



Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee
Agenda
Thursday 11th March 2021
Online Zoom Meeting
5.30pm – 7.00 pm

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| Meeting Open | 5.30pm | Chairperson: Cr Johanna Skelton |
| Members Present | | Graeme George (member), Laurence Gaffney (member), Lauren Dwyer (member), Melanie Birtchnell (member), Cr Johanna Skelton, Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), Joanne Antrobus (Parks Victoria), David Harper (YRC), Amanda Smith (YRC), Mark Varmalis (YRC), Jess Rae (YRC), Isabel Ebsworth (YRC), Corinne Mays (Port Phillip and Westernport CMA), Jeff Barlow (member), Merryn Kelly (DELWP) |
| Apologies | | Julian Guess (YRC), Cr Tim Heenan, Julian Hill (member), Michelle Masterson (member), Ron Sawyer (member) |
| Welcome | 5.30 | <p><i>Meeting etiquettes:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Remain on mute and ‘raise your hand’ using the zoom functions if you want to speak. The Chair will invite you to speak in turn.</i> 2. <i>Raise questions, where possible, using the ‘Chat function’</i> 3. <i>Try to limit distractions, either in the physical background or notifications from other applications.</i> <p>Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p><i>We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri People as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respects to all Aboriginal Community Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.</i></p> <p>Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2020</p> <p>Moved: Lauren Dwyer Seconded: Graeme George</p> |
| Welcome | 5.35 | <p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Any members with interest in matters to be discussed to declare.</p> |
| Matters Arising/ Actions | 5.35 – 5.40 | <p>Matters Arising/ Actions</p> <p>ACTION: YRC to commence recruitment for next committee over the coming months (rather than end of the year), due to number of vacancies.</p> <p>ACTION: Committee members please contact Isabel to express intentions going forward.</p> <p>ACTION David to contact the secretariat of IAC and RAC to discuss options for cross-pollination of the two committees.</p> <p>ACTION: David to determine how best to achieve reporting on the Liveable Climate Plan & how this is reported at YREAC.</p> |

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| | | <p>ACTION: Isabel to schedule Biodiversity subcommittee meeting</p> <p>ACTION: Isabel to circulate link to plant directory with minutes</p> <p>ACTION: Team updates to include information on Warburton Mountain Bike Trail Project.</p> |
| Item 1 | 5.40– 6:05 | <p>PPWCMA Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coranderrk Restoration • Amalgamation of CMA and Melbourne Water |
| | | <p>Coranderrk Restoration: See accompanying presentation</p> <p>Amalgamation of CMA and MW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1 January 2022 the PPWCMA will be integrated into Melbourne Water • An Integration Project Steering Committee has been established and will be meeting regularly throughout 2021 to ensure a smooth transition of PPWCMA into Melbourne Water. |
| Item 2 | 6.05 – 6.30 | <p>Warburton Mountain Bike Trail</p> <p>Pre-reading provided with opportunity to ask questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Phil Murton |
| | | <p>Warburton Mountain Bike Trail update: See accompanying presentation</p> <p>“hope to build the right trails, in the right place, in the right way”</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet wheels approach: when conditions are not right, trails will be closed to reduce damage to the trail and to environment. Expecting that trails located on the south side of Warburton will be able to operate most of the year, while other trails will have annual closures during wetter months. • Committee appreciated the thorough & respectful presentation & pleased with direction project is taking. Good to see the project team is looking at ways to build the track to avoid sensitive areas. • Concerns remain around compaction and damage to sensitive areas. • While VPNA is currently absent from TRG (technical reference group), VPNA is acknowledged as an important stakeholder & will be involved in later stages of the project when plans are more refined and needs are more specific (as will many other key stakeholders). • Cool Temp Mixed Rainforest work being carried out thanks to |

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| | | <p>YREAC identifying this vegetation type.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid threatened species and vegetation communities such as CTR, the TRG are encouraged to look at other potential alignments & alternatives are explored with upmost thoroughness. • Hopefully current ESS approach will translate to other council projects. • It is not possible for a detailed presentation to be given at every YREAC meeting, but Mark and Phil will come back to committee when there is significant progress. • The website offers current information on this topic. |
| <p>Item 3</p> | <p>6.30 – 6.40</p> | <p>Committee Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New YREAC committee – proposed recruitment approach (Isabel Ebsworth, YRC) • Proposed: joint meeting with Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) & Rural Advisory Committee (RAC) once a year (David Harper, YRC) • Creating a formal relationship between YREAC and the Yarra Ranges Council's Liveable Climate Plan: a proposal for YREAC's engagement with the Plan (Jeff Barlow) |
| | | <p>Recruitment approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This committees three year term comes to a close at the end of this year, but currently a number of vacancies to fill. • Instead of advertising twice in one year, it has been suggested we advertise for a new committee in the coming months. • The committee supports the above proposal. <p>Joint meeting with IAC and RAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always a challenge to fill indigenous position, not enough representation to be able to take up every opportunity. • A joint meeting with IAC is proposed & also RAC as often primary producers like to be informed and involved. <p>Suggestion from committee: do it once early in the appointment of the new committee term.</p> <p>David to contact the secretariat of IAC & RAC to chat about options going forward</p> <p>Jeff Barlow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liveable Climate Plan endorsed by council & provides framework to deal w/ climate emergency. • YREAC would like have more interaction with the LCP • The plan should be addressed at each meeting & YREAC should receive regular reports from ELT. |

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| | | <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of Jeff's passion & the work put in. • In general, YREAC would like more reports back regarding the results of items addressed & advised on by committee • David Harper: The LCP is a whole of council document that was compiled collaboratively. Enviro team will keep working with other departments to meet obligations. Currently working with the new council on a Four Year Council Plan. LCP is expected to be part of these discussions. • Keen to develop a reporting structure that sets up clear and steady progress. • Recognise YREAC would like to be updated with tangible evidence that YRC is achieving goals and will strive to provide this. <p>Suggestion from committee: different teams & members of other committees could give timely & pertinent presentations to YREAC to keep them informed on LCP progress across the organisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David will discuss with other executives about an appropriate way to feed into committee. |
| Item 4 | 6.40 – 6.50 | Sustainability and Environment Team Updates Follow up for Sustainability and Biodiversity Coordinators. |
| | | Amanda would like to schedule a meeting with the sub-committee of YREAC on the Biodiversity topic soon |
| Item 5 | 6.50 – 7.00 | Agency Reports Follow up for Agency Representatives. |
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| Next Meeting | | 20 th May |
| Meeting Close | | 7:30 |
| Deferred Topics | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned Burns at Launching Place by Laurence Gaffney • Environmental Flow Program (Melbourne Water) • ROG presentation |