

Jumbuk/Junction Road Timber Traffic

GENERAL MANAGER

**Community Infrastructure &
Recreation**

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council a proposed solution to allow the use of Jumbuk Road and Junction Road route for the transport of timber.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council decided in April 2010 to allow timber to be transported along Jumbuk Road/Junction Road route subject to completion of improvement works to the road.

Not all of these works have been completed. Stakeholder feedback from the Jumbuk Road and Junction Road Safety Action Group, HVP Plantations and VicRoads has been undertaken. The stakeholders are supportive of the use of pilot vehicles to escort log trucks using the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road route as a safe alternative to allow the commencement of harvesting.

Stage 1 curve widenings have been completed, this encompasses pavement widening at curves 7-11, remaining curve widening works from 1-6 have yet to be completed as per the Construction Plan (Attachment 1).

The incorporation of pilot vehicles will enable logging operations to commence prior to all road works being completed, which is a requirement of the existing Council resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council permit timber transport on the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road route in November 2014 under the following conditions
 - a. Logging Trucks using the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road route will be escorted by a pilot vehicle in both directions between Jumbuk Hall, Jumbuk, and Lindners Road, Jeeralang Junction until the logging operations are complete.
 - b. Multiple trucks may use the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road route at one time, conditional that they are under escort by a pilot vehicle.
 - c. That any remaining upgrade works to be completed on Jumbuk Road or Junction Road be completed in consultation with HVP and do not impact the logging operations.
 - d. All timber from Comp 103 will be carted along Jumbuk/Junction Road, used by both empty and loaded vehicles. The Vehicles are to be escorted on both trips

- e. All timber from Comp 106 - empty vehicles are to be escorted up Jumbuk Road to Jumbuk Hall, and loaded vehicles are unescorted from the site via Yinnar South.
2. That Council continue to impose an eight tonne gross load limit from 9.00 pm to 6.30 am on Jumbuk Road from Junction Road to Healys Road until the logging operations are complete.
3. That HVP Plantations implement the following risk control measures on the Junction Road/Jumbuk Road route prior to the commencement of timber harvesting:
 - a. A voluntary 40 kph and 60 kph speed restriction is required to be imposed on trucks travelling along Jumbuk Road and Junction Road from Trews Road to Jumbuk Road respectively.
 - b. Curfews and voluntary speed restrictions are required to be monitored and enforced by installing GPS instrumentation in trucks. The records from these GPS devices be made available to Council on request.
 - c. Advisory signs are required to be erected on Jumbuk Road and Junction Road to advise motorists when timber cartage is in progress.
 - d. Trucks are required to communicate their location to other drivers via 2-way radio on UHF channel 28.
 - e. Trucks are not permitted to travel along Jumbuk Road and Junction Road when the school bus is using the road. Restricted times to be included in the coupe plans after negotiation with the affected bus companies.
 - f. Emergency services as specified by Council Officers are required to be notified in writing about the timber harvesting operation prior to the commencement of cartage operations. The coupe plans are required to include protocols which require emergency services to notify HVP Plantations of their intention to use the roads and for HVP Plantations to arrange for cartage operations to cease when it is known that emergency vehicles are using the roads.
 - g. The operators of delivery vehicles such as mail, gas, water etc as specified by Council Officers are required to be notified in writing about the timber harvesting operation prior to commencement of cartage. These operators will be advised to instruct their drivers to use 2-way radios.
 - h. Timber cartage must not be undertaken during foggy conditions or when there is snow on the ground.
 - i. Timber cartage must not be undertaken on weekends or public holidays.

4. That the Latrobe City Council Sealed Road Maintenance Team will undertake weekly inspections of the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road routes while timber cartage operations are in progress.
5. That Council advises HVP Plantations of the intention to renegotiate the current operational arrangements in relation to timber traffic using the roads in the Jumbuk area when the forthcoming harvesting operations are completed.
6. That Council notify the community of its decision relating to timber cartage on Jumbuk Road/Junction Road.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No officer declared an interest under the Local Government Act 1989 in the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives - Economy

In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a strong and diverse economy built on innovative and sustainable enterprise. As the vibrant business centre of Gippsland, it contributes to the regional and broader economies, whilst providing opportunities and prosperity for our local community.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 1: Job creation and economic sustainability

Strategic Direction – Work in partnership with business, industry and government to create new jobs and investment in Latrobe City.

Theme 4: Advocacy for and consultation with our community

Strategic Direction – Work with the community and other key stakeholders to improve community safety and harmony.

BACKGROUND

On 28 January 2005, Hancock Victorian Plantations (HVP Plantations), formerly Grand Ridge Plantations and APM Forests Pty Ltd, advised Latrobe City Council of their intention to transport timber along Jumbuk Road and Junction Road to Monash Way.

HVP owns approximately 1,600 hectares of timber resource adjacent to Jumbuk Road from around the Healys Road extension to Bolgers Road. This area was last harvested in the late 1960's and the timber was carted north along Jumbuk Road. The logging coupes were replanted between 1974 and 1977 and the plantations have been maintained since that time with the expectation from HVP Plantations that Jumbuk Road would be used as a timber haulage route. Plantations in the Strzelecki Ranges are normally harvested 27 to 30 years after planting.

Subsequent to the advice received on 28 January 2005 much consultation with individual stakeholders including Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group, Yinnar South Community Association and HVP Plantations has taken place. Meetings were held by the Ward Councillor in May and August

In December 2007 council resolved to have a safety audit undertaken on Jumbuk/Middle Creek/Upper Middle Creek Road routes. Following input from stakeholders a final safety audit was received on 14 April 2009. The audit (Attachment 2) identified safety concerns as for immediate action, important and recommended action.

At the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 October 2009, Council acknowledged the need to permit timber traffic to travel on the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road route when the accepted roadworks identified as "accepted" in the Road Safety Audit were completed.

It was resolved that funding was to be sought to complete these works. Council determined that ongoing community engagement and consultation on the timber traffic matter be conducted through a working group of stakeholder organisations. That working group has been established and is operating as Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Traffic Working Group. The Timber Traffic Working Group includes members of the following organisations:

- Latrobe City Council
- Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group Representatives
- Yinnar South Citizens Association
- HVP Plantation

On 2 December 2009 Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Cartage Routes Mediation Meeting was held with no agreed outcome or resolution reached.

Since this time, members of the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group have consistently raised their concerns regarding the Council decision relating to timber traffic on Jumbuk and Junction roads. This group have concerns relating to the process undertaken to determine

the Council decision, but mainly have focused on public safety concerns with log trucks using Jumbuk Road and Junction Road under the adopted conditions.

During 2014 Latrobe City Councillors and Council Officers met with the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group and HVP Plantations regarding objections to the Planning Permit for the removal of native vegetation along Jumbuk Road. During these meetings the stakeholder group expressed that they believed the safest way to transport timber on Jumbuk and Junction roads would be with the use of pilot vehicles escorting the timber trucks.

In line with the existing Council resolution, Council have commenced construction works on Jumbuk Road. Stage one works have been completed and stage two works on Jumbuk Road and also works on Junction Road are due to commence later in 2014.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

At its Ordinary Meeting held on 6 April 2010, Council resolved:

1. That Council permits 2-way timber traffic on the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road route when the accepted roadworks identified in the Road Safety Audit are completed subject to the restriction that there is one truck only travelling along Jumbuk Road from Bolgers Road to Junction Road at any one time.
2. That Council continues to impose the interim 23 tonne gross load limit and associated risk control measures on Jumbuk Road from Junction Road to Healys Road, as adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 1 October 2007, until such time as the accepted roadworks identified in the Road Safety Audit are completed.
3. That when the accepted roadworks identified in the Road Safety Audit are completed on Jumbuk Road from Junction Road to Healys Road and the interim 23 tonne gross load limit is removed, that Council impose an eight tonne gross load limit from 9.00 pm to 6.30 am on Jumbuk Road from Junction Road to Healys Road until the logging operations are completed.
4. That HVP Plantations implement the following risk control measures on the Junction Road/Jumbuk Road route prior to the commencement of timber harvesting:
 - a) A voluntary 40 kph and 60 kph speed restriction is required to be imposed on trucks travelling along Jumbuk Road and Junction Road from Trews Road to Jumbuk Road respectively.
 - b) Curfews and voluntary speed restrictions are required to be monitored and enforced by installing GPS instrumentation in trucks. The records from these GPS devices be made available to Council on request.
 - c) Advisory signs are required to be erected on Jumbuk Road and Junction Road to advise motorists when timber cartage is in progress.

- d) Trucks are required to communicate their location to other drivers via 2-way radio on UHF channel 28.
 - e) Trucks are not permitted to travel along Jumbuk Road and Junction Road when the school bus is using the road. Restricted times to be included in the coupe plans after negotiation with the affected bus companies.
 - f) Emergency services as specified by Council Officers are required to be notified in writing about the timber harvesting operation prior to the commencement of cartage operations. The coupe plans are required to include protocols which require emergency services to notify HVP Plantations of their intention to use the roads and for HVP Plantations to arrange for cartage operations to cease when it is known that emergency vehicles are using the roads.
 - g) The operators of delivery vehicles such as mail, gas, water etc as specified by Council Officers are required to be notified in writing about the timber harvesting operation prior to commencement of cartage. These operators will be advised to instruct their drivers to use 2-way radios.
 - h) Restrict truck traffic so that there is one truck only travelling along Jumbuk Road from Bolgers Road to Junction Road at any one time.
 - i) Timber cartage must not be undertaken during foggy conditions or when there is snow on the ground.
 - j) Timber cartage must not be undertaken on weekends or public holidays.
5. That Council permits 2-way timber traffic on the Upper Middle Creek Road/Middle Creek Road/Jumbuk Road route when the accepted roadworks identified as "Immediate" in the Road Safety Audit are completed subject to the restriction that there is one truck only travelling along Upper Middle Creek Road south of the bitumen at any one time.
6. That HVP Plantations implement the following risk control measures on the Upper Middle Creek Road/Middle Creek Road/Jumbuk Road route prior to the commencement of timber harvesting:
- a) A voluntary 40 kph speed restriction is required to be imposed on trucks travelling along Upper Middle Creek Road south of the end of the bitumen.
 - b) Voluntary speed restrictions are required to be monitored and enforced by installing GPS instrumentation in trucks.
 - c) Advisory signs are required to be erected on Upper Middle Creek Road, Middle Creek Road and Jumbuk Road to advise motorists when timber cartage is in progress.

- d) Trucks are not permitted to travel along Upper Middle Creek Road/Middle Creek Road/Jumbuk Road route when the school bus is using the road.
 - e) Timber cartage must not be undertaken during foggy conditions.
 - f) Restrict truck traffic so that there is one truck only travelling along Upper Middle Creek Road south of the bitumen at any one time.
7. That the rehabilitation of Middle Creek Road from south of Jumbuk Road to south of the Yinnar South Tennis Courts for an amount of \$1,700,000 is included in the road rehabilitation program for the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 financial years.
 8. That the accepted "Immediate" roadworks identified in the Road Safety Audit at the Jumbuk Road/Middle Creek Road/Upper Middle Creek Road route for an amount of \$120,000 are referred to the 2010/2011 Capital Works Program for consideration.
 9. That a Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Traffic Reference Group is established to monitor the progress of roadworks and timber traffic on the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road and Upper Middle Creek Road/Middle Creek Road/Jumbuk Road routes. Membership of the Reference Group will include the Gonyah Ward Councillor, other nominated Councillors and two members each from the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group, the Yinnar South Citizens Association and HVP Plantations. The Reference Group will meet at least twice per year until timber harvesting operations are completed or as required.
 10. That the Latrobe City Council Sealed Road Maintenance Team will undertake weekly inspections of the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road and Middle Creek/Jumbuk Road routes while timber cartage operations are in progress.
 11. That Council advises HVP Plantations of the intention to renegotiate the current operational arrangements in relation to timber traffic using roads in the Jumbuk and Yinnar South area when the forthcoming harvesting operations are complete.
 12. That a further report be presented to Council detailing the proposed recommended works to be undertaken on Middle Creek and Upper Middle Creek Roads.

The key changes to the existing Council resolution are

- The need to complete road upgrade works prior to commencing logging operations
- Specifying the use of a pilot vehicle for all trucks using the Jumbuk/Junction Road route
- Specifying exactly what coupes will be transported down the Jumbuk/Junction Road route.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

The primary risk factor for Council to consider relates to the safety of the public utilising the roads associated with the transport of timber from the area.

The secondary risk factors relate to the impact on the local economy should HVP not be able to transport timber from the area.

Both of these risks can be mitigated through the implementation of the proposed recommendation.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Funding was received through Better Roads Victoria, Rural Local Timber Roads Program administered through VicRoads for Jumbuk Road from Junction Road to Jumbuk Hall (Timber Haulage route). Better Roads Victoria has agreed to fund \$860,000 on road safety works while Latrobe City Council have committed to funding \$420,000 over three years. Council's current expenditure as reflected below shows \$925,823 of funds allocated by Latrobe City Council and \$540,261 of funds received from VicRoads to date.

Current Allocated Funds:

Year	Latrobe City Council	VicRoads (BRV)
2013/2014	-	\$84,103
2012/2013	\$615,809	\$436,421
2011/2012	\$110,000	\$19,737
2010/2011	\$200,014	-
TOTAL	\$925,823	\$540,261

It is estimated that it would cost \$150,000 to use pilot vehicles for escorting log trucks on Jumbuk/Junction Road from November until the completion of logging operations. If Council resolves to allow the use of pilot vehicles on Jumbuk Road and Junction Road, this contribution will need to be accommodated within the existing project budget.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Engagement Method Used:

Council officers engaged with stakeholders in line with our community engagement objective *to consult the community in policy development, planning and project delivery.*

Over the past nine years Councillors and Council Officers have been committed to engaging with the community, VicRoads and HVP Plantations. In October 2009 the Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Traffic Reference Group was established with members consisting of the Jumbuk/Junction Road Safety Action Group, the Yinnar South Citizens

Association, Councillors, Council Officers and HVP Plantations. The Reference Group met twice a year until timber harvesting operations are completed or as required. The group was formed following a resolution to do so, at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 October 2009.

The aim of council has been to enable logging to commence without compromising safety and to achieve a result which is agreeable for all parties involved.

Details of Community Consultation / Results of Engagement:

Latrobe City Councillors and Council Officers met with stakeholders from Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group and HVP Plantations regarding objections to the Planning Permit for the removal of Native Vegetation along Jumbuk Road.

In early October a Timber Traffic Working Group meeting was held to endeavour to come to an agreed understanding of upcoming timber cartage in the area. The minutes of this meeting are attached and the outcomes of the meeting are reflected in this Council resolution.

OPTIONS

1. Make no change to the existing Council resolution and commence timber transport on the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road route in line with the existing resolution.
2. Amend the existing resolution to permit timber traffic using pilot vehicles.

CONCLUSION

The issue of timber cartage routes has been considered by Council a number of times in recent years. These considerations have been mostly safety focused in identifying and treating issues with regard to the impact on residents in Jumbuk Road and Junction Road while timber cartage is in progress.

Continual stakeholder engagement has occurred relating to this issue, particularly with members of the Jumbuk Road and Junction Road Safety Acton Group.

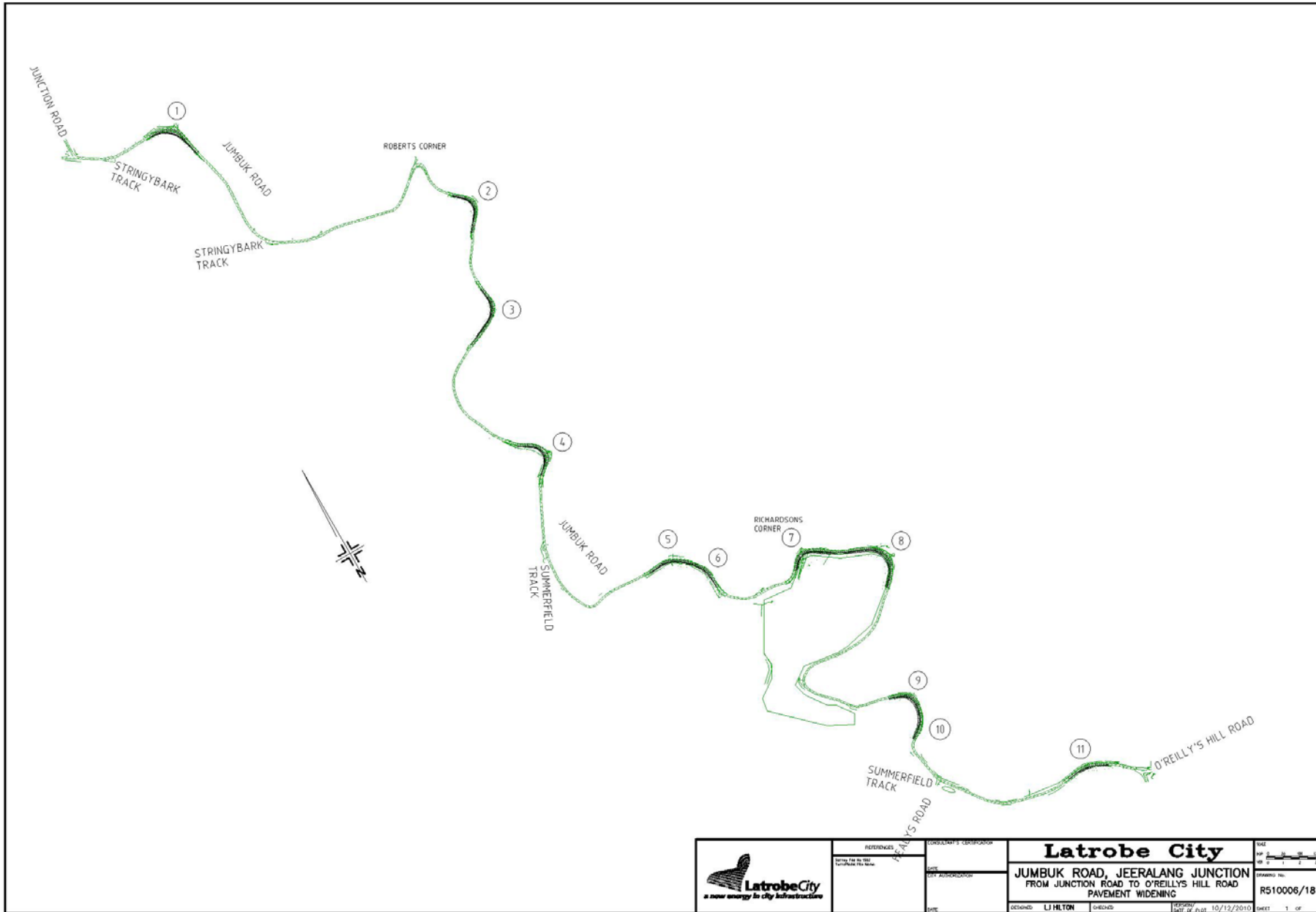
HVP Plantations have agreed to alter the conditions under which they transport timber on the Jumbuk Road/Junction Road route, subject to agreement by Council to amend the existing agreed resolution.

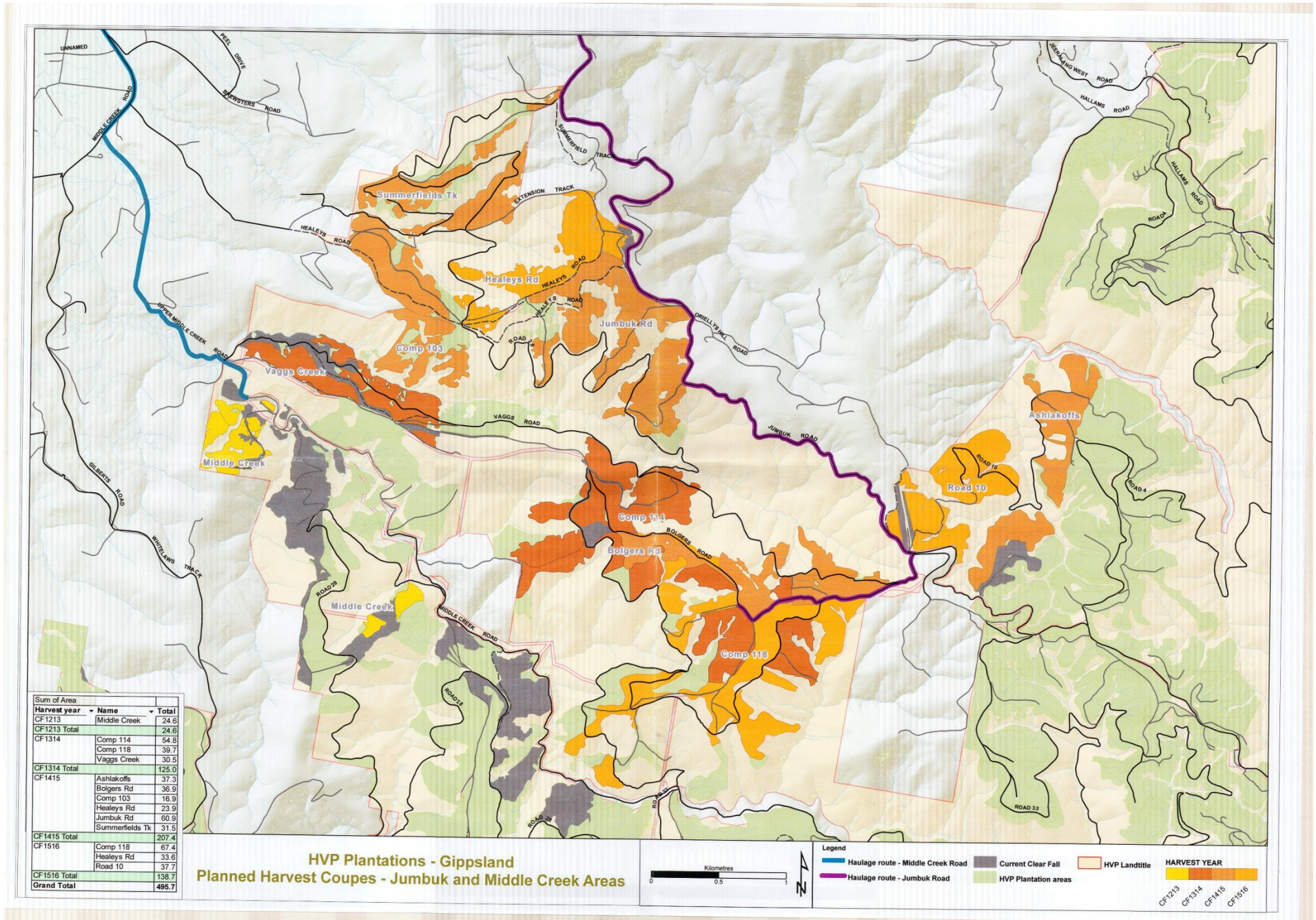
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Nil

Attachments

1. Jumbuk Rd Construction Plan
2. HVP Plantations Harvest Coupes
3. Minutes of Timber Traffic Working Group Meeting







Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Traffic Reference Group

Meeting	Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Traffic Reference Group
Date	Monday, 20 October 2014
Time	3.00 pm
Chairperson	Cr Sharon Gibson (Mayor)

Attendees

Cr Sharon Gibson (Mayor) – West Ward Councillor, Reference Group Chair
 Cr Darrell White – South Ward Councillor
 Cr Sandy Kam – East Ward Councillor
 Bill Roberts – Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group
 Rex McGowan – Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group
 Brian Kilday – Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group
 Greg Blakeley – Yinnar South Citizens Association
 Norm Albutt – Yinnar South Citizens Association
 Simon Gatt – HVP Plantations
 John Mitchell – Acting Chief Executive Officer, Latrobe City Council
 Steven Piasente – General Manager Community Infrastructure and Recreation, Latrobe City Council
 Lauren McKay – Coordinator Civil Works Projects, Latrobe City Council

Apologies

Damian Blackford – Manager Infrastructure Development, Latrobe City Council

Meeting Minutes Items

No	Item Description / Action
1	Update on progress of Timber Transport.
2	Review of Council Report from 13 October 2014.
3	Community Feedback on current proposal
4	Next Meeting



Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Traffic Reference Group

Previous Action Items

No	Item Description / Action	Owner	Due Date	Officer Update
1.	None			

Action Items

No	Item Description / Action	Owner	Due Date
1.	Timber Traffic Reference Group Community Representative are to confirm that the recommended way forward documented in section 4.1 of these minutes is correct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumbuk Rd/Junction Rd Safety Action Group; and Yinnar South Citizens Association 	EOB Wednesday 29 October 2014



Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Traffic Reference Group

1. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cr White mentioned that the last meeting held to discuss Timber Traffic did not involve the Yinnar South Citizens Association.

A report regarding Timber Traffic on Jumbuk/Junction Road was presented at the Council Meeting held on 13 October 2014. However, a decision was deferred to the next meeting due to the lack of community consultation and notice of the report being given to the relevant community groups.

2. UPDATE ON TIMBER HARVESTING

The areas which HVP is programming for harvesting from November 2014 are Comps 103, 106 and 118.

3. REVIEW OF COUNCIL REPORT FROM 13 OCTOBER 2014.

The Council report regarding Timber Traffic on Jumbuk/Junction Road was presented at the Council Meeting held on 13 October 2014. However, an alternate motion was adopted to defer consideration of the report to the next meeting due to further community consultation being required.

The Jumbuk Road/Junction Road Safety Action Group and the Yinnar South Citizens Association were unhappy with the recommendations of the report and the lack of notification of the report being included in the Council Meeting Agenda. However, the alternate motion was accepted by both parties on the proviso that further discussions occur.

The report mentioned that HVP, VicRoads and Latrobe City Council had agreed to share the costs of the pilot vehicle for trucks on Jumbuk/Junction Road. Simon Gatt informed that HVP would not be contributing to the costs of pilot vehicles. This in turn, raised concerns whether VicRoads have agreed to sharing the costs.

HVP is concerned about the precedent that may be set by the provision of pilot vehicles on Jumbuk Rd.

4. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON CURRENT PROPOSAL.

The comps 103, 106 and 118 have been mentioned at prior meetings and concern has been raised as to the routes the Timber Traffic will be using to and from the sites. The draft report had recommended that timber loads be split 50/50 between Jumbuk/Junction Roads and Yinnar South for comp 106. The definition of the split has caused confusion with respect to the Comps and the estimated traffic volumes they are to create.



Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Traffic Reference Group

4.1 RECOMMENDED WAY FORWARD.

The resulting decisions from the discussion regarding the harvesting of the Comps, is as follows:

- Comp 103 – All timber will be accessed and carted on the Jumbuk/Junction Road route. All empty and loaded log trucks are to be escorted on this route.
- Comp 106 – All empty log trucks will travel up the Jumbuk/Junction Road route, under escort between Lindners Road and Jumbuk Hall. All timber will be carted unescorted via Yinnar South.
- Comp 118 – All timber will be accessed and carted via Yinnar South. Neither empty nor loaded vehicles will be escorted.

The Timber Traffic Reference Group Community Representative are requested to confirm via return email that the above way forward is accurate by Wednesday 29 October 2014. A report will then be presented to a Council meeting for decision as soon as possible.

5. NEXT MEETING

To be announced.

Meeting Closure

The meeting closed at 4:30 pm.