

Minutes: Rural Advisory Committee

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Friday December 9th, 2022 - 3pm to 5pm
Community Rooms – 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale
Chair: Cr. Jim Child– Yarra Ranges Council

Meeting 4 - 2022	
Rural Advisory Committee	Betty Taylor; Robin Wood; Steve Gartland, Harold Fox; Dr Mick Blake;
Council	Cr. Jim Child; Kath McClusky; Ben Harnwell; Amanda Bunn;
Guests	Bronwyn Koll; Sarah Bond; Cr. Eastham
Apologies	Karen Thomas; Clive Larkman; Beck Stevens; Kevin Sanders; Len Rayner;

Time	Topic	Speaker
5 min 15:00 – 15:05	1) Welcome & Apologies	Cr. Jim Child
5 min 15:05 -15:10	2) Matters arising from previous minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal workforce DAMA update: Been unable to get commitment for funding contributions. Following up with other Councils and Federal Government in the new year. 	Cr. Jim Child Amanda Bunn
10 mins 15:10 – 15:20	3) Energy saver kit for business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My energy and water saver kit has been available for the community for a while now through the library system. Now available for business use. Finalising the booking process and will go live to business next year. 	Sarah Bond Action: Will update businesses and committee when booking is live
15 mins 15:20 – 15:35	4) RAC terms of reference update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes proposed from last meeting discussed Proposed addition of a code of conduct for committee members. To open all positions to applications for promotion in the new year, all current members encouraged to re-apply. 	Ben Harnwell Action: Will update the ToR and keep members up to date.
10 mins 15:35 – 15:45	5) Animal Rights bill in the state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation bill that was proposed. Issues with horses being moved more 	Betty Taylor

	<p>frequently than other livestock, burdensome with paperwork.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping on crown land, seems to be put on hold with the recent flooding. • New draft act of Prevention of cruelty to animals vaguely written. Updates to follow. • Take on notice and wait to see how things progress with all three topics. 	
<p>10 mins 15:45 – 15:55</p>	<p>6) Destination Management Plan (DMP) Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 year strategic plan for tourism in the region. Being run through Yarra Ranges Tourism. • Consultation with community to begin in Feb. 	<p>Ben Harnwell</p>
<p>25 min 15:55 – 16:20</p>	<p>7) Seasonal Workforce accommodation challenges & setting businesses up for success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PALM (federal) scheme, designed to support Pacific Islander workers and labour hire employment. • Council working with several labour hire organisations to assist businesses in operating within regulations to ensure workers safe and treated appropriately. • Have advocated to the State Gov for amendments that have applied to the rural sector to easier accommodate seasonal workers but didn't apply to the Green Wedge in metro areas. 	<p>Ben Harnwell</p>
<p>15 min 16:20 – 16:35</p>	<p>8) Queensland Fruit Fly update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QFF has been in Valley since 2018. Soft fruit now must be fumigated before leaving for interstate trade. • 23 detections last summer. Affected by La Nina with increased activity. • State Gov has a plan for awareness, surveillance, protection etc. Fully funded till June this year, but will decrease each year. • Knowledge is increasing in the community and industry. 	<p>Bronwyn Koll</p>
<p>15 min 16:35 – 16:50</p>	<p>9) Great Southern Forest & Timber Transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Forestry Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Shift to end native forest harvesting in State Forest by 2030.</i> ○ <i>Will start in 2024</i> ○ <i>Council received funding from State to support Community to develop a Land Development Strategy</i> 	<p>Ben Harnwell</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Strategy will provide community and business driven actions to help the transition</i> ○ <i>State funding available to support projects including business cases etc</i> ● East Gippsland has developed a Position Paper around Native Timber Harvesting with a number of actions. Agreed East Gippsland paper has some merit. ● Possibility to explore a joint Council approach between all affected Councils for consistent policy and a stronger voice. ● Having that industry operating locally also assists in storm clean up and recovery. ● Not a simple solution or answer. 	
<p>10 min 16:50 – 17:00</p>	<p>10) Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocacy opportunity for fixing, maintaining and reclassification of certain roads. Lobby Council for update and action, E.g. on the Woods Point Rd. ● Stress and mental health of farmers dealing with floods. ● Cr. Child will be stepping down from Chair of the RAC moving forward, with Cr. Eastham to Chair from next year. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To lobby Council regarding the maintenance and review of classification of roads in the region.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moved by Cr Child Seconded by Robin Wood All in favour of motion - carried</p>
<p>17:00</p>	<p>11) Close</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cr. Jim Child</p>