

# Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (Extraordinary Meeting) MINUTES



Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022

## Chairperson

Cr Johanna Skelton (YRC),

## Members present

Cr Andrew Fullagar (YRC), Mark Varmalis (YRC), David Harper (YRC), Amanda Smith, (YRC), Suzanne Burville (YRC), Lauren Dwyer (member), Mel Birtchnell (member), Graeme George (member), Ron Sawyer (member), Laurence Gaffney (member), Bec Brannigan (member), Peter Martin (member), Darren Wandin (member), Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water),

## Apologies

Cr Tim Heenan (YRC), Jess Rae (YRC), Kym Saunders (YRC), Jess Baillie (YRC), Graham Brew (YRC), Tom Meek (YRC), Joanne Antrobus (Parks Vic), Clinton Muller (member), Jeff Barlow (member), Merryn Kelly (DELWP), Lucy Gilchrist (member), Lucy Claire-Southwell (member), Jonathan Gay (member)

Actions		
ACTION	Biodiversity Sub-committee recommendations to the Yarra Ranges Council to be considered for inclusion in the Biodiversity Plan.  Final document file: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xOnR5dp7kXZfg_kbnBHki8AWqjTrX4F/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xOnR5dp7kXZfg_kbnBHki8AWqjTrX4F/view?usp=sharing</a>	Amanda Smith
ACTION	Council officers to share draft Biodiversity Plan with SEAC prior to release for community consultation.	YRC

## 1. Biodiversity Sub-committee recommendations to the Yarra Ranges Council concerning the proposed Biodiversity Plan

### MOTION

The biodiversity sub-committee put forward recommended objectives and actions intended to guide and enhance the final Yarra Ranges Council Biodiversity Plan.

Concerns were raised about the following wording:

*Remove from Council's Environmental Weeds and Pest Animals lists those non-indigenous species that contribute to ecological function without detriment to indigenous species, recognising they can be tolerated as novel ecosystems evolve in response to disturbance and climate change:*

- *Benign exotic weeds and native plants occurring outside their historical range that have no demonstrated negative impact on historically indigenous flora and fauna but contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem function — allow control at the discretion of land-owners.*
- *Exotic animals and native animals outside their historical range that have acclimatised without detrimental impact on original (historic) faunas and plant communities - no controls necessary.*

A motion was put forward to support the recommendations **providing the above section was reworded to the following:**

*Review Council's lists of Environmental Weeds and Pest Animals to prioritise investment away from those non-indigenous species that contribute to ecological function without detriment to indigenous species, recognising they can be tolerated as novel ecosystems evolve in response to disturbance and climate change:*

- *Benign exotic weeds and native plants occurring outside their historical range that have no demonstrated negative impact on historically indigenous flora and fauna but contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem function — allow control at the discretion of land-owners.*
- *Exotic animals and native animals outside their historical range that have acclimatised without detrimental impact on original (historic) faunas and plant communities - no controls necessary.*

The motion was unanimously supported by all attending committee members:

Ron Sawyer, Graeme George, Laurence Gaffney, Mel Birtchnell, Darren Wandin, Peter Martin, Lauren Dwyer, Bec Brannigan

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ACTION	Council officers to share draft Biodiversity Plan with SEAC prior to release for community consultation.	

Meeting closed

5.15pm