing easy access to the trail.</p> <p>I understand the school may have a traffic problem but it is their responsibility to have a traffic management plan and to encourage parents not to drive. Easy access to the bike trail would be a key enabler for this plan.</p> <p>It also produces an opportunity to restore the footbridge into Ivanhoe across the trail to further enable children to walk and ride to their schools, instead of having parent clog out roads with cars.</p> <p>Open the road and let the public access public land once again!</p>

19.	<p>This section of road should remain in public hands, and be accessible to the public at all times. If the school does not have the right to deny the public access to Darebin Creek, then it should not have been allowed to effectively do so and this access should be restored immediately. Due to what I can only assume is a failure of local &amp;/or state government, we already find ourselves in the ludicrous situation where a public walking/bike path that is almost entirely constructed abutting Alphington is not accessible from Alphington - forcing schoolchildren (&amp; others) ) who could otherwise safely travel into Alphington PS, childcare &amp; sporting facilities to instead use Chandler Highway &amp;/or busy Heidelberg Road. Alphington Grammar School &amp;/or LaTrobe Golf Club should have been compelled to provide safe entry/exit at the time of construction. Now would seem to be a good time to address this issue as well.</p>
20.	<p>This section of road should be open to the public and it should be used to provide public access to Darebin Creek and the bike path. This is public land and should not be appropriated by Alphington Grammar for use which excludes the public. It would appear that the gates currently closing off Old Heidelberg Rd to the public are illegal.</p> <p>The licence in 1953 would have been issued to Parade College, the predecessor of Alphington Grammar, and the terms and timeframe of this licence are not disclosed in the information given. Whether it is still current would seem to be important.</p> <p>The local Alphington community agitated for a bike path for many years, and now that it has been built, there is no local access to it for Alphington residents. Negotiations with Latrobe Golf Club appear to not have progressed in this regard and this might provide an alternative. Both the school and the Golf Club are very possessive of their rights to the area, in opposition to local interest and benefit.</p> <p>My understanding is that originally, there was an easement to allow Old Heidelberg Road to go right to the creek. I do not know what is the status of that easement at this point, but it might be relevant.</p> <p>While the school is understandably concerned about keeping its students safe from public interference, this does not give it the right to unlawfully exclude the public from public land.</p> <p>The road could be excavated so that a bridge could be built over it to connect the two parts of the school and to allow public access to the creek and the bike path via a new bridge across the creek, thereby maintaining separation between school and public. This bridge across the creek should be built to the north of the school, towards Sparks Reserve, and would be an appropriate replacement for the bridge washed away in the flood some years ago.</p> <p>Opening the area currently closed off without using it to allow this access would have little public benefit. For many years the public had access though the school to the public land and the creek during non-school times, but the school has progressively closed this off, possibly without the right to do so, causing a significant loss of public amenity.</p>
21.	<p>It's simply private exclusive use of a public asset. The entitlement and arrogance of this private school is ridiculous. It should be opened up to provide access to the creek, and in future improved connectivity</p>

22.	I would like to see access for the public, noting that Alphington Grammar does not pay municipal rates.
23.	<p>I'm 55 and have lived locally most of my life. As a kid, I enjoyed access to the creek, and the park on the other side of the creek via the bridge that was damaged in a storm and then removed. The bridge allowed my group of friends to meet up without having to use the narrow and dangerous stretch of Heidelberg road which is now the only way to legally cross the creek.</p> <p>Living on Lucerne crescent, not far from Old Heidelberg road, the access to the creek banks was the only place for the many dogs I've had to have a truly relaxing and natural walk/run.</p> <p>Please let us keep this access to this natural habitat that we have always enjoyed and respected.</p>
24.	<p>As a young family living in Alphington, south of Heidelberg Road, the Darebin Creek Trail is a key part of our local amenity for walking and cycling. However the only direct access to the Darebin Creek Trail via the Heidelberg Road from South Alphington is very dangerous, as the footpath is narrow and directly adjacent to a busy road.</p> <p>My understanding is that Old Heidelberg Road is public land that extends down the Darebin Creek Trail and pathway bridge over Darebin Creek which has been fenced off by Alphington Grammar School and closed to public access.</p> <p>I also understand that Alphington Grammar School pays no fees for access of this public land.</p> <p>I feel that Alphington Grammar School has taken possession of this public land illegally by fencing off the land and installing secured gates. With that Council should undertake the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terminate any licence / agreement / peppercorn lease with Alphington Grammar School</li> <li>• Instruct Alphington Grammar School to remove all the illegal fences and gates on the public land</li> <li>• Instruct Alphington Grammar School to alter the Darebin Creek Trail perimeter fencing so that it does not encroach on the public land and enables public access to the Darebin Creek Trail</li> <li>• Instruct Alphington Grammar School to construct a security fence along the southern and eastern boundaries of the Crown Land.</li> </ul>



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26.	<p>Old Heidelberg Road is one of only two options to safely access the Darebin Yarra Link. Currently children and adults can only access the Link via the narrow dangerous footpath on Heidelberg Road across Darebin Creek.</p> <p>The Department of Transport has restarted consultation on access to the Darebin Yarra Link via Farm road. This proposal is still many years from completion and far from certain. Until the Farm rd access is confirmed, approved, budgeted and built, Old Heidelberg road should remain as an alternative option.</p> <p>In addition, the open space offered by the school oval, playground and basketball court is a valuable community resource that should be accessible when the school is not being used (eg. evenings, weekends and holidays). Opening access will provide visual security to the school, preventing minor crime (eg. vandalism, theft). Access to Old Heidelberg road would support this.</p> <p>Community Coalition to Build the Darebin Yarra Link</p>

27.	<p>Re: Public access to Old Heidelberg Rd.</p> <p>Public access to the fenced off section of the road should be allowed. This is also a great opportunity to link Alphington to the Darebin Creek Trail for pedestrian and bike access. Current access from Alphington to the Trail requires riding along Heidelberg Road and then back tracking at Sparkes Reserve. Bike and pedestrian access along Old Heidelberg Rd will be much safer and shorter. This is particularly relevant with the large increase in the Alphington population as a consequence of the APM site redevelopment. Encouraging this population to use bike and public transport will be an important initiative to avoid traffic congestion in the area. An efficient link to the Darebin Creek Trail via Old Heidelberg Rd should be part of that initiative.</p>
28.	<p>Please re-open access to the public to the section of Old Heidelberg Road. It would be lovely to be able to walk or bike-ride through this area and enjoy this part of Darebin Creek, preferably also connecting with the Darebin Creek Trail and parklands. I do not believe that Alphington Grammar School should have exclusive use of this area, which could be important for the recreational activities and health of many City of Yarra residents.</p>
29.	<p>I would love it if this section of Old Heidelberg Rd was made accessible to the public. Living so close to the bike path, it is very odd that this section of Alphington does not have much access to it.</p> <p>So if there was a route through to the bike path via Old Heidelberg Rd that would be great.</p>
30.	<p>I would very much like to see the reopening of Old Heidelberg Road. It will allow access to Darebin Creek Trail and the Napier Waller Reserve, which unfortunately is not possible due to the gates and fences erected by Alphington Grammar School and I am positive once Old Heidelberg Road is reopened it will be supported by a community that enjoy walking, cycling and the natural environment in and around the Darebin Creek and Trail and will also encourage more people to get out into the Darebin Creek environment and enjoy its beauty.</p>
31.	<p>Alphington Grammar has no legal basis to unilaterally install gates to limit access to that area of Darebin Creek. I find this kind of stealthily annexation offensive and hence will insist vigorously that the area remains open for public access and that the school be chastised appropriately.</p>
32.	<p>I would like to see the gates unlocked and public access restored through to the Darebin creek trail. This will make it easier to design walking and cycling itineraries that begin/end at Alphington station, currently only accessible from the Darebin Creek trail via a long detour.</p>
33.	<p>I would like to continue to have access to the creek via Old Heidelberg Rd and am disappointed the School has locked out the community. Of the 50 years of living here there has never been a problem with community access until the new school erected the gates and locked them.</p>
34.	<p>I would love to see an open access to Darebin Creek.</p>

35.	Access to this portion of the river is limited, and it would be great to see pathways become public use again.
36.	I'd like to see it open for community use.
37.	Old Heidelberg rd ( a public road) has historically allowed Alphington residents access to the Darebin creek and in recent past a safe walking route to Ivanhoe. Alphington Grammar has only been in the area since the late 80's prior to that it was Parade Junior that had the license from Northcote council not AGS. In 1914 a foot bridge was built across the creek with permission from the existing owner of Flowerdale, Charles Trescowthick you could cross the bridge and walk up a small lane to Clarke st Ivanhoe. At present South Alphington residents have to walk along the narrow footpath next to a very busy Heidelberg rd. There is no local access on the southern side of Alphington to the Darebin Bike path. The Grammar school chose to build on either side of ols Heidelberg rd and then to take it upon themselves to install gates and now to lock them, Surely there are many legal questions to ask here??
38.	Please leave the gate open Trust the locals
39.	Return it to the residents as it should always have been. Alphington residents are teased by the tantaslising close bike path, but have no access. Being able to enter via Old Heidelberg Road would be a valuable opportunity, and for no real loss of amenity for the school that 'appears to have taken matters into their own hands and commandeered the road for themselves".
40.	The underlying status of the road seems to be that it is still a public way, subject to an old agreement, an arrangement that arguably no longer applies or needs to be rejustified. The utility of public access is much greater than the utility of restricting access. It also a matter of access to a larger space. The AG has long sought to keep the public away from public land, along with the nearby golf course. This is profoundly undemocratic, and possibly illegal or unconstitutional. Post pandemic it's even harder to justify. Yarra will do the right thing I hope.
41.	This is public land and it should be open and accessible to people wanting to walk and cycle to and from the creek to other destinations. For women and children especially, having more connections means more points of escape (even if this hopefully just remains a perception of safety issue). More connections to the creek means better accessibility (including to the school and other local destinations); more people walking and cycling create safer transport and recreational networks, not putting up fences. I appeal to the Councillors to make a good decision for a more accessible outcome for all the community, (and not to a private school's ill-founded claims).
42.	Access to the public
43.	Please open this up to the public. Fresh air and exercise are about the most important things in the world and should be available to all! It is criminal that a private organisation can stop public access.

44.	The existing public land (Old Heidelberg Road) should remain in public ownership, and the gates should be removed. The public acquisition overlay should be applied, to allow a public path (for pedestrians and bike riders) to continue all the way down to the creek, connecting with the Darebin Creek Trail.
45.	Please open it for public access
46.	I want public access to be reinstated as was its original intention. Long term there could be a path connecting to the Darebin Creek Trail
47.	I would urge the Council to allow public access to the eastern portion of Old Heidelberg Road so our community can access the Darebin Creek and the bike track - Alphington residents over 30 years ago or more, were the first community to agitate for a bike path linking our community to the Main Yarra Trail - so people could cycle to work and our children could cycle safely to school - now the bike path has been built but NO access for Alphington/Fairfield residents!! Our only access is along the narrow and very dangerous footpath adjacent to Heidelberg Road to Sparks Reserve access. At present the Alphington Grammar School has erected gates preventing access without any consultation with residents - Old Heidelberg Road is a public road and should remain so for all residents and the general public - it should not be just for a select few.
48.	There is no doubt this public road should be open to the public to enable access not only to Darebin creek but also to the walking/bike track that runs along it. I write on behalf of the Alphington Primary School Council who unanimously agree that access should be provided for children travelling by bike/ scooter or on foot to school from neighbouring suburbs, particularly Ivanhoe and other nearby suburbs. Currently the only access is along the narrow pathway across the Heidelberg Rd bridge crossing Darebin Creek adjacent to the busy 4-lane road. Currently there is no alternative safe pathway.
49.	I would love to see this section of road made public as it provides additional access for everybody to Darebin Creek and the surrounds. Having it only accessible to the school no longer makes sense.
50.	Open it up for public access please.
51.	A path to allow public access to the creek should be identified and opened up. The college should then purchase the remainder of the public land (which includes part of their sporting field) at market prices

52.	This section of public road should remain public property for the purpose of providing future access to the path to the Darebin Yarra Bridge & Trail as an alternative to gaining access via the Latrobe Golf Club should arrangements with the gold club be further delayed.
53.	I would like to see access reinstated to provide direct through access to the walking path along the creek.
54.	<p>Thank you very much for providing the opportunity to give feedback on public access to Old Heidelberg Road, Alphington.</p> <p>As residents of Como St, Alphington for 15 years we would be extremely pleased to regain access to the Darebin Creek from this section of Alphington.</p> <p>When the extension of the Yarra Bike Trail was completed we could not see why common sense had not provided pedestrian access from riverside Alphington down to link up with the bike/walking track. To gain access now we need to walk along busy Heidelberg Road to access Sparks Reserve and the trail.</p> <p>If we were able to simply walk down Old Heidelberg Road to access the new track without encountering the noise of busy Heidelberg Road it would make a big difference to the enjoyment of exercising - walking, dog, bike.</p> <p>I would like to see an access path join the end of Old Heidelberg Road to the Yarra Trail Bike Path near Sparks Reserve.</p> <p>As you say in your letter, 'the area has experienced significant growth' and the suburb we bought into is changing. With the huge Yarra Bend development; and apartment living increasing, there are growing numbers of people in our Alphington Park and on our streets. To access Sparks Reserve and the Trail without first negotiating busy Heidelberg Road would make a significant difference for the better for friends, neighbours and our community.</p>

55.	<p>I would recommend that access is granted to the local community</p> <p>Already people have made a make shift track from the Ivanhoe side of the bridge to take a short cut onto the bike paths (This will eventually cause erosion)</p> <p>Makes sense to provide a proper path for riverside Alphington et al to access the paths without having to walk down Heidelberg Road.</p>
56.	<p>As the area has experienced significant growth any council land that can be accessed so residents can enjoy and use the local amenities should be maximised so we encourage Council to remove the gates and return the land for public use.</p>
57.	<p>As the area has experienced significant growth any council land that can be accessed so residents can enjoy and use the local amenities should be maximised so we encourage Council to remove the gates and return the land for public use.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
58.	<p>I would like free and open access from old Heidelberg Rd down to the Darebin creek. Heidelberg Rd and the road bridge over the Darebin Creek is too narrow to safely navigate with cyclists, people with prams, people with dogs young kids etc.</p> <p>It is much safer and nicer to walk down the northern boundary of Alphington Grammer to access the great new bike and walking track.</p>
59.	<p>Opening it up would better serve the broader community and provide a safer thoroughfare (rather than that busy and narrow bridge) than to keep it the exclusive domain of a few private school kids.</p>
60.	<p>Reopen to public access</p>
61.	<p>Thank you for reaching out to the community on this mater.</p> <p>I would like public access to be reinstated to enable access to the creek &amp; parklands, and the bike track, without the need to cross the main bridge at Heidelberg. The foot path on the main bridge is not safe to cross as there is no separation of traffic &amp; pedestrian. The footpath is not wide enough</p>

62.	<p>We live in Clark Road Ivanhoe. Our property runs down to the creek directly opposite Alphington Grammar, so we are neighbours. For us, access into Alphington was always across the creek and then walking up through Old Heidelberg Road. Years ago there was a foot bridge that our daughters used to walk to Alphington PS. That was washed away in a flood, so after that it was dodgy stepping stones but now with the new bike path bridges being installed that community access is again possible between our two neighbourhoods. Can I point out that at the moment the only access between Ivanhoe and Alphington is along busy Heidelberg Road? A very skinny and scary footpath with traffic hurtling past. The wind from a bus or large truck can sometimes almost knocks you off your feet. The less people, especially kids riding/walking to school, are forced to use that route, the safer the greater public will be. So for that reason alone I think council should consider not allowing Alphington Grammar to block off the road and begin talks with the school as to how to manage the obvious needs the school has in providing security, while also maintaining the right of way that our two neighbourhoods needs and deserves.</p> <p>And really what right do they have in the first place. The school in the past when it was Parade presumably bought land either side of the road. That road and our community right to access it was there well before the school. Just building a wall does not give them ownership.</p> <p>And although this does not affect us directly, there is also the issue of Alphington residents having access to the new bike path. Which in the last year and a half of covid restrictions has become extremely popular. At the moment there is no access on the Alphington side. A fact we find appalling given that most of the new section of the path is built on the Alphington side. Access down through Old Heidelberg road which goes all the way to the creek seems a no brainer to us. The road is already there. It is owned by the state. It should remain open and a route to the bike path built.</p>
63.	<p>We would like to have access to Darebin Creek again for regular exercise. The Alphington community is growing rapidly with the Yarra Bend development adding very large numbers of people and vehicles to our small parkland. Being able to walk at the eastern end of Alphington will add significantly to our capacity to walk and meet up with neighbours in our community.</p>
64.	<p>Access for cyclists</p>
65.	<p>Open the road</p>
66.	<p>I would like access to the creek and trail, it is inconvenient and more dangerous to have to walk around and down Heidelberg road, and encourages trespassing through the school given how inconvenient it is</p>
67.	<p>An excellent opportunity to get much better connections for bike paths. Please make it happen!!</p>

68.	<p>I am a City of Yarra resident in a neighbouring street to Old Heidelberg Road.</p> <p>I request that the public access to that section of Old Heidelberg Rd and the Darebin Creek be restored when the licence to the school expires. I further request that the previous footbridge access over the Darebin Creek be re-established, as this would allow access to the Darebin Creek walking and bicycling trail without having to use the dangerously narrow footpath on the Heidelberg Road - Darebin Creek bridge. (Access to that walking and cycling trail was sought but not granted from the Latrobe Golf Club; it could now be gained from a City of Yarra-controlled public roadway.)</p>
69.	<p>I am a regular cyclist through that area. To have that old road open would be a godsend to my travels to the Capital Trail. At the moment my choices are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Darebin Parklands (very difficult with a heavy load of shopping)</li> <li>2. Heidelberg Rd Dangerous (out of the question for me)</li> <li>3. Yarra Trail (long way around)</li> </ol> <p>Opening Old Heidelberg Rd would give me safe/r access to Yarralea St then on to the Capital Trail.</p>
70.	<p>Open the road to the significant volume of cycle commuter traffic for the benefit of Alphington and all surrounding suburbs.</p>
71.	<p>Public access needed. How did Iga grant public land to private ownership?</p>
72.	<p>Public access should be reinstated between Old Heidelberg Rd and the Darebin Creek and the Creek Trail. Two key changes make this important: first, the dramatic enhancement of access and use of the Darebin Creek connection to the Yarra River and Main Yarra Trail has enabled many more users to access off-street exercise opportunities and green spaces; Second, that the COVID-19 impacts on recreation in local contexts, the 'trying out' of more and different places to walk dogs, ride bikes and go for a run is enhanced by local connectivity. This reinstatement of access will leverage the multimillion dollar investment in the Darebin Ck-MYT bridges and pathways - huge benefits from a small investment.</p>
73.	<p>bike access to Alphington would be useful by opening it up.</p>
74.	<p>Hi All, opening up this part of the road to the trail would help cyclists, walkers and other trail users better connect to the Darebin and Yarra trails. Would love to see this happen.</p>



75.	Please reopen Old Heidelberg Rd access through to the bike trails.
76.	Open for cycling access and not cars. Reinstate public access to public land pls.
77.	<p>Revoke the licence and reopen the road to the public. It can also be used by the school but not exclusively. The road should provide safe and direct public access to the creek.</p> <p>The area is far more populated now than when the licence was granted 68 years ago and the road should be returned to public use.</p>
78.	It's a shame this is not public access to walk or cycle.
79.	I would love it to be open for public use.
80.	Please reopen to close the missing link in the cycle path.
81.	Please allow public access for walking and cycling as this will make businesses in Alphington more easily accessible.
82.	This section of road should be connected via a bridge and shared path to the Darebin Trail. This would enable a valuable transport link from the new (and hopefully extended) Heidelberg Road bike lanes with the Darebin Trail and via that the Yarra Trail.
83.	Public access needed- bike connections crucial
84.	Open to public access for bikes to use
85.	It would be great to see it open to public as a link between Alphington and the Darebin creek.
86.	Allow open access to bikes and pedestrians
87.	Non motorised (bikes, walkers, runners) should be able to access Darebin Creek more directly. It is ridiculous that we are squeezed on to the narrow footpath (east side of Heidelberg Road) or forced to navigate a multi-lane high speed highway.
88.	I would like to see residents of Alphington and Ivanhoe being able to more easily access the open space along Darebin creek, including reinstating the footbridge across the creek. The current access requires doing so through the City of Banyule or City of Darebin.
89.	We would like to see this area open up to pedestrians and bike riders to connect with the existing trail . This would allow people to avoid having to use busy Heidelberg Rd to access the trail from Alphington.

90.	<p>I think that this restriction should be opened to the public so it can be used for the local community. Restricting it for use of Alphington Grammar clearly prevents this and the current arrangement should be changed.</p> <p>The opening would also allow a more direct access to the recently constructed bike and walking track adjacent to La Trobe Golf Course. I look forward to the Council changing the current arrangement.</p>
91.	<p>It would be good to have public access restored so as to allow people to access Darebin Creek. This would also reduce the amount of foot and bicycle traffic on the footpath which runs alongside Heidelberg Road. It feels quite risky when using this footpath as it is quite narrow, and Heidelberg Road quite busy.</p>
92.	<p>Having enjoyed the access to Darebin parklands via the school grounds in the past, I was gob smacked when Alphington Grammar had the arrogance to close access.</p> <p>It's public land.</p> <p>Walking with young children on Heidelberg Road along the bridge is very narrow and dangerous with cars whizzing by.</p> <p>I believe residents should have easy access restored.</p> <p>The Grammar school makes residents lives a daily misery with parking issues, rude parents etc .</p> <p>Give us back what has always belonged to the local community.</p>
93.	<p>I would like to see this section of Old Heidelberg Road remain open and be accessible to the public, particularly to provide access to the Darebin Creek Trail. My children currently need to access the trail by crossing Darebin Creek on the East side of Heidelberg Rd which is very dangerous, in sections the distance from the roadway curb to the bridge fence is less than 1m with no median meaning bicycles and scooters are definitely out of the question.</p>
94.	<p>I would like to be able to walk down this road and get access to the bike/walking path along the creek, without having to walk along Heidelberg Rd. It is a very narrow footpath across the bridge. And it will allow me quick access to the path.</p>
95.	<p>The installation of the gates is completely inappropriate and ought to be removed, providing access for pedestrians to the creek. The school was closed for a large chunk of last year and physical/outdoor activities were severely limited during various lockdowns - the inability to access public areas along this road caused additional and unnecessary annoyance.</p>
96.	<p>it would be great to be able to access the creek from old Heidelberg Rd. It is a bit annoying that the school gives the impression that it is there land and keeps the public out if indeed it is council land and the public could have access. now that the walk/cycle path along the creek has been completed it would be great to have an option to access that path from the Yarra side of heidelberg Rd. thanks vicki white</p>

97.	<p>I live in Como Street, Alphington and, being a pensioner, I walk nearly every day. There are many people, young, old, disabled, children and pets who enjoy walking in this beautiful suburb. The close proximity of the Darebin Creek area is a bonus. By opening this road up again it would give everybody access to this area and maybe the trail that runs up past the golf course? It is a very long way to access this walking path at the moment.</p> <p>I believe the removal of the gates will give much pleasure and exercise to not only the residents of this area, but also the many people who visit this area because the word is spreading about the Alphington.</p> <p>Surely this land should be available to the wider public and not a private school.</p>
98.	<p>I would like access to Darebin creek walking trails from Old Heidelberg rd</p>
99.	<p>i would like to see access reinstated and a footbridge constucted over the Darebin creek to enable ease of pedestrian access to Ivanhoe and for ease of access for people living in the Darebin part of Alphington to the Yarra part of Alphington by bike</p>
100.	<p>The access should be returned to public use as this is public land and will allow residents better access to Darebin Creek Trail. Lockdowns in Victoria have shown how important access and availability of recreational land is to the public. I hope the private school can understand the changing needs of the many over the few.</p>
101.	<p>We live diagonally opposite Alphington Grammar in Lucerne Crescent.</p> <p>The section of Old Heidelberg Road licensed to Alphington Grammar needs to be re-opened for public access to the Darebin Parklands, Sparkes Reserve and the newly built bike path.</p> <p>Given the significant increase in traffic and resident numbers in the area, the current narrow foot bridge across the yarra river is now hazardous and unsafe for pedestrian travel.</p> <p>The opening of this section of Old Heidelberg Road would allow safe access for pedestrians across the yarra river without the need to put their safety at risk walking across the pedestrian car bridge on Heidelberg Road.</p> <p>This would also benefit the safety of students from Alphington Grammar.</p>
102.	<p>The Eastern section of Lower Heidelberg road should be open to the public to allow access to Darebin Creek. This area is a community asset and should not be restricted to a small interest group who do not have community interest at heart. As the inner city areas become higher population density, public open space is used more and more and is vital to the amenity of the local community. The area should be accessible to all, not just a select few.</p>

103.	I live diagonally opposite Alphington Grammar in Lucerne Crescent. I would like to see this part of the road open for public use again. My children and I would like access to the creek to walk the dog. It would be a great spot to access the bike trail and build a connection. I would like access to the bike trail from Alphington South so we don't have to use the dangerous bridge along Heidelberg rd that drivers speed along (to enter via Sparks Reserve). I am scared one of my children will be hit by a car.
104.	I would support public access to Darebin Creek from Old Heidelberg Rd. The pathway on the Heidelberg Rd bridge section that crosses the creek is very narrow and dangerous, especially for children on bicycles, , so an alternative access point would be highly supported.
105.	<p>Thanks for inviting the the community to provide input and thanks to the local resident who provided the additional information showing Council owned land (12 -18 Old Heidleberg Road) via the AFADA community email advice.</p> <p>This area along the Darebin Creek is: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># steeped in history (eg former hotels for travellers on each side of the Darebin Creek when the creek was in flood);</li> <li># provides a valuable opportunity for the Alphington and East Ivanhoe communities to regain safe access to their local green space and</li> <li># protects what remains of the traditional wildlife corridor (via Darebin Creek Trail and Yarra Main Trail)</li> </ul> <p>Please NOTE: the local communities are still waiting for Vic Roads to select the most suitable of the five identified Darebin Creek Trail access options. It is imperative that all of the relevant authorities urgently acknowledge the real risk and safety hazard (of the narrow footpath on Heidleberg Road) being the only access to the Darebin Creek Trail.</p>
106.	I would like to see Old Heidelberg Road link up with the Darebin Creek Trail. Access to the Trail is currently nonexistent south of Parklands Avenue, North Alphington, so this entry point would benefit many Alphington residents as well as Alphington Grammar School students and staff.
107.	I'm all for public access if it provides direct public access to the Darebin Creek Trail. As a resident of Alphington who lives south of Heidelberg Rd, it would be great to be able to get to the trail without walking with our dog along the narrow footpath on the Heidelberg Rd bridge between Alphington and Ivanhoe.

108. We live in Constances Street, Alphington and have done so since 1990.

Public access to this section of Old Heidelberg Road should be reinstated and enforced by the Yarra City Council. Although the map attached to your feedback page shows a relatively short section of road that does not connect to Darebin Creek or the Darebin Creek Trail, we understand that a Victorian State title's office search shows that a considerable portion of the flat land to the south and west of Darebin Creek in this area is in public hands and that the road connects to the Creek and the Trail. The title search also shows that the road and public land allows public access to the western end of the old footbridge across the creek that was washed away some years ago.

In our view, the road and public land should be used to allow access to the Darebin Creek Trail from the south side of Heidelberg Road.

Currently, there is no such access for Alphington residents south of Heidelberg Road without taking a long diversion through the Darebin Parklands or crossing the Heidelberg Road bridge which has only a narrow and exposed footpath which is unsafe.

We used to regularly use the flat land to the south and west of Darebin Creek before access was prevented by Alphington Grammar. We also used to walk to the Fairy Hills part of Ivanhoe across the footbridge before it was destroyed. That footbridge should be reinstated which would further improve access to and use of the Darebin Creek Trail.

In our view, every effort should be made by the Yarra Council and other relevant public authorities to reinstate and maintain public access to Old Heidelberg Road and the public land connected to it. The loss of public open spaces is a perennial problem especially in areas close to Melbourne city where increasing population density means that public open space should be preserved and access provided wherever possible.

109. First, I wish to correct an error of fact in your letter. Any licence that was granted would have been issued to Parade Preparatory College (or its parent body). Parade took possession of the site in 1953 and a school ran there until 1988-89 when the site was sold to Alphington Grammar School (or probably to the Greek Orthodox Church). AGS commenced in 1988 -89. I assume that the licence was transferred and that Council records contain evidence of this. FYI see: [https://www.parade.vic.edu.au/Our\\_Heritage.aspx](https://www.parade.vic.edu.au/Our_Heritage.aspx)  
AND <https://alphington.vic.edu.au/about/our-history/>

Secondly, I ask that Council make public the actual licence document so that residents can see the terms of the licence granted. Council should also explain to residents the extent of AGS ownership as it appears from title searches that part of the sports grounds remain Council property.

USAGE: Residents used to have access via a bridge across Darebin Creek. Access to the bridge was across the land now reserved for the school. Children accessed Alphington Primary School this way and it was a popular and used access to Sparks Reserve. It washed away and was not rebuilt.

Access to the now closed area of Old Heidelberg Road is only useful if it goes somewhere ie access across the now sports grounds to the creek and across the creek. Consideration of opening Old Heidelberg Road should include consideration of:

- public policy in licensing and essentially gifting public lands to private ownership
- legal ownership of the Old Heidelberg Road land and part or all of the land used by AGS as sports fields
- potential for public access across Darebin Creek and to the bike path and walking trails
- Locking off of the 'sports fields' along the creek for private school use
- safety considerations for children at the school

I would support opening up the access if this included ensuring practical public access to the creek etc as above.

If Council decides to retain the licence then a substantial (ie thousands of \$) annual fee should be imposed.

110.	<p>I live at Lucerne Crescent, Alphington, and am a Yarra Council rate payer. To say I was dismayed by the unannounced blockage of old Heidelberg Road is an understatement. Frankly, it looked like the school appropriated the land from public access on its own initiative.</p> <p>I ask that the gates be removed. They are an outrage. Thank you for consulting now.</p>
111.	<p>I think that this section of Heidelberg Road should be available for public access.</p>
112.	<p>Before the footbridge was removed in the 1990's local residents could easily and safely cross from South Alphington to Sparks Reserve and the walking track along Darebin Creek. Since then the path has been beautifully expanded and is and provides foot and bike access through Darebin Park all the way to East Kew BUT there is no way of accessing it from South Alphington. Ideally the footbridge would be replaced and Old Heidelberg Road opened to allow access to it.</p>
113.	<p>I'd like to be able to access this section of Darebin creek as I live locally and this would save time and avoid walking along h berg rd. I'd also like to see the old foot bridge across to Ivanhoe that was lost in the floods re instated</p>
114.	<p>Would like it fully open to all members of the public for safe access for everyone.</p>
115.	<p>Public access to the section of road must be retained, the gates must be removed or opened to the public to reinstate public access. The section of road provides an important access point to this section of the Darebin Creek, which is regularly used by the public (particularly on weekends and after school hours) and an important community resource. Without this section of road there is no public access to this section of the creek and the reserve along the creek bank, it will become private access only effectively privatising a public asset and removing public access to this section of the Darebin Creek bank . In addition, there is a ford across the creek at the bottom of this section of road, easily accessed in the summer months and maintained by local residents who reinstate it each year after winter to allow access from Sparks Reserve, across Darebin Creek and into Alphington via this section of road. If the road access is not maintained this important public access route will be gone for ever. If the section of road is not retained, it effectively privatises access to the creek and creek reserve, encouraging</p>

	<p>other private land owners to fence of other sections of public access to creek and river reserves. The section of creek access via the road is access regularly and is an important public resource that must be maintained. This public asset provides a key link to a the creek and should be maintained.</p>
116.	<p>Public access to the significantly upgraded trails, in this area, should be enhanced, including the Darebin Creek public footbridge, that was washed away in the late 1990's, be reinstated by Yarra &amp; Banyule Councils.</p>
117.	<p>I believe the access to Darebin Creek should be reinstated, with the ridiculous increase in local housing density going hand in hand with increases in our rates it now behoves the council to ensure local residents have as much easy access to local areas of recreation as possible.</p>
118.	<p>The section of road should be open to the public, it could also be shared with Alphington Grammar. Every effort should be made to join up sections of the Darebin Creek trail which is extensively used by all residents nearby. We are in Alphington, the other side of Chandler Hwy and regularly walk our dog in this area.</p> <p>It is good that this is discussed openly.</p>
119.	<p>Access should be available to the public to allow safe access to the trails</p>
120.	<p>I'd like access to the Darebin Creek trail from Old Heidelberg Rd. I do not believe the school should be allowed to close off access along a public thoroughfare. Camberwell Grammar has dealt with a similar issue and public access has been maintained.</p>
121.	<p>This is a public road. It should be open to the public. AGS has no right to close off this road. It has been a public right of way to Darebin Creek parklands for more than 170 years. It should be reopened immediately.</p>
122.	<p>I would appreciate public access be granted to the Eastern aspect of Old Heidelberg Road as I would like walk/run along Darebin Creek. I live on Parkview road, Alphington.</p>
123.	<p>Keep it public. From [REDACTED]</p>
124.	<p>I believe this section of Old Heid Rd should be accessible to the local community, therefore the gates should be removed.</p>



125.	<p>I was very surprised to learn that this section of Old Heidelberg Road remains public land which the school has effectively appropriated to its own use. However, public access to this short section of road would seem to be of limited utility unless the public can also obtain access to Darebin Creek.</p> <p>It is unclear from the background information what rights the school has under its licence and whether these can be revoked or varied in any circumstances. If it were possible, I would support the Council seeking to secure a public right of access to Darebin Creek via the road as part of an agreed resolution to the status of the land.</p>
126.	<p>With more and more people needing access to open spaces, the action of Alphington Grammar in constructing gates in Old Heidelberg Road deprives many of us access to Darebin Creek from Old Heidelberg Road. This is a very selfish action on behalf of Alphington Grammar and should be reversed at the earliest opportunity</p>
127.	<p>I would like to see public access to Darebin Creek.</p>
128.	<p>Private schools should pay for public land and not block public land access.</p>
129.	<p>We support the move to re open the access to Darebin Creek and trail for all to use This is a particularly good idea in consideration of the extra influx of residents in the APM site, allowing movement out of the Apm site away from main roads</p>
130.	<p>I would like to see public access from old Heidelberg rd through to the amazing walking and bike trail along darebin creek. The grammar school and adjacent golf course mean it is a very long way for pedestrians and cyclists in the area to detour in order to access the trail.</p>
131.	<p>I would like to be able to access to the Darebin Creek without crossing the Heidelberg Road bridge. Years ago there was a beautiful little bridge across the creek. Unfortunately it was washed away in a large storm. It was fantastic. We should also be able to access the Yarra Trail from our area ( South of Heidelberg Road).</p>
132.	<p>I'd like to see this section of the road to be open and accessible to the public and us residents who live near by. It would be so wonderful to have easy access to walking and maybe cycling trail along the north bank of the Yarra. It will be an amazing asset and will be used by many people every day. Especially as more and more people move into Yarra Bend and Council has said that final population will be 5000(!) people, this path will be used by many who live in the area. The reasons to keep it open and accessible to residents in the area OUTWEIGH the reasons to keep it closed TREMENDOUSLY.</p>

133.	Access should be available to the public to allow safe access to the trails
134.	I support the reopen of the old Heidelberg Old to access the Darebin Creek. This will contribute the better use of the land for community wellbeing's.
135.	<p>Until the recent erection of gates I have walked down Old Heidelberg Road through the school since 1983.</p> <p>The washing away of the footbridge at the bottom of the lane way from Clarke road Ivanhoe around 1990 has meant there is no foot access between Fairy Hills and Alphington unless one either crosses the Darebin creek when low or the dangerously narrow footpath on Heidelberg Road.</p> <p>It would be a great access point to the bike path as anyone in the southern pocket of Alphington east of Chandler Highway has to either take their chances on the narrow footpath on Heidelberg Road to Sparks Reserve, or negotiate the building works in the new Yarra Bend project. The bike path is an asset but the fencing of it and the erection of the gates has resulted in loss of any access.</p> <p>.</p>
136.	The road should be open and join with the path which runs along the creek north south. It is simply incredible that the main creek path cannot be accessed in this area south of Heidelberg Road except by crossing the bridge on the main road, a bridge which has an unusually narrow and unsafe path, and is unusually dangerous for bikes and people with pets, with no protective rails or structure. I have lived south of Heidelberg Road for about 28 years.
137.	<p>As a Yarra Bend resident living on the south side of Heidelberg Road it be very useful to be able to gain access to the Darebin Creek Trail without having to cross or walk down the busy main road. Alternatively access to the walking trail to the North or South of Latrobe Gold Club would be very useful. We as a family believe in easy access to public walkways and parks.</p> <p>Many thanks.</p>
138.	Please open to allow easy access to the trail and parkland. Not fair that residents are cut off by private schools and private golf clubs.
139.	Bike access
140.	As a nearby resident of over 40 years I resent the fact that I can no longer walk down through the entrance to the school off old Heidelberg Road. I was always able to walk my dogs down there and walk along the creek. There were no gates they were no fences to what is now the bike trail. Give us back what still is ours.

141.	Public access
142.	Access should be free for all
143.	Open the road so that the public and, most pertinent, the Alphintonians have access to the wonderful nature at their doorstep. It would also encourage more people to use the facility and enjoy the serenity for walking or cycling.
144.	As a previous resident and Early education teacher in close proximity, I believe the general public are entitled to access this area: eastern section of Old Heidelberg Road in Alphington, to access Darebin creek, it should NOT be for the exclusive use of Alphington Grammar.
145.	<p>To Ivan Gilbert, I live my young family on Lucerne Crescent in Alphington and I would live to see the reopening of Old Heidelberg Road near Alphington Grammar.</p> <p>To access the track currently my family and I need to cycle or walk onto busy Heidelberg Road and cross the narrow bridge the get to the Napier Walker Reserve and Darebin Parklands. This is incredibly dangerous as cars drive very quickly along this stretch of road and my 4 yo daughter was nearly hit by a car as she negotiated this stretch to gain access to the parkland.</p> <p>I believe it would be so beneficial for the whole community if the gate was removed on Old Heidelberg Road and we could access the parkland without having to go into busy main roads.</p> <p>With the huge development at the old APM wouldn't it be terrific if this could link up with the tracks in the north side of the Yarra for the near 5000 new residents to enjoy?</p> <p>Improving this access will encourage more people onto bikes and off roads and it will provide a crucial link to the Kew area for teenagers attending school there.</p> <p>I cannot support this reopening of Old Heidelberg Road more. It makes sense for all those that enjoy walking and cycling in the natural environment, improves mental health and physical health and allows a safe point of entry for everyone on the bike path and walking tracks.</p>
146.	Open to allow public access

147.	I strongly believe this road should be open for public use and access to Darebin Creek
148.	<p>I support the reopening Old Heidelberg Road, which has been closed to the public by the gates erected by Alphington Grammar School.</p> <p>The Old Heidelberg Road reserve (which is a public road reserve with a lawful right of way open to everyone) runs down the northern edge of the Alphington Grammar School site to the point where the Darebin Creek Trail crosses Darebin Creek, opposite Sparkes Reserve, Ivanhoe.</p> <p>If access to the Trail along the Old Heidelberg Road alignment was restored, it would be possible to gain access to the Darebin Creek Trail and the Napier Waller Reserve from the Southern side of Heidelberg Road, which is not possible today due to the gates and fences erected by Alphington Grammar School.</p> <p>Many local residents in Alphington believe reopening Old Heidelberg Road is a great idea and that it will be supported by all those who enjoy walking, cycling and the natural environment in and around Darebin Creek and Trail. Thousands of people use Darebin Creek Trail daily.</p> <p>There is a lot of beautiful landscape around Darebin Creek and also a great deal of local history. There is a famous painting by Eugene von Guerard of the farm that once occupied this area of Darebin Creek 160 years ago:  <a href="https://www.alphington.org.au/acconline/2020/6/25/m1qdljwrrhmszmhrrqfe1rn93m06nf">https://www.alphington.org.au/acconline/2020/6/25/m1qdljwrrhmszmhrrqfe1rn93m06nf</a></p> <p>Increasing access to this area would assist to protect and preserve it for future generations. It would also encourage more people to get out into the Darebin Creek environment and enjoy its beauty.</p> <p>Another reason why it is a great idea to reopen access to this part of Darebin Creek as soon as possible is that it will assist in the development of a continuous walking (and maybe cycling) trail along the north bank of the Yarra from the old APM mill site on Chandler Hwy, which is presently being redeveloped and is expected to have a final population of 5,000 residents when completed in the near future. A path from there to the junction of Darebin Creek and the Yarra would be a terrific community asset and be well used by thousands of people every day.</p>
149.	<p>I would like to see this section of road returned rightly to public use.</p> <p>I note that the local MP, Kat Theophanous, is currently trying to establish access for the Alphington community to the bike path that runs below the Grammar and the golf club. Could this be part of that solution?</p>

150.	it would be great to be able to access the park
151.	please open it up to the public. I am disabled, use a wheelchair, and cannot access the park if I have to use the existing Heidelberg Rd footpath because it's too dangerous
152.	We would like to be able access Darebin creek and the gates prevent us from getting there
153.	<p>It has been a great disadvantage to have any access to the Darebin creek cut off by both the school and Golf club, our local area has now been cut off to the new track and access has needed to be found going into another suburb. It is disappointing that planning for the area, walk/bike tracks, fences, school and golf course, did not take into account the residents there use of the area and how this would affect us.</p> <p>My family and I would very much like to be able to access the route down to the Darebin creek again as it is a wonderful environment to enjoy especially as the influx of new residents (literally thousands more) will be using the wet lands and Alphington park.</p> <p>Simply having a gate open so we can walk through to the track would be appreciated.</p>
154.	<p>I would like the gates to be left permanently open as they had always been up until recently.</p> <p>It is a popular path to walk down to the track along the creek. Our world is becoming more and more privatised and fenced off and taken up over by various fiefdoms. The loss of shared public amenity turns us all against each other - closed off and fearful. The default position should always be "keep it open".</p> <p>(another eg: the Latrobe golf course stopping people walking along the north bank of the Yarra.)</p>
155.	I would love to be able to access the Yarra trail from Heidelberg rd. Be great for the kids and dog.
156.	We'd like public access to Darebin Creek please
157.	I would love to be able to access Darebin creek trail from the river side of Alphington without having to walk along Heidelberg Rd. The footpath along Heidleberg Rd is narrow and dangerous especially for children, bikes, and dogs and family groups. Because of the nature of the access to the trail I have felt discouraged from using it despite many years living in Alphington. I dislike walking next to cars and trucks whizzing past and having to breathe in car fumes while taking a walk. I used to use the trail via old Heidelberg Rd when I first moved into the area in 1989. Access could be via old Heidelberg Rd as it used to be or by an arrangement with the golf club. I personally would prefer to join the trail via old Heidelberg Rd.
158.	We live in Lucerne Cresent and find it difficult to access Darebin Creek safely with three young children. we are currently forced to use the Heidelberg Road Bridge which is narrow . We believe the road should be open to pedestrians.

159.	<p>With the ever increasing population in the "Yarra Bend- Old APM" site Alphington Park is becoming busy and there is need for more open area access. I would like the access to the creek re-established.</p> <p>It would be wonderful to have access to the Darebin Creek bike path.</p> <p>Our current access is in East Ivanhoe via Sparks Reserve- to get there we have to cross the very narrow and dangerous footpath and bridge on Heidelberg Road between Old Heidelberg Road and The Boulevard.</p> <p>If nothing can be done through the Alphington Grammar, then can we have the footpath widened with safety barriers similar to Merri Creek Bridge on Heidelberg Road?</p>
160.	Public access to the creek should be given priority.
161.	The gates on public land need to be removed. I often cycle through this area. There should be no restriction of access to members of the public and certainly no person or institution should have the right to build gates on public land.
162.	<p>I would strongly favour pedestrian access to Darebin Creek.</p> <p>It is unsafe for our children to walk to school along Heidelberg Rd, particularly the section between The Boulevard and Old Heidelberg Rd, where the footpath meets the road with no barrier.</p>
163.	Get rid of the gates. The school has systematically stopped locals using that land since the footbridge got washed away in the Fairfield floods. I feel locked out of my own area!
164.	It should be open to the public so students who go to Alphington Primary can access it with other having to go on Upper Heidelberg Road
165.	I would like to see it opened up for pedestrian access.
166.	Remove the gates. It is public space.
167.	<p>Please open it so I can get to the walking path.</p> <p>It's so dangerous on the narrow path across the creek and crossing Heidelberg Rd to enter at Sparks Rd.</p> <p>Last week I had to run, as I don't get a lot of notice when the cars come around the bend at Tower Hotel vicinity. My glasses came off my shirt and a car drove over them. They were \$800 bifocals.</p>
168.	Public access should remain.
169.	Should let public have access to the creek

170.	Make sure it is open to the public as is fair.
171.	Old Heidelberg Road should be reopened and extended to be used as an access to the Darebin Creek Trail for cyclists and pedestrians. It is too far to go up to The Boulevard to access the trail for residents around Alphington and Fairfield, and that area of Heidelberg Road is not very safe for cyclists.
172.	It is vital to keep the road accessible to the whole community and to use it to provide access to the Darebin Creek and the path along it. There is no access to that path for local residents unless they walk along the dangerously narrow footpath to Sparks Reserve.
173.	I think it needs to be open to the public, these gates shouldn't block public access to public land. Please remove these gates
174.	Gates removed to allow public access to the land owned by the council.
175.	The road should be open to all

176. The road should be re-opened and public access should continue to be provided along the road to access the Darebin Creek.
1. The school unlawfully exercised exclusive access to the road since late 2019 when it constructed the gates across the road. Prior to the construction the community enjoyed access to the road and fringing walking paths.
  2. On the 2 January 2020 I complained to the City of Yarra that access to the public road was denied by the school. I am aware that other Alphington residents also complained at or around this time. Accordingly, the local community did not accept the unilateral actions of the school to secure exclusive right to the road at the time they build the offending structures.
  3. The reason I complained was that my mother-in-law was a resident at Alphington Aged Care, a facility located on Old Heidelberg Road near where the road was closed. My mother-in-law was blind, wheelchair bound and suffered mild dementia. We used to use the ramps leading off the footpath which are now located behind the gates to walk her in her wheelchair to the south of the road. The closure of the footpaths by the school's gates meant that we could not use these ramps. It was difficult for my mother-in-law who experienced discomfort in having to be wheeled over the road gutters instead of a ramp. Closure of the footpaths continue to create mobility problems for residents with disabilities, especially those located in the adjacent aged care facility.
  4. The road has historic significance. Prior to 1847 the road was a track from Melbourne servicing a ford crossing the Darebin Creek which continued onto Heidelberg. In 1847 the track was made into a road and a wooden bridge installed where it approached the Darebin Creek and it then continued into what is now Sparks Reserve. This bridge was ultimately replaced with the current bridge in 1863 and Heidelberg road realigned to the new bridge's upstream location. The Old Heidelberg Road therefore extends to the banks of the Darebin Creek rather than several meters back as illustrated in the map on the Council's website. The road is a vestige of a significant historical road that used to service colonial travel from Melbourne to Heidelberg (and Eltham) and it should be preserved.
  5. Local residents continued to use the old road and crossing until recent times. In recognition of the active use of the Old Heidelberg Road no council authority has ever gazetted a notice of discontinuance. When the Christian Brothers acquired the "Flowerdale" property in 1953, which then encompassed the road, and the subsequent granting of a licence by the City of Northcote to allow the Brothers to occupy the road in 1953 for the purposes of establishing a school, no actions were taken at that time to disallow the local community from continuing to use the road.
  6. The road has provided access for Alphington residents to the Crown water frontage fringing Darebin Creek for over 173 years. Residents have generally used this right for recreational purposes for either walking along the frontage or to cross the Creek to access Sparks Reserve. Alphington residents have in recent years found their access to Crown water frontages of both Darebin Creek and the Yarra River unreasonably denied by adjoining landowners (notably, access from Farm Road to Darebin Creek has been denied by the LaTrobe Golf Club and access to the Yarra River from Alphington and Coate Parks have been denied due to safety concerns arising from the Yarra Bend property development). Given these recent restrictions, it would be unreasonable and oppressive to further deny residents access to Crown water frontage alongside the Darebin Creek as they are entitled under ss.401A(1) Land Act 1958 (Vic.)



177.	Keep the gates open to allow public use of the open space outside school hours.
178.	<p>Thank you for providing the opportunity to give feedback on public access to Old Heidelberg Road, Alphington.</p> <p>As the area has experienced significant growth any council land that can be accessed so residents can enjoy and use the local amenities should be maximised so we encourage Council to remove the gates and return the land for public use.</p>
179.	I think it should be open to the public so everyone can enjoy the bike path more easily.
180.	I think it should be open to allow the walk or ride to school easier for kids.
181.	This section of road should provide public access to the bike path. As a nearby resident I see this primarily as a safety issue, this acces would provide a safe walking/cycling path for the many kinder, primary and secondary students who currently walk along Heidelberg Road over the Darebin creek which is crowded and dangerous (bikes must currently dismount as two cannot pass and it is frightening walking prams/kids with scooters etc there)
182.	Please connect up the bike track so kids can get to Alphington primary school, community can access Alphington parks and surrounds
183.	Need to keep access to Darebin Creek open to the public
184.	I would like to see this section of road open to the public to provide access to the paths as there are no other access points in this area.
185.	Please open it up and allow kids of Sth Alphington riding bikes to Kew High (our zoned High school) to access the new bike path safely. Kids of south Alphington riding along the very narrow footpath of Heidelberg Rd to reach access to path at Sparks Reserve. This is very dangerous and we feel excluded from the hugely expensive and much anticipated path that runs through our neighbourhood.
186.	<p>We would like access to darebin Creek from old Heidelberg Rd. It is unsafe as pedestrians and cyclists to cross the narrow dual carriageway bridge.</p> <p>It is not ok for only the privileged few of alphington grammar to have access.</p>
187.	We have lived directly across the creek from the school (now AGS) for 40+ years and observed the gradual erosion of access from Ivanhoe to Lucerne Cre. via Darebin Creek. Using Old Heidelberg Rd to provide safer public access to the bike path via an extension of the bike path around north western portion of the northern school oval would be a fantastic improvement of the use of Old Heidelberg Rd.

188.	Access to the Darebin creek bike path
189.	Please keep access to the creek for everyone. It should be a public area.
190.	Allow public access to Darebin creek path for both pedestrians and bikes. Crossing the bridge across Heidelberg Road to get to Sparks Reserve is dangerous for the community and an accident waiting to happen.
191.	I would like that section opened to public access as it was designed for originally to allow access to that area and the creek .
192.	Allow public access to Darebin creek path for both pedestrians and bikes.
193.	Access should be maintained.
194.	I would like the Old Heidelberg Rd be used to provide access to the Darebin Creek shared path from Alphington, given that VicRoads, Council and other responsible authorities do not seem to be able to reach agreement with the Latrobe Golf Course in a timely fashion on delivering the previously announced access point. This would avoid the need for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly families with young children, to travel over the narrow and dangerous Heidelberg Road footpath over the Darebin Creek.
195.	Open it up please, with the new development at YarraBend more access points to the river will only benefit the community. It is a bit rude that the school have taken it upon themselves to erect gates.
196.	Everyone should have access to the creek. I haven't seen data which supports access being gated for safety reasons. Has there been any assault? Or is this another example of exclusivity by stealth.
197.	How unfair to block access to the Darebin Creek at the Grammar School gates. The pathway that runs beside the creek and beautiful shrubbery is no doubt maintained by our local City of Yarra. Surely more members of the public - walkers and dog walkers - use the area than those who are fortunately able to attend the school. Access to walkers is important for access for walkers, who have minimal 'footprint' on the fragile land, less important for cyclists (in fact I would discourage their access).
198.	Return this public amenity to the public & allow public access to the Darebin Creek path. Crossing the Darebin Creek from Alphington via Heidelberg Rd to get to Sparks Reserve is not safe.
199.	Allow public access.

200.	This is public access to public land. Darebin Creek is a public recreation resource. There is no way this school should be able to block access let alone put up gates. Outrageous entitlement. Thank you for revisiting this!
201.	Please open Old Heidelberg Rd for access to the public, it would allow much easier access to the Darebin Creek trail. Thank you
202.	The school should not be locking out rate-paying residents from accessing public land. Gates should be removed.
203.	There is no access to the Yarra River walking/bike trail in this part of Alphington. This was open to the community when we moved here 36 years ago and should never have been closed off. We totally support the opening or removal of the gates to return public access to the river.
204.	Yes the access should be public to the creek but mainly should connect to the bike path on the other side of the creek. At the moment there is no safe way to ride from the south side of Heidelberg road to north side. The path on the bridge over Heidelberg road is way too narrow.
205.	It should be a public space, it shouldn't just be for a private school to utilise.
206.	Open the area up to the public! These privileged private institutions suck taxpayers moneys for opulent buildings and then give the middle finger to the public. Fuck them!!
207.	Allow public access to Darebin creek path for both pedestrians and bikes. Crossing the bridge across Heidelberg road to get to sparks reserve is a public safety issue .
208.	It should be open to the public at all times.
209.	Open the gates so the residents can access darebin creek without having to walk along Heidelberg rd near sparkes reserve. It's dangerous for pedestrians on that section of Heidelberg rd
210.	There should be community access to Darebin creek via Old Heidelberg Rd.
211.	I would like to see the gates remain open for access for all to the Darebin Creek.
212.	I want public access to it
213.	Get rid of the gates. The public have a right to gain access to the creek. This isnt the 19th century.
214.	Public Access

215.	I would like pedestrian access to the creek and gates removed
216.	Like so many others, I want this opened up. The Alphington residents on the south side of Heidelberg Road have no easy access to the Darebin creek and the Darebin creek trail leading to Willsmere park and Kew Billabong. All residents from Grange road to Chronos Care centre have no access to one of the most important tracks and creeks running through it. Access via Sparks reserve is possible, but the busy Heidelberg bridge with its narrow path makes this a natural barrier that most people avoid, especially with children on bikes or with dogs on lead.
217.	I would like there to be pedestrian access to Darebin Creek/ Sparks Reserve.
218.	I would like the public to have access to this section of road.
219.	We would like pedestrian access to Darebin Creek restored to the public. We often walk the pathway and it is a only a moments inatttention by motorists, cyclists or pedestrians and disaster would strike whilst walking across the bridge. People do not walk single file and there's no room!
220.	This section of road should be public however it is unclear to me whether providing public access to the road in any way allows access to the river and trail. The school would fight this very strongly. What are the legal considerations- this is totally unclear from what has been provided.
221.	Access should be open at all times to the public. Locals have no direct access to the new bike trail along the creek, and this is a perfect spot to provide access for Alphington locals.
222.	Although it doesn't have much of an effect on me now , as I access from Ivanhoe, I'd welcome public access. It seems unfair on residents of Aplington who are so close, but so far from this beautiful track. Cyclists commuting to the city are forced on to Heidelberg Rd, which is pretty scary, or to go significantly backwards, with a dangerous right hand turn to get to Sparks Reserve. We are considering downsizing to Aplington and this lack of access is a part of our decision in terms of location.
223.	Access to this section of Old Heidelberg Rd should be returned to the public, to facilitate access to Darebin Creek and the public path that runs beside the Creek.
224.	I think that it is important that local residents have access to what was previously public land. In many ways it can be advantageous to the school, as the local residents will keep an eye out for any problems which the school may have used as a reason to lock it off from the public. The same sort of thing has happened with Ivanhoe Grammar. Taking over and fencing off what had always been public access.

225.	Allow the road to be used to access the bike path. My children have to bike across the bridge to use the bike path to get to Kew High, endangering both themselves and the pedestrians
226.	Access should be given to the public for access to Darebin Creek and the bike path. The gates installed by Alphington Grammar should be removed.
227.	I would like the gates removed in order for a path to be constructed for Alphington residents and the general public to access the creek — and ultimately the Darebin Creek Trail. Currently this access is via a narrow and dangerous footpath on Heidelberg Rd. It is appropriate to revisit the licencing arrangements that allowed Alphington Grammar to block this access, given population growth over recent years (and projected growth with Yarrabend development) and the given creation of the Darebin Creek trail and it’s connection to the Main Yarra Trail.
228.	<p>Lack of access from the South Alphington area means that cyclists and pedestrians have to brave Heidelberg Rd, where the footpath across Darebin Creek is very narrow and dangerous. It is particularly dangerous for students who ride to schools in Kew.</p> <p>Latrobe Golf Club has in the past said they would consider an access point to the Darebin Creek trail - we all knew that this would never happen.</p> <p>I would strongly recommend that access be given via a dedicated path via Old Heidelberg Road and the south bank of Darebin Creek that joins the Darebin Creek trail. This would also allow easier access for children from Alphington PS and Gum Nut child care to access Sparks reserve. In the last week I saw kindergarten children being herded along Heidelberg Rd to and from Sparks reserve - it was obviously fraught (carers making sure the kids had both hands on the fencing across Darebin Creek), and represents a risk to safety of the children and their carers.</p>
229.	I stay with my uncles sometimes and have always walked their dogs at this creek. For the last 28 years of my life we’ve enjoyed this creek. I don’t think this is remotely fair for any of the residents.
230.	<p>My view is that this section of Old Heidelberg Road should remain open and be accessible to the public.</p> <p>There are NO access points to the Yarra Trail and access to the public via this section of Old Heidelberg Road would, firstly show City of Yarra is listening to ratepayers in this area of Alphington to make the Yarra Trail accessible (especially for those with young children and family members at the aged care centre) and secondly, offers City of Yarra an opportunity to build access onto the Yarra Trail that is safer than via Heidelberg Road, respects boundaries of Alphington Grammar school.</p>


	<p>In addition, this part of Alphington will increase significantly in population given development underway. It makes strategic sense to open and develop access for the public onto the Yarra trail.</p>
231.	<p>I think this road, being a public road, should be open to the public, and the public should definitely have access to the Darebin Creek path and corridor.</p> <p>For the Alphington community on south side of Heidelberg Road to have no access to the creek and trail in their own suburb, is not only a poor community outcome, it is also a poor reflection on the community values of the two private institutions that are using public lands along the creek, and monopolising a public corridor asset in the Darebin Creek.</p> <p>The School can still maintain its uses across either side of the road, but the public path must run down through the Old Heidelberg Road extension and connect into the Darebin trail.</p> <p>Access from Old Heidelberg Road directly to the Darebin Creek Trail would benefit the local and wider community in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finally secure a public access to the creek corridor for the Alphington community,</li> <li>- Create a much safer path across the creek for Alphington school children heading north-east to Ivanhoe Grammar or homes in that area, who currently have to use the dangerously narrow footpath on the Heidelberg Rd bridge,</li> <li>- Ensure that longer term, the creek corridor and environs are maintained as public assets for the community, rather than the current situation where all of these public assets and amenity are monopolised by two private entities, Alphington Grammar and the Latrobe Golf Course,</li> </ul> <p>I would thoroughly support the situation where the Old Heidelberg Road extension is clearly a public street and has direct access and signage to the Darebin creek trail.</p>
232.	<p>I would like to see public access to the creek.</p>

233.	<p>I live in Alphington, near Alphington Primary School.</p> <p>I often walk around the neighbourhood for exercise/recreational purposes.</p> <p>The gates at Old Heidelberg Road impede access to the Darebin creek and to walking paths close by.</p> <p>My current access points to these paths are via Chandler Highway and north of the bridge over Heidelberg Road.</p> <p>I have some mobility issues and cannot walk a full circuit.</p> <p>Opening up Old Heidelberg Road will allow me access to more significant and pleasant exercise/recreational amenity which should be available to everyone in the area.</p> <p>Opening Old Heidelberg Road will benefit all residents in the area and others rather than a small private group.</p>
234.	<p>The exclusive use of this public asset by a business is not acceptable.</p> <p>The opportunity for this section of public land to be used for public access into the Darebin Creek Bike trail is obvious and should be pursued.</p> <p>At the very least this section of public road should be open for public access at the weekends with public access to the playing fields as compensation for the road being used by the school during weekdays.</p>
235.	<p>I moved to Lucerne Crescent 25 years ago. For some years my wife and I periodically walked down Old Heidelberg Road to the creek. That is now impossible for the reasons you have stated. We would prefer to be able to do that walk after school hours.</p>
236.	<p>Yes to access the Darebin creek trail from Old Heidelberg rd.</p>
237.	<p>I would like all residents of Alphington to be allowed SAFE access to Darebin creek path.</p> <p>I have lived in Alphington for 30 years. My children attended Kew High school and were not able to ride safely to school due to no safe route</p> <p>The traffic on Heidelberg road is busy, the walking path is narrow and single file only.</p> <p>I do not like walking across Heidelberg road as the traffic is very close to the path.</p> <p>My dog is also very hesitant and frightened to walk along Heidelberg road to access Sparks reserve and the Darebin trail.</p> <p>Access to Darebin creek path via old Heidelberg road is an absolute necessity!</p> <p>We need SAFE public access to the Darebin path.</p>
238.	<p>It is unsafe walking along Heidelberg RD and access to the path is paramount for Alphington residence.</p>
239.	<p>Roads are for the public. Access should be for all</p>

240.	Full access for the public. And a walking track to link with the trail along the data in creek.
241.	<p>I live with my family on Geneva Rd Alphington and have written to Yarra Council a few times regarding access to the Darebin creek trail.</p> <p>I remain surprised that there is no access to the trail from this part of Alphington and that we have to use Heidelberg Road (to get to Sparks reserve); it is a matter of time before there is a major adverse event on the Heidelberg Rd bridge (over Darebin Creek) given how close the traffic runs to the bridge's footpath. I feel very unsafe crossing this bridge with three young children.</p> <p>If a link to the trail cannot be created at LaTrobe golf course, it would make sense to use this section of Old Heidelberg Rd for this purpose.</p>
242.	<p>This road should be open to the public to use. Further is a great opportunity to create an access path to the new Darebin creek path, instead of the narrow and dangerous route across the Heidelberg road bridge.</p> <p>Certainly a private school should not have exclusive use of public property.</p>
243.	I believe that the gates should be removed and public access should be provided to the Darebin Creek walking/cycling path
244.	I am a resident of Alphington and walk a lot in the area . I would think it would be highly beneficial for pedestrians ,and pushbikes to create a pass from old Heidelberg Road to Darebin Creek Trial and the big lawn area the school calls their own . It is not very social to fence off sporting grounds to other users , regardless if managed or used by a school . The example would be Chelworth park which is open for public use , yet administered by a private school.
245.	I strongly believe the community should maintain ownership and access to the Old Alphington Rd segment within the school. As a resident of 30 years+ in the small enclave that is devoid of access to the new bike path, I'd like to see the road linked up to the path with a hard surface feeder path, a gate into the Main trail and also providing access to the creek ( I highly recommend this also be included into the adjacent Golf Course, as the barriers to our creek are implied bu denying access to the roads that were intended like Farm Rd and Old Alphington Rd. I strongly believe Yarra City Council need to support the local community in this area, as the crippling development of our small area leaves us land locked among over sized and unwanted development projects such as APM, Tower Hotel, House Of Lights, Ex 7/11 ( Darebin ) and any other plans submitted
246.	I would like to see this section of the road accessible outside of school hours. We used to walk along that section of the road to access the Darebin creek trail and this was great and easy for us. We live very nearby and have never seen or heard of any issues with this.



247.	<p>My family lives very close to Alphington Grammar and we need to have more direct and SAFE access to the Darebin and Yarra walking and bike paths, for both commuting and recreation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This pocket of Alphington/Yarra is cut off from safe access to the paths.</li> <li>- Until last year, we had walking access to the paths through the school via Old Heidelberg Road on weekends and out-of-school hours, although this was for walking only and not bikes</li> <li>- The only access now is by crossing the Heidelberg Road bridge, where it is apparently illegal to ride bikes on the footpath and unsafe to ride on the road. This is particularly dangerous for children and families.</li> <li>- If we cannot use Old Heidelberg Road, we need alternative safe access to these paths. Two suggestions are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a bike/footbridge across Darebin Creek parallel to the existing road bridge.</li> <li>2. an access path from Farm Road via Latrobe golf course</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
248.	I would like to be able to access the Darebin Creek Trail
249.	<p>I'd like to be able to get to the Darebin Creek Trail without having to cross the bridge on Heidelberg road.</p> <p>The path on the bridge is in very poor condition, and has to be walked if you're riding a bike.</p>
250.	I feel that it should be open to pedestrians as it is a long walk around to get onto this lovely trail.
251.	I would like to see public access and access to Darebin creek.
252.	Allow access for the public to move through to the darebin creek trail. Crossing the creek on heidelberg road is dangerous for adults, kids, bikes and pets.
253.	Hello, I would like to see public access to the Darebin Creek walking track.
254.	<p>I would like to retain public access to Darebin Creek through the retention of open access to this section of road.</p> <p>I would also comment that my understanding of the history of Alphington Grammar is that it opened for its first intake of Year 7 students in 1989. Prior to that date, the Catholic church ran the middle school years of Parade College from that site.</p>

255.	I would like the public to be able to access Darebin Creek and therefore the public trails Cheers
256.	Please allow pedestrian access to the creek from old Heidelberg rd. I would love to walk here more but don't due to lack of access. I see many joggers squeezing through the gates/fence and through the school in any case but this is not something I can do because I usually have a pram with me. I think it would also be safer if there was another exit point from the Darebin creek trail at the bottom of the school. At present if there was someone I was uncomfortable with following me there is a long stretch of trail that can't be exited due to the school's gates and fences
257.	There should be access to the creek and cycle path along Old Heidelberg Road
258.	As local Alphington residents, we would really like to see the Old Heidelberg Road reopened to the public so that we may have access walking to Darebin Creek.  Many thanks. 
259.	Public access should be granted for access to Darebin Creek, no gate was there in 2019 and parts of 2020 as i used to use that path, but wasn't able to when they locked the gate.
260.	I would like the road remain accessible to the public. It is not appropriate for a private businesses to claim public amenities for private use regardless of how often they are used by the public and I believe will set a precedent for future claims to public land and roads.  Thank you for consulting to help resolve this matter.
261.	Connect it to the Darebin Creek Trail for a safer link for pedestrians and cyclists
262.	Provide public access from this road to Darebin Creek.
263.	Shared access for pedestrians, sensor / solar lighting and appropriate barriers to avoid access to; or allow footage to be taken of school children, perhaps consider using some traffic calming installations to seem the flow and speed of traffic.

264.	It should be open for pedestrian and bike access to the darebin creek trail. In particular it would be much safer for bikes coming from that direction to be able to connect to the darebin creek from old Heidelberg rd, rather than having to ride over sparks reserve on Heidelberg road.
265.	The Alphington Grammar School gates along the northern and southern footpaths that inhibit access to Darebin Creek must be removed. Darebin Creek should be fully accessible to the public from Old Heidelberg Road. I would benefit from this change personally as well, as I often walk in this area for exercise and relaxation. Thank you for your attention.
266.	It should remain open and allow access to Darebin creek. I live in Fairfield and like to walk around the area.
267.	I live and work in Alphington. It would be good to see this road allowing pedestrian and bike access to the Creek and bike trail.
268.	I would like to see full walking & cycling public access reinstated on Old Heidelberg Rd to Darebin Ck. I do not see it as a replacement for the access to the Darebin Ck Trail along Farm Rd, but as an important historic connection to Darebin Ck at the original road crossing. Information & interpretive signs here would enhance this aspect. I believe strongly that the Farm Rd link to the cycle path needs to be made, immediately, as per the very first plans all those years ago. I find the attitude of the golf club to the link reprehensible. Knowing some of the history of the area, & knowing how much extra land the golf club gained when the Yarra River was re-routed for the Eastern Freeway in the 1970's, their behaviour is very selfish. Their attitude towards their neighbours, the residents of this part of Alphington, especially school students riding to Kew High & other schools, is appalling. I believe both aspects need to be considered in this matter.
269.	Access open for the creek trail please
270.	A path that walkers/cyclists can access down to the current path along the creek
271.	It would be great for it to be opened up and connected to existing bike paths. That way I could travel with my young children from Fairfield to Alphington all off the roads.
272.	I would like access to the Yarra trail from this road, at the moment my 5 year old and I have to ride along a very narrow strip of footpath on Heidelberg road while navigating heavy traffic and other bikes and pedestrian.
273.	Please allow public access to Darebin Creek
274.	Connect the road to the bike path to negate the need to cross over the narrow Heidelberg Rd bike bridge. Cheaper than doing the link next to the golf club!

275.	Public access. Bicycle path, walking path.
276.	Please open the road to the public so that the bike path can be easily accessed. This would solve the issue of bike path access in Alphington. Having this open would be so much safer for pedestrians than walking along the narrow footpath on Heidelberg Rd to get to/from Ivanhoe. Many families with children would make use of this, staying away from the traffic.
277.	I would like the road to be opened in order to ease access to the creek and bike track. At present the bike track and creek can only be accessed from the Alphington side by travelling down heidelberg rd on a narrow pathway next to the busy road and through sparks park; opening up the old road would improve access to the elderly and to adults with children
278.	I would like to see it open to the public to provide access to the walking track & Darebin Creek
279.	I would like for this to become access to the public to the Yarra Bike Path trail. This would solve the problem for Alphington South residents needing to cross Heidelberg Rd and the narrow path to access the bike path.
280.	Open for public access to the creek by foot and cycle.
281.	I would like the gates to be removed so there is pedestrian access to Darebin Creek
282.	It should be open to the walking public at all times. At the very least, all hours outside of 9am to 330pm.
283.	I have lived by the school for over 40 years. Always enjoyed access to creek and in the early years even a footbridge. Now I can't get through the gates of Ivanhoe Grammar. I believe that it is illegal to deny public access to the creek as it's public land! Please support the local community to restore access to the creek.
284.	Open access. It would be very helpful and improve safety if access could be enabled through to the Darebin creek trail that passes behind the school. Currently residents with children who live in this section of Alphington have to pass over the very busy and narrow road bridge near sparks reserve. Taking children across this on the narrow footpath, especially if they have bikes or scooters is very dangerous and could be avoided with access to the trail through old Heidelberg road and the grammar school.
285.	Access given to public so as to access darebin creek trail. Current accord trail is currently only possible by Heidelberg Rd over the creek which is very narrow and dangerous.
286.	I'd like public footpath access to the Darebin creek.

287.	I am a resident of Alphington and would like to be able to access Darebin creek/bike track through this section of road.
288.	We would like to see community access restored to this section of the road.
289.	<p>More public access</p> <p>Seems like a no-brainer to me. It's public land. Alphington is full of private owners extending boundaries eg public laneways closed off by private garages. Absurd!</p>
290.	We would like safe access from the end of Lucerne Crescent to the pathways and parkland, without having to use the very busy section of narrow footpath along the main continuation of Heidelberg Road up to Ivanhoe
291.	Definitely allow access
292.	We would very much like to access the Darebin Creek pathways from Heidelberg Road. I use a disability scooter and it would be a much safer route, as well as a more pleasant one, for me and my children
293.	Please open to allow public access to Darebin Creek pathways (foot and bike traffic)
294.	<p>It would be fantastic if it were opened and connected to the Yarra Bike Trail, as this would overcome the intractable problem of access via Farm Rd through the Latrobe Golf Course. This problem is a safety matter, as without the access from south Alphington to the Yarra Bike Trail our kids are put at risk using the dangerous Darebin Bridge on the way to school in Kew.</p> <p>At minimum it should be opened to the public - it's not private land.</p>
295.	as a resident of Lucerne Crescent I would like the road restored to public use for access to Darebin creek, potentially with access to the new shared bike path
296.	<p>This section of the road must be kept for public access.</p> <p>With the school's philosophy of encroaching on public areas, it is becoming less and less possible to access public areas such as bike paths, walking trails and the creek. This has increased over the past 10 years.</p>
297.	Open gates and fences for access through to the creek path. This needs to be addressed at the golf course also. The path should be permeable for all surrounding residents and visitors.

298.	<p>Public access should be allowed to ensure access to the new bike path on Darebin Creek.</p> <p>There should also be consideration of a substantial traffic management solution using the campus / school land.</p> <p>The school regularly places their own 'no standing' signs on Lucerne Crescent to accomodate bus parking during pick up and drop off, with a regular traffic jam of impatient parents and passing golfers and residents who drive unsafely in their frustration. Many schools create slip lanes or ring roads to manage these issues. Alphington Grammar School seems to have never committed to solving this problem and its related safety risks.</p> <p>Old Heidelberg Road and the crown land below the school would seem to be a source of a number of solutions to this problem as the school continues to grow. I wish them every success but hope they can take a more responsible position on this issue for the benefit of residents, school community and others in the area.</p>
299.	<p>Hello - thank you for this survey. I have been hugely concerned for many years about this issue. It is essential to have pedestrian and bicycle access to the Darabin Creek path via Old Heidelberg Road. A visual survey of pedestrian and bicycle traffic across the nearby Heidelberg Road Bridge (over the creek) will prove that many people, especially children, are in very close proximity to fast moving traffic. This is an unnecessary risk because we can provide an alternative, safe route on the nearby quiet streets.</p> <p>Access does not need to be over the oval (although that is crown land and should not be exclusive). It can follow the line of the Old Heidelberg Road down to the creek path.</p>
300.	<p>I would like to have access to the creek from Old Heidelberg Rd returned to residents. I have lived in Alphington for just over 40 years and up until recently when the new gates went up, I have walked my dogs down to the creek every day. I acknowledge the need for the school to maintain a safe environment for students during school hours and when before and after school care is operating but am very distressed at the actions taken by Alphington Grammar to install lockable gates and then refuse residents entry to our creek and this historically significant site. I want the gates dismantled and access returned to residents.</p>
301.	<p>I would like to see the gates removed so that there is access to the Darebin Creek Trail. A pathway could be installed (with fencing if necessary) to connect Old Heidelberg Road with the end of the nearest pedestrian bridge. This is something which would make access to the river and park areas easier for me because I currently have to walk along the busy main road to access areas such as Sparks Reserve.</p>
302.	<p>I would very much like access to Darebin Creek by the removal of the gates erected at the north and south.</p>

<p>303.</p>	<p>It should remain open and accessible to the public.</p> <p>Currently my small children have to walk/ride down the Heidelberg Road footpath (~1.5m) steep hill (~&gt;1:10) opposing on-coming two-lanes of traffic travelling ~60km/h on narrow traffic lanes (~3.3m) over a bridge with narrow footpath (~1.3m) consisting of uneven surfaces (pit covers, change in materials) and a bridge parapet that is probably only ~1.2m high. It seems safer that they should stay on local council roads.</p> <p>The bridge is probably 50-70 years old and would not meet current standards. Warning signs for cyclist to dismount are only an administrative risk control and the risk should be eliminated.</p> <p>Heidelberg Road is Road Maintenance Category 2 road, so totally unsafe to force pedestrians, children, elderly and cyclist on, when a local council road can be used.</p> <p>What are the traffic road accident statistics on this section of Heidelberg Road, as this would assist the argument to discourage the use of Heidelberg Road for peds/cyclists/etc., noting that cyclist numbers have probably exploded due to the opening of the new bridges on Darebin Creek Trail, which will link up with cyclist going to Alphington Wetlands and Yarra Trail near Chandler Hwy and Fairfield Boathouse.</p> <p>Further, security will be improved for AGS with high pedestrian/cyclist traffic passing their site.</p> <p>Farm Road should also be open and accessible to the public via Latrobe Golf Course to the Darebin Creek Trail.</p> <p>Well done!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>
<p>304.</p>	<p>Local residents need safe access to Darebin Creek and the bike trail. Access along Heidelberg Rd is unsafe and inconvenient, especially for young families. I believe local residents would respect school property. It seems ridiculous that local Alphington residents can not access this tremendous community resource safely. We are good neighbours to the schools in our suburb, this is a way for the school to give back to the community.</p>

305.	<p>I believe public property should be public and everyone should have access to it.</p> <p>The school does not have rights to fence off public areas, it is effectively misusing public property for private reasons.</p> <p>I therefore object Alphington grammar School to use that road for private purposes.</p>
306.	<p>Restoring access to the public to Darebin Creek via this roadway provides an accessway to the Darebin Creek Trail that is sorely lacking for residents of Alphington south of Heidelberg Road. Currently the only safe way for cyclists to enter the Darebin Creek Trail from this part of Alphington is to enter via Darebin Parklands - the entrance at Sparks Reserve requires either use of Heidelberg Road itself, or a narrow footpath on the southern side of Heidelberg Road. This is impractical and dangerous for families and less confident cyclists. Restored public access to this roadway, coupled with a connection to the Darebin Creek Trail in the vicinity of the current bridge from Sparks Reserve, will enhance the utility of cycle networks in the area, especially given the expected influx of new cyclists through the completion of the YarraBend project. Ideally, the connection between the Darebin Creek Trail and this neighbourhood would have been best developed using a right of way at the end of Farm Road, but restored access through this public land could provide the next best solution to this problem.</p>



307.

Hi. Thankyou for the opportunity to have my say on this. Just a matter of correction: in 1953 Alphington Grammar did not exist. In fact, Parade College had the license for access from the former City of Northcote. Alphington Grammar never renewed the license so has never had legal access. You should update your page so as not to mislead people.

Under the Parade College license, the Collage allowed access to the public down to Darabin Creek as there was a bridge that crossed over from Alphington to Ivanhoe that was constantly used. That bridge washed away under the City of Yarra's watch and was never replace. As you will know, we now have a shared bike/pedestrian pathway that runs the full length of Alphington and this pathway has cut off Alphington residents from the Creek altogether. The only way we can join that path is via Old Heidelberg Rd (which the school has illegally locked.) Additionally, Parade College had a lot of local students who were part of our local community and therefore the College was also part of our community and behaved as such. Alphington Grammar is not part of our local community. They disregard local residents and do not care about our amenity at all. When the Grammar school wanted to do some building works, they would not consider the residents and the the continual parking issues their school continues to create. Not one resident was unhappy about the build, all we were asking for was additional provision of parking on the school premises. They fought every submission. We won at VTAC and then a federal government initiative disregarded that VTAC direction. Planning approval was not required, so they built what they wanted without the parking. They are not part of our community and very few children from the school are local.

Alphington Grammar built their gates and locked us out without consultation. Prior to the lockout, we could walk to Darabin Creek and enjoy the amenity of the area. We could still access the creek once the joint bike/pedestrian pathway was built and in fact could access that pathway via Old Heidelberg Rd. With the locked gate, that access has been taken away - illegally and without consideration of their neighbourhood.

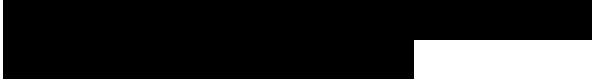
We are a lovely community and have enjoyed access to the waterways in the area for years. Now that the shared pathway has blocked access and the gate has been locked, I can throw a stone in the creek from my house, but I can't walk there unless I leave my suburb to do so. This is utterly unacceptable. Why should one member of the community get absolute access at the expense of everyone else. If this school had any sense of community, it would leave those gates open.

If it is a licensing discussion, then why can't the community take on the license...via our council. Why would Alphington Grammar get to have exclusivity. Surely that license should be granted to the greater need not to one unneighbourly resident.

By locking those gates the school has caused great community anxiety and distress. We are being locked out of the amenity of our area...one of the reasons we all decided to live here. The Grammar school behaves like a bully. When they built their new hall they were not meant to have anything but school functions there. Now we have every weekend full of activity at the hall – unrelated to the school as they are running a business and getting extra revenue. No matter what this school says, it does not care about our community at all.

308.	<p>This section of public land must be re-opened for public access.</p> <p>Irrespective of the licence granted by Council in 1953, it is inappropriate for the school to erect permanent structures and assume total and unhibited control over this land.</p> <p>The area has undergone significant growth and change since the licence was first granted including an increase in the residential population as well as a significant increase in pedestrian and vehicle traffic and it is no longer appropriate.</p> <p>This land should be opened up to provide both residents and students access to the Darebin Parklands and new bike/walking path. The existing vehicle/pedestrian bridge on Heidelberg Road is no longer fit for purpose and is dangerous for pedestrians to use.</p> <p>This area of land needs to be opened up and public access allowed so that there is an alternative and safer route for both residents and students to cross the Yarra River between Ivanhoe East and Alphington rather than existing narrow pedestrian/vehicle bridge on Heidelberg Road.</p> <p>I accept that licences can be granted for private entities to use public land, however this should continue without review for such a long period of time (68 years) and should be the subject of regular and stringent review. Such arrangements should not result in unfettered control and the construction of permanent fixtures that prevent its use by the public, particularly when there are significant issues of pedestrian safety.</p>
309.	Please open up access to the public. It should not be private
310.	I would like pedestrian access to Darebin creek via old Heidelberg road. Access across the bridge footpath is inadequate and feels quiet unsaved for pedestrians.
311.	<p>I would like to see it open for public access excluding cars and a segregated bike and walking track provided to link Heidelberg road with the existing path along Darebin creek.</p> <p>If the School is concerned about safety a fence similar to the one on the side of the existing path could be installed.</p>
312.	It should remain open to preserve both current and future access

313.	I would like to see the local community to have access down old Heidelberg Rd to the creek. Public permanent access
314.	I definitely want to see this returned to the public realm whilst maintaining availability for the non-exclusive use of Alphington Grammar. If Alphington Grammar continue to utilise the space for formal or informal activities related to the school they should contribute in cash or kind to the good upkeep and maintenance of the space in question.
315.	I would like for it to allow my family access to Darebin Creek, please.
316.	With a growing population and the limited green space in the inner suburbs of Yarra, any restrictions to public on being able to use the sports facilities and gain access to Darebin Creek Trail should be removed.
317.	It would be lovely to have access to the darebin creek via this path.
318.	Should definitely be opened, with thoroughfare through to Darebin Creek. The road is being treated by Alphington Grammar as private land; it is not, and must be relinquished from exclusive school use for the benefit of the whole community. This thoroughfare is also ideal for providing bicycle and pedestrian access from Alphington to the Main Yarra trail that runs along the creek. The only access at present is via Heidelberg Rd and through Sparks reserve in Ivanhoe. This effectively makes the trail inaccessible from Alphington except those hardy souls willing to risk their lives riding along Heidelberg Rd. Public land = public access
319.	I'd like to see gates removed and access to the public once again allowed to Darebin creek.
320.	█ says it advisable to leave it as public access for those who wish to walk down to the river. instead of being monopolized by a privileged few.

321.	<p>Thank you for alerting us to the review of the use for Old Heidelberg Road being reconsidered.</p> <p>I would welcome access to Darebin Creek from this area however it would be far preferable to me and my family to grant public access to the creek through the La Trobe Golf Course where there is a far easier route for cutting across from one side to another.</p> <p>Please can you add this comment into your deliberations.</p>
322.	<p>Hello, Thank you for your letter drop. I think this road should be opened for public access.</p>
323.	<p>To whom it may concern, I am providing feed back re: public access to Old Heidelberg rd, Alphington. The missing link to safely accessing the bike/shared path (Yarra Trail) was blocked by the La Trobe golf course. In the absence of accessing the trail from Farm rd that splits the driving range and the club house of the La Trobe golf course, access to the path from Alphington Grammar is the smartest and best solution. This would allow hundreds of children safer passage to schools and parks which makes this proposal a no brainer and a MUST. It is a parsimonious and effect solution to avoid the high risk point of the bridge on Heidelberg rd. This must happen and the sooner the better.</p> <p></p>

324. Dear Ivan

Thankyou for your note regarding public access to Old Heidelberg Road.

I am a resident in Chamouni Street, and I feel we are sometimes a forgotten part of the City of Yarra, so I appreciate that the Council is taking notice of this issue.

Prior to the public road being cut off, I would often take the kids for a walk through that section of the road, and through to the creek. Since the bike path has been installed along the creek with the large fences and the school has cut off access with prison style gates, this is no longer possible.

There are two points I would like to make:

1. It is actually ridiculous that the residents in this part of Alphington (bounded by Lucerne and Park Road) live a few hundred metres from Darebin Creek, but have no legal way of accessing the creek in this section - where we live. The school and the gold club have effectively cordoned it off.

We either have to cross Heidelberg Road to get to Sparks Reserve, on the skinny bridge (which I do not let my kids do because cars whiz by at 70km/hr, some 50cm from people and kids on scooters/bikes with no barrier in between to stop people from falling to their death into oncoming traffic if they happen to stumble or trip) or some people end up breaking through the fences illegally, which I don't support.

I fully support restoring access of this section of Heidelberg Road to the public in a safe way. I think it would actually provide a level of passive surveillance and connect the school to the local community.

2. We would appreciate access to the bike track that runs through this section of Alphington. It is totally preposterous that Bikes Victoria and the other stakeholder put this through along the creek, but cut off access to the residents that live on this side of Alphington.

Thank you again

325.	Ivan The land occupied currently by Alphington Grammar was licenced to Parade College as a junior school in 1953 not to AGS. At that time there was free access to a bridge that crossed the creek. It would be very useful to pass through AGS and not us the unsafe, narrow footpath along Heidleberg Rd. At the same time access could be provided to the bike path. At the moment the beginning can only be reached by taking an unnecessary risk along the main road.
326.	I am writing in regards to the decision that is to be made on Old Heidelberg Road, Alphington. I believe that closing this road would be of inconvenience to people residing in this area, due to high congestion of traffic as a lot of people use this road to exit the school and for other purposes. furthermore on Como street there is a preschool which already causes a lot of traffic waiting on a narrow street during peak hour. And with a lot of road projects happening around Melbourne, there is a lot of construction workers travelling east, with local residents who work in the cbd using Heidelberg road everyday, in the future this roads high traffic should die down abit with road projects being completed. Thankyou for taking this into consideration. Kind regards. Save the trees.
327.	I am providing feedback re: public access to Old Heidelberg Rd, Alphington. The missing link to safely accessing the bike/shared path (Yarra Trail) was blocked by the La Trobe golf course. In the absence of accessing the trail from Farm Rd that splits the driving range and the club house of the La Trobe golf course, access to the path from Alphington Grammar is the smartest and best solution. This would allow hundreds of children safer passage to schools and parks which makes this proposal perfect. It would avoid the high-risk point for cyclists, of the bridge on Heidelberg Rd.
328.	<p>I think it is vital that pedestrian access to the Darebin Creek be made available once more to local residents. This should not be during school hours but certainly in the weekends. It has long been a public right of way, and only in recent years have the gates remained locked..This should not be during school hours but certainly in the weekends. It has long been a public right of way, and only in recent years have the gates remained locked.</p> <p>It was Parade College that leased the area in 1953, Alphington Grammar was founded in the 1980's.</p> <p>Does Alphington Grammar own the land in question or lease it, and what about the oval area near Darebin Creek.Yours faithfully, [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

329.	<p>Further to our telephone discussion this morning: Old Heidelberg Road has historically provided a convenient, popular and safe link for pedestrians including school students between Alphington and Ivanhoe, crossing Darebin Creek via a small bridge. A flood in the 1990s destroyed the recently reconstructed pedestrian bridge. Had it been replaced it is most unlikely the school could have prevented access . There is now an ideal opportunity to construct a dedicated bike/pedestrian path from Old Heidelberg Road, joining the recently completed bike path that runs along the perimeter of the school grounds. At present access to the path is only possible from Sparks Reserve, Ivanhoe on the other side of Darebin Creek. Note, Alphington Grammar did not exist in 1953; it was established in the late 1980s</p> <p>Access via Old Heidelberg Road to the new bike path would be of immense value to City of Yarra residents and visitors.</p>
330.	<p>Regarding Public access to Old Heidelberg Road ref: 18,958 - Ed is concerned about encroachment and exclusion from the green spaces and believes we need to do everything we can to preserve access to those green spaces in the interest of peoples mental health and community wellbeing. Residents have traditionally had access to this land. In recent times Alphington Grammar School do not appear to be focused on the general community wellbeing and Ed thinks they need to start viewing themselves a part of the community rather than in opposition.</p>

331.	<p>Dear Yarra Council,</p> <p>I am writing in response to your consultation about Old Heidelberg Rd at the Alphington Grammar School. I do not think is appropriate for the school to install gates, and effectively privatise public space. I also question whether, in the event that the public access to the road is restored, local residents would be able to access Darebin Creek? I would like to take this opportunity to also ask for better traffic management around the school. Parents routinely double park around the area during drop-off and pick-up times, and conduct dangerous u-turns or 3-point-turns, blocking access for local residents. I think the area should be assessed for a potential one-way traffic flow, at a minimum, during these peak school times.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
332.	<p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to make submission on the above topic. Kaye and I are long term residents of Alphington and for many years used and enjoyed free access to the Darebin Creek along the eastern section of Old Heidelberg Road particularly when the footbridge to Clark Road was operational. It afforded a much more pleasant pedestrian access than having to use the very narrow footpath along Heidelberg Road, with fast moving vehicles passing less than a metre away. We availed of the free passage along the bottom end of Old Heidelberg Road on the clear understand that Council and Parade College, the then owner of the School property, had entered into an agreement that allowed the school to utilise the closed section of road reserve as part of its school grounds on the basis that residents and the public had free access along the roadway to the old ford site and footbridge to Clark Street. We were advised of this agreement from two local councillors who represented our ward in the late 1970's . It is acknowledge that the footbridge has been washed away and the two Councils don't seem to be keen to have it restored but the Old Heidelberg Road access agreement offers a safer route for the Alphington residents of access to the Darebin Creek and the trail without having to use the dangerous and at times congested Heidelberg Road route. We therefore seek the continuation of public rights under the original agreement.</p> <p>If however the Council does accede to the closure of the road then I would expect that the School would be required to pay full commercial rates for the land and not simply be gifted the land.</p>



333. Dear Councillors

Subject: Public access to Darebin Creek via Old Heidelberg Road  
Council reference: 18,958

I refer to the Council's May 2021 letter to residents (residing in the area south of Heidelberg Road and east of Grange Road) regarding public access to Darebin Creek via Old Heidelberg Road. We reside at 32 Latrobe Avenue in YarraBend. My wife and I regularly walk along the Yarra River and Darebin Creek, often returning to YarraBend from Sparks Reserve along Heidelberg Road.

The footpath along Heidelberg Road from Sparks Reserve to Old Heidelberg Road is barely a metre wide in places and, has no verge between it and the road. Traffic travelling along that stretch of Heidelberg Road moves at a pace - 60kms per hour - which makes walking two abreast on this footpath nerve-wracking. The air-wash from passing vehicles, particularly trucks and buses, is significant and, the gutter does not provide much of a barrier to a vehicle/pedestrian collision if the driver lost control and the vehicle mounted the pavement.

On our walk today, we photographed a group of pre-schoolers being shepherded from Sparks Reserve to their kindergarten in Alphington (see the two photographs attached). We took these photographs because we think they show the safety concerns we have about pedestrians having to use Heidelberg Road to access/exit Darebin Creek. If pedestrians were able to use Old Heidelberg Road we think most people would choose, for safety reasons, to do that in preference to walking down Heidelberg Road.

334. We wish to object to the restriction of public access to Old Heidelberg Road.

Our young family escaped the pollution and congestion of inner Melbourne 20 years ago to enjoy the bucolic spaces of Alphington. We would often spend evenings and weekends wandering along the `wild` Darebin Creek and adjoining open spaces.

Until recently no fences restricted access and adjoining landholders, such as Alphington Grammar School and Alphington Golf Club, accepted and even encouraged the vacarious `ownership` of their open spaces by adjoining locals, who could act as protective eyes of their property. Old Heidelberg Road provided a direct and accessible link from Alphington to the Darebin Creek environment which is otherwise closed off by private property.

The recent lock downs have highlighted the importance of natural open space , especially `wild`remnant creeks and rivers, to provide mental and spiritual support for our densely urbanized community.

Many institutions openly welcome the community to utilize their open spaces whilst maintaining their rights, security and integrity. Examples can be found in local public schools,university campuses and local sports clubs.

The City of Yarra City should consider agreements with the landholders controlling the ancient Darebin Creek and confluent Yarra River corridors bounding Alphington, the Alphington Grammar School and Alphington Golf Course, to ensure on-going community access.

The new walls and locked gates across the public owner historic Old Heidelberg Road exclude the local Alphington community from enjoying access to the remaining natural world along the Darebin Creek. We request our council exert it's rights and reopens the roadway.

335. Dear Sir

I write to protest the lack of public access to the eastern section of Old Heidelberg Rd, blocking access to the Darebin creek since the installment of gates by Alphington Grammar.

I have been a resident of Lucerne Crescent for 35 years and until the gates were installed about 18 months ago, I had access to the Darebin creek, and to Sparks Reserve on the other side of the creek, without having to go via the narrow foot path path along busy Heidelberg Rd.

The loss of this access has deprived me and lots of residents easy access to the relatively new bike path, which gives wonderful access to Darebin Parklands and beyond into Fairfield.

I understand there are plans to link the new bike path with the walking track along the north side of the yarra from the old APM site, so this would be another advantage of returning access to Darebin Creek and the bike path via the Alphington Grammar School.

It's distressing to see the gradual erosion of access since the Alphington Grammar school has taken over from Parade College, which gave easy access.

This is particularly concerning when the council is making so much effort to offer walking and bike riding facilities in the Yarra Council area.

336. I am writing in response to your reference 18958 "public access to Old Heidelberg Road, Alphington". I have lived at [REDACTED], Alphington since 1972. When I first arrived the La Trobe Golf Club driving range was open access public space and the Christian Brothers who resided in Trescowthick House were happy to allow local residents to use the Parade School grounds. I often walked my dogs there and had many pleasant conversations with the Brothers. In addition the iron footbridge provided access across Darebin Creek. Many local residents also crossed the creek at the site of the river ford from Old Heidelberg Road to Sparks Reserve. The Christian Brothers were happy to use the flood plain which was public land and share access with the local residents. This happy situation continued until Parade College consolidated its school in Bundoora and sold the site to the Greek School (which became Alphington Grammar) around 1988.

Unfortunately, Alphington Grammar tried to discourage local residents from using the public land. They built tennis courts and marked out a soccer ground which in my judgement, infringed on public space. The iron footbridge was washed away twice but on the second occasion was not rebuilt. The construction of the so called missing link in of the bike path exacerbated the alienation of the public land in 2010.

For most of the time until 1994 this part of Alphington was in the City of Northcote when it was reassigned to the City of Yarra. This changing of municipal boundaries has been detrimental to the proper consideration of the history of the area and the rights of the local residents. When the school erected gates to keep locals out of what they considered their ground, a number of residents complained to the local councillors but received no remedy. In addition there was a VCAT hearing regarding the bike path in 2009. The building of the bike path provided no access from Alphington so local residents are being slowly but comprehensively alienated from Darebin Creek and the public land in the local neighbourhood. It is paradoxical that as the population of the suburb is increasing at an incredible rate because of the subdivision of generous blocks and the Alphington Paper Mill development that more of the limited and diminishing public open space should be lost. Consequently I am strongly opposed to any closure and the existence of gates preventing access to road reserves and public open space. I believe that the Eastern portion of Old Heidelberg Road should remain open to the public. In addition I request the Council to ascertain the progress of planning for Alphington access to the bike path.

337. Hello Ivan,

The Darebin Creek Trail is a key part of the local amenity for walking and cycling. However the only direct access to the Darebin Creek Trail via the Heidelberg Road from South Alphington is very dangerous, as the footpath is narrow and directly adjacent to a busy road.

This is a key safety risk to the disabled, young children, students and elderly plus pedestrians and cyclists in general.

Considering the local traffic of primary and secondary students, on a daily basis to and from Alphington, an initiative to provide safe pedestrian and cycling access will in some way help to reduce the “drop-off/pick-up” vehicle traffic and inherent risks. Speaking of which, a vehicle related student fatality occurred at Alphington Grammar in 2003 so the risks are very familiar to the local community.

AFADA’s understanding is that Old Heidelberg Road is public land that extends down the Darebin Creek Trail and pathway bridge over Darebin Creek (see attached map highlighted in yellow), which has been fenced off by Alphington Grammar School and closed to public access.

AFADA also understands that Alphington Grammar School pays no fees for access of this public land.

AFADA feels that Alphington Grammar School has taken possession of this public land illegally by fencing off the land and installing secured gates.

With that Council should undertake the following:

- Terminate any licence / agreement / peppercorn lease with Alphington Grammar School
- Instruct Alphington Grammar School to remove all the illegal fences and gates on the public land
- Instruct Alphington Grammar School to alter the Darebin Creek Trail perimeter fencing so that it does not encroach on the public land and enables public access to the Darebin Creek Trail
- Instruct Alphington Grammar School to construct a security fence along the southern and eastern boundaries of the Crown Land.

In addition to Public Access to Old Heidelberg Road, the community would like the reinstatement of the old Darebin Creek Footbridge which provided a link to Clarke Road, Ivanhoe. The 1914 footbridge was washed away in the 2003 floods. The community would like Council to work with Banyule Council in reinstating the footbridge. A reference to the old footbridge is attached.

Regards,  
AFADA

338.	Streets Alive Community Group - submission Old Heidelberg Road should be open to members of the public along its full length, enabling access all the way to Darebin Creek and the Darebin Creek Trail, irrespective of whether people choose to walk, roll on a wheelchair, cycle or get dropped off by a driver. Old Heidelberg Road is public land and should remain in public ownership and under public management, to enable people to access adjoining areas of either public or private land.
339.	petition from the residents of Alphington requesting the re-opening of the fenced and gated section of Old Heidelberg Road.