



# Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory MINUTES

## Thursday 9th September 2021

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| <b>Meeting Open</b>    | 5.30pm      | Chairperson: Cr Johanna Skelton  |
| <b>Members Present</b> |             | Ron Sawyer (member), Graeme George (member), Laurence Gaffney (member), Lauren Dwyer (member), Melanie Birtchnell (member), Cr Johanna Skelton (YRC), Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), David Harper (YRC), Jessica Rae (YRC), Jess Baillie (YRC), Suzanne Burville (YRC), Sarah Bond (YRC), Kelly Dohl (YRC), Luke Williamson (YRC), Gabby Haynes (YRC), Samantha Piper (YRC), Tom Meek (YRC), Corinne Mays (Port Phillip and Westernport CMA), Jeff Barlow (member), Merryn Kelly (DELWP), Joanne Antrobus (Parks Victoria)   |
| <b>Apologies</b>       |             | Kym Saunders (YRC), Cr Tim Heenan (YRC), Amanda Smith (YRC), Mark Varmalis (YRC), Julian Hill (member),  |
| <b>Welcome</b>         | 5.30        | Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 8 July 2021<br>Moved: Graeme George<br>Seconded: Mel Birtchnell   |
|                        | 5.35        | Declaration of Interest<br>Any members with interest in matters to be discussed to declare.  |
|                        | 5.35 – 5.55 | <p>Matters Arising/Actions</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> YRC to commence recruitment for next committee over the coming months (rather than end of the year), due to number of vacancies.<br/><b>David Harper reported a good response to public advertising for expressions of interest in joining the next committee and that the current committee will have one more meeting in November.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Organise a site visit to Dixon's Creek to observe the impact of firestick practice over time. <b>Darren Wandin/Garry Detez Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Biodiversity sub-committee recommend Graeme Lorimer be engaged to audit biodiversity assessments <b>Amanda Smith</b><br/><b>Jess Rae reported that discussions with Graeme Lorimer were underway.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> "The targeted vegetation condition and assessment project 2010-2012" to be supplied in map format to YREAC <b>Amanda Smith</b><br/><b>It was not clear that the information had been circulated, Jess Rae to follow up.</b></p> |

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|                      |                    | <p><b>ACTION:</b> The committee to consider Laurence’s recommendations and council’s response and consider any further action. <b>Committee Deferred for discussion under Committee Members: Open Floor</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Item 1</b></p> | <p>5.55 – 6:35</p> | <p><b>Ridgewalk</b><br/> <i>Kelly Dohle/ Luke Williamson/Samantha Piper</i></p> <p>Presentation Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 39km walking track that links villages and unique sites</li> <li>• Will celebrate the landscape, art, history and culture of the region</li> <li>• Opportunity for community to get involved</li> <li>• Retention of native vegetation and protection of ecosystems</li> <li>• An Aboriginal Cultural Assessment has been completed</li> <li>• Some landowner approval required</li> <li>• Technical studies are underway</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Q: What impact would Ridgewalk have on existing tracks?<br/> A: Existing walking trails incorporated where possible with repairs to surfaces as required.</p> <p>Q: What is the total figure around vegetation removal?<br/> A: Less than 0.6 of a hectare anticipated plus one large tree = 0.5 habitat units.</p> <p>Q: Are there threatened species that will impacted?<br/> A: Investigate this further in the ESS report, aquatic wildlife</p> <p>Q: Will this contribute to more rubbish?<br/> A: Bins will not be provided so the intent is no.</p> <p>Q: What are the timelines?<br/> A: The timelines are fluid in terms of construction commencement. Storms have affected being able to access some of the trails and work cannot commence until the trails dry out.</p> |
| <p><b>Item 2</b></p> | <p>6.35 – 6.50</p> | <p>Committee Members: Open Floor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire as a Management Tool. Tom Meek spoke to the circulated Officers' Response to recommendations made by Laurence Gaffney at the previous meeting. Laurence asked that his recommendations be put to a vote.<br/> <i>There was discussion around whether Laurence’s recommendation was sufficient to support as it is or if it needs reconsidering in light of council’s response</i></li> <li>• Healesville CORE’s renewable energy hub was shared by Jeff Barlow</li> <li>• Darren Wandin joining the committee was discussed along with the merits of him being a staff vs community member</li> <li>• Graeme George asked that the outstanding ACTION Item from the previous meeting on regular reporting on the Liveable Climate Plan be addressed. Council responded we report bi-annually and we’re developing a scorecard to report on the climate plan. We’re happy to report at each YREAC meeting via the sustainability team update</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Laurence to circulate his further comments to committee members for consideration of voting on the recommendations at the next meeting.</p>  |

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| <p><b>Item 3</b></p>       | <p>6.50 – 7.10</p> | <p>Sustainability and Environment Team Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity Offset program</li> <li>• Ribbons of Green program</li> <li>• Environmental assessments</li> <li>• Internal Infrastructure Environmental Referral Services</li> <li>• Grant-funded programs</li> <li>• Yarra Valley community Power Hub</li> <li>• ResourceSmart Schools Program</li> <li>• Project Biochar</li> <li>• Events</li> </ul> <p>Biochar and access to enough local prunings without extensive transport needs was raised.</p>  |
| <p><b>Item 4</b></p>       | <p>7.10 – 7.30</p> | <p>Agency Reports</p> <p>DELWP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellingbo landscape conservation area</li> <li>• Little Yarra River</li> <li>• Statewide consultation: Major Event Review for Victoria’s Fire Impacted Forests</li> <li>• Proposed removal of the prohibition of camping on licensed Crown land water frontages.</li> <li>• Wildlife Act review</li> </ul> <p>Melbourne Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storm event Clean Up</li> <li>• Woori Yallock Creek revegetation</li> <li>• Engagement with Yarra Ranges Council</li> <li>• Spring Environmental Flow Releases</li> </ul> <p>Parks Victoria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Affected Parks</li> <li>• Dandenong Ranges Storm Recovery update</li> <li>• Illegal Mountain Bike trails in the Dandenong Ranges</li> <li>• Deer control Bunyip State Park</li> <li>• Helmeted Honeyeater Translocation to Yarra Ranges National Park</li> <li>• Leadbeater’s Possum recolonising Lake Mountain</li> <li>• Faunal Emblems E-books</li> <li>• Emergency Markers 1,000 Steps</li> </ul> <p>MPWCMA</p> <p>PPWCMA have put the call out for councils to sign on to the regional catchment strategy. Yarra Ranges CEO has been sent a letter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPWCMA integration into Melbourne Water</li> <li>• Regional Catchment Strategy Prospectus Projects</li> <li>• Yarra4Life</li> <li>• Melbourne Foodbowl Virtual Farm</li> <li>• Growing Carbon Project</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> |                    | <p>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November</p>  |

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| <b>Meeting Close</b>   |  | 8.00pm           |
| <b>Deferred Topics</b> |  | ROG presentation |