

Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee MINUTES



Thursday 2nd June 2022

Chairperson

Cr Johanna Skelton

Members present

Cr Andrew Fullagar (YRC) David Harper (YRC), Kym Saunders (YRC), Amanda Smith (YRC), Tom Meek (YRC), Suzanne Burville (YRC), Amy Endall (YRC), Lauren Dwyer (member), Graeme George (member), Ron Sawyer (member), Laurence Gaffney (member), Peter Martin (member), Melanie Birtchnel (member), Lucy Gilchrist (member), Lucy Claire-Southwell (member), Darren Wandin (member), Clinton Muller (member), Lucy Rose (DELWP), James Johnson (DELWP), Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), Sarah Gregor (Melbourne Water),

Apologies

Jonathan Gay (member), Bec Brannigan (member), Mark Varmalis (YRC), Graham Brew (YRC), Joanne Antrobus (Parks Vic), Jess Baillie (YRC), Jess Rae (YRC), Merryn Kelly (DELWP), Tim Heenan (YRC), Jeff Barlow (member),

Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 11th November 2021 (YREAC) and 3rd March 2022 (SEAC)

Meeting 2: 4th April 2022

Moved: Graeme George

Seconded: Lucy Southwell-Hambly

Meeting 2b (Extraordinary meeting): 20th April 2022

Moved: Melanie Birtchnel

Seconded: Graeme George

Declaration of interest

None

Outstanding Actions		
ACTION	Organise a site visit to Dixon's Creek to observe the impact of firestick practice over time. <i>Dates to be circulated to committee. Amanda to invite Graeme Lorimer.</i> <i>Ongoing</i>	Darren Wandin Garry Detez Amanda Smith
ACTION	Provide methodology on council's CO2 emissions graph. <i>Completed</i>	Kym Saunders
ACTION	Provide 2021 Monash University Feasibility Study to committee <i>Ongoing</i>	Kym Saunders
ACTION	Cr Johanna Skelton to provide an update on the outcome at forum regarding the motion on planned burns. <i>Ongoing</i>	Johanna Skelton
ACTION	Biodiversity Sub-committee recommendations to the Yarra Ranges Council to be considered for inclusion in the Biodiversity Plan. <i>Ongoing</i>	Amanda Smith

ACTION	Council officers to share draft Biodiversity Plan with SEAC prior to release for community consultation. <i>Completed</i>	Yarra Ranges Council
ACTION	Targeted vegetation plan request hasn't been resolved. Laurence asked this remain as an action. Amanda to call Laurence to discuss further. <i>Ongoing</i>	Amanda Smith
ACTION	Waste team to present the Draft Community Waste and Recovery Plan at the next meeting. <i>Pending</i>	Graham Brew
ACTION	Request for Council advocacy on Cultural Burns / cool burns to replace the large-scale fuel reduction programs. <i>Pending</i>	Amanda Smith

1. Economic Development Strategy

Presenter: Amy Endall

- Council is renewing the economic development strategy
- 10-year plan with review mechanisms
- We are currently at the 'prepare draft strategy' stage
- Feedback welcome
- More information - <https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/economic-development-strategy>

Feedback/questions

Q: What does 'Regenerative' mean in this context?

A: Definition will be in the strategy along with examples as to how it looks within a business model. Invited to provide feedback via the strategy.

Comment: Interested in strategic directions and prioritisation.

ACTION	N/A	
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2. Strategic Management Prospects Tool (NatureKit)

Presenters: James Johnson and Lucy Rose (DELWP)

NatureKit is a tool to map and report on Victoria's biodiversity values and investment prospects.

- Shows how and where we can make the biggest difference as cost-effectively as possible
- Considers species, threats, benefits of action, cost of action
- Cost effectiveness for every action/ location combination are ranked
- DELWP measures against biodiversity 2037 targets

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit>

Feedback/questions

Q. Do VICForests use this tool?

A. Yes, however, not sure to what detail.

Q. How well does this scale for a shire level biodiversity plan? Might be prime hotspots at the Yarra Ranges level but not at a state level.

A: It works on a 225 sq metre prediction for areas (designed on a state-wide scale). Feature on naturekit for summary areas can be utilised – there is one that covers Yarra Ranges.

Q. If a high value coincides for both parties how readily can we access DELWP funding to protect those areas?

A. Depends on funding stream and criteria.

Q. What about the ultimate cost if species goes extinct? Does this bias the funding away from species on the brink?

A. Tool weights to species range before cost. DELWP have a different process/algorithm for looking at threatened species.

Q. Can we see a reference document explaining the detail of how the SMP works.

A. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S000632072030793X>

ACTION

N/A

4. Agency Reports

Melbourne Water

- Coranderrk planting day
- Asked committee what they would like to hear about in future meetings
 - request for catchment management activity to be included in report since CMA amalgamation
 - biolinks
 - yarra strategic plan
 - billabong projects
 - corridors
 - details of what weeds Melb Water are focussing on
 - what compliance activities are taking place particularly around infill of swamps, how they are reversing swamp infills
 - ephemeral drainage lines and management strategies
 - are biodiversity surveys done on riparian landscape?
 - Water rights

Q. Some people are hanging on to permanent water entitlements and don't use them.

A. Some people use them or trade them. Challenging to force people to use them. Usage compared to allocation is less than 50%.

Q. Is Yarra for Life continuing?

A. Yes

ACTION

N/A

4. Committee Open Floor

A draft of the biodiversity plan was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. Feedback included:

- request for a biodiversity sub-committee meeting to be held soon
- targets are weak, fire has been ignored in the public document
- timeframe is too long
- need to know where key ecosystems are before acting
- would like to see more ambitious targets, tied more closely to actions

Request for an update on the waste strategy. Will when broader consultation come in?

YRC are close to releasing the draft community waste and recovery plan – most likely within the next 6 weeks. A lot of changes are statewide, YRC will be looking at how to implement those changes.

Darren and Uncle Dave Wandin have been discussing opening up Coranderrk to the wider community.

Graeme George advised that Chum Creek and Dixons Creek Landcare Groups were concerned they haven't had a response to a joint communication of the 19th March requesting Council's advocacy for a move to indigenous-style burning to replace the large-scale fuel reduction programs scheduled for state forests in their areas.

Could we have a short presentation on the recent amendments to the Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act.

Ageing septic systems and stormwater information/update requested.

David Harper announced he was leaving his role at YRC at the end of June and this would be his last SEAC meeting.

ACTION	Waste team to present the Draft Community Waste and Recovery Plan at the next meeting.	Graham Brew
ACTION	Request for Council advocacy on Cultural Burns / cool burns to replace the large-scale fuel reduction programs.	Amanda Smith

Meeting closed

7.40pm

Deferred topics

Urban Tree Canopy Strategy update

Integrated Sustainable Transport

Amendment C148 – Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme

Draft Community Waste and Recovery Plan

Revised Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

Ageing septic systems and stormwater information