



Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee
Minutes
Thursday 14th June 2018
Conference Room
Anderson Street Office Lilydale
5.45 – 8.50 pm

Meeting Open	5.45	Chairperson: Cr Mike Clarke
Members Present		Cr Mike Clarke, Simon Woodland, Amanda Smith, David Harper, Laurence Gaffney, Valerie Stewart, Graeme George, Darcy Duggan, Melanie Birtchnell, Sophie McCracken-Evans, Steve Hosking
Apologies		Mark Varmalis, Jess Rae, Jo Antrobus, Lee Hodges, Gabe Markovics
Welcome	5.45 – 5.55	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 12th April 2018 subject to minor amendment; Darcy declared a perceived conflict relating to his engagement as a contractor in bushland management when discussing the Bushland Management Plan.</p> <p>Moved: Darcy Seconded: Laurence</p>
	5.55	<p>Declaration of Interest None</p>
	6.00 – 6:30	<p>Matters Arising/ Actions</p> <p>ACTION: YREAC to send summary to Cr Clarke prior to Forum on C148 amendment.</p> <p>ACTION: Jess to follow up on information sent from Darcy and if Strategic Planning received it. <i>Strategic Planning received the information sent.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Set up meeting with planners with C148 working group as Mel as the point of contact. <i>Strategic Planning to present at tonight's meeting, follow up meeting with planning to be determined if required.</i></p> <p>ACTIONS: DELWP to follow up on if the community will be engaged in the development of the Bushfire Management Plan for the YCA, and/or will it be open for public comment. Also to seek clarification on the legality of the restriction for property owners to undertake revegetation within 10m of the nominated exclusion zones. <i>Information received from DELWP on these matters as follows: The Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2018 has been developed in response to community concerns about bushfire. Feedback related to bushfires, gained during community consultations regarding the establishment of the YCA, has been used to inform the development of this plan. In relation to the restricted revegetation area, in response to the concerns raised by Yarra Ranges Council and the local community in the Upper Yarra Valley about the potential for bushfire risk to increase, the Government will not be undertaking any re-vegetation within the subject area identified (see map) until the bushfire management planning process has been finalised. In listening and responding to concerns of local residents raise about increasing bushfire risk, the Government had decided to restrict the amount of revegetation that can occur on Crown Land in that part of the YCA (see map). Revegetation of Crown land will be restricted to a maximum of 10 meters from either side of the Yarra River and tributaries in the streamside areas. A lesser area will be re-vegetated if determined through bushfire management planning, to ensure that there is no material increase in bushfire risk and that priority is given to the protection of human life and private property.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Add the Planning & Environment Act to the list of relevant legislation in the Bushland Management Plan. <i>Document edited by Bushland Department.</i></p>
Item 1	6.30 – 7.30	<p>C148 Amendment: Update on process and where to from here</p> <p><i>Claudette Fahy – Strategic Planning; Damian Closs – Manager Development Services</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered by Council in May, report presenting the issues on the public consultation process. Over 100 submissions received, most of which were about the Environment Significance Overlay. YREAC submission received focussed on the methodology used to develop the overlays. • Submissions reviewed by Ecology Australia for council. • Opportunity to modify the proposed controls in response to the submissions received, which is the position council are putting to the panel. Council resolved to support the Officers recommendations for changes. Changes made to the proposed overlay considered all submissions made, including YREACs. The updated maps will be available on the public website shortly. • Proposed ESO extent has increased, which will need to be substantiated in the Panel. Overall intent to make the controls more contemporary and visible rather than the current control of Cl.53. • Nothing in Cl.53 that helps you make a decision, so the ESO creates more clarity for planning. • Ecology Australia has run the model that underpins this amendment, and is finalising the layer currently. • Council will be taking this model to panel, which will assess and provide recommendations. This is likely to occur sometime around August 2018. The Planning Panel will invite submitters to present to the panel, and Strategic would encourage YREAC to do so. • The ESO can't require anyone to do revegetation, only triggers for vegetation removal. <p>ACTION: Strategic Planning to provide area (in ha) added to the ESO following the changes to the mapping model by EA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed ESO doesn't recognise the Dandenongs with a unique schedule, as recommended in 2013. However, this current amendment does not restrict any opportunity for further amendments in the future. • All submissions received by Council on the proposed amendment were available to be viewed at the Council offices throughout the consultation period. <p>ACTION: Development Services can look into possibility of submissions being made available on the website.</p>
<p>Item 2</p>	<p>7.30 – 8.00</p>	<p>Ribbons of Green – 10 year review, a monitoring and evaluation framework development</p> <p><i>Kym Saunders – Biodiversity Extension Officer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kym provided a background to the review of the Ribbons of Green Program which has been running for 10 years. This includes the following to date; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collation of data on participants over the term of the program for analysis. Seeking interest from 2-3 YREAC members to assist us with the data analysis and suggestions for what to derive from the data. <p>ACTION: Any YREAC member interested in being involved in data analysis and interpretation should contact Amanda Smith.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant survey sent out to 350 residents, with 92 respondents. Mostly focused on social factors of success or shortcomings of the program and landowner stewardship. • On-ground biodiversity assessment using an adapted methodology developed by Arthur Rylah Institute for rapid vegetation quality. Undertaken at 15 sites, with 10 plots per site/property, totalling 150 survey plots. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider incentivising participating landholders to undertake comprehensive property management planning. • Clarify whether the evaluation is measuring the success of revegetation or biodiversity improvements? • Continue to include, where appropriate, a proportion of rare or threatened species in the planting list to add to the biodiversity values (i.e. attracting insects).
<p>Item 3</p>	<p>8.00 – 8:10</p>	<p>Agency Reports- Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria.</p> <p><i>Joanne Antrobus (PV) and Steve Hosking (MW).</i></p> <p>Steve: Wireless deer control fencing is currently being trialled at a number of MW closed catchment sites within Yarra Ranges. Further detail will be provided to the committee once available. Imagine the Yarra website still open for comment https://imaginetheyarra.com.au/ with community engagement</p>

		<p>sessions at Healesville, Warrandyte & Abbotsford locations. Encourage the committee to attend and share through their networks.</p> <p>Joanne: Unable to attend the meeting, update provided and appended to minutes</p>
<p>Item 4</p>	<p>8.10 – 8:20</p>	<p>Council Environment & Sustainability Update</p> <p><i>Simon Woodland – Environmental Stewardship, Amanda Smith – Biodiversity</i></p> <p>To send through the Biodiversity update with the minutes.</p> <p>Sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warby Hydro – Is going well, revegetation of the Ythan creek to improve the riparian corridor starting in a couple of weeks. The turbine is due to be installed at the end of the month. Waiting on final approval from Melbourne Water for water diversion licence. • Solar Savers (Solar panels for pensioners) – second phase of the program we are in week 3 of a 5 week promotional period, so far 110 enquires. • Residential Solar Bulk Buy – October launch bulk procurement of trusted solar panels and installers for Shire residents • Sassafras Creek Stormwater Project – targeted community meeting this Saturday to discuss project with the contractor. Likely start date late October – weather dependent. • Giddens Lane WSUD almost complete. • Olinda – Monbulk Rd WSUD underway and scheduled to be complete by August 2018. This project will protect a beautiful temperate rainforest gully line, a tributary of the Perrins Creek. • Gardens for Wildlife - Council will officially adopt and run this program. • Gardens for Harvest – Council is working with Knox to roll out this program in Yarra Ranges. Permaculture based garden design / improvements largely carried out via workshops and tapping into existing networks. There will be an e-book and pdf available of all seasonal garden related info on our website. <p>ACTION: Jess to check on location of the Olinda-Monbulk Rd WSUD installation and report back to the committee.</p> <p>Recommendation: For council to engage with Graeme George who has significant expertise in permaculture to provide advice on the Gardens for Harvest program.</p> <p>Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting for EOFY on both Peri-urban and Bio Hubs has occurred, with DELWP satisfied on both grants. The PUWI has been approved for funding release for the 18/19 FY. • Ribbons of Green some key training delivered in collaboration with the PPWCMA has seen some great community engagement in the land stewardship space, particularly in the MYRP conference held in late May. Strategic work to come for this program over remainder of the year. • Biodiversity Offsets Program has received data and recalculated costing model to set a new price. This will go through to a Council report soon for approval. Hope to be up and trading soon and a promising future ahead. • Environment Assessments busy time of year with EOFY for capital works and planning for the 18/19 year. Often also busy with statutory planning. We have recruitment process occurring, with two new staff likely to join the team. Looking at doing some additional training with the statutory planning department on the new regulations, this may be supported by attendance of DELWP officers. • YREAC review on track, with many thanks to the committee for their time and efforts in our interviews. It has provided great insight and opportunity for the future of the committee. Looking to advertise EOI for places on the new committee in August 2018. • Strategic and advocacy work particularly busy. Attending two workshops on development of the Victorian Deer Mgmt Strategy with DELWP & DEDJTR. It is scheduled for release for public comment in July. I'll inform YREAC about it as you and many of your affiliated groups are likely to want to make submissions, which I would encourage. Some work with YCACC on the YCA plan and updates to their website. Biodiversity Response Planning process through DELWP which I was a working group member/assessor for. • Grant opportunities available currently through Landcare, which create opportunities for community groups. Advertised through the Environment Volunteer Network newsletter and can be found here https://landcareaustralia.org.au/victorian-junior-landcare-biodiversity-grants/?gclid=CjwKCAjw1ZbaBRBUEiwA4VQCIYnREiizVZ78vEXYrelFnBww1WxhieDXgZETIB3aGMz-H8L3tdwjRoCFqwQAVd_BwE • Fauna camera monitoring delivering some interesting results including a Long-nosed bandicoot record in Mt Evelyn rec reserve, not having been recorded in over 50 years in this area.
<p>Item 5</p>	<p>8.20 – 8.50</p>	<p>Other Matters</p> <p>ACTION: Amanda to upload to Govdex the papers that underpin the ROG questionnaire. Also the assessment framework from ARI.</p>

		<p>ACTION: Amanda will send out the notification of the Victorian Deer Management Strategy consultation to the committee once online.</p> <p>ACTION: Bring update on the Tree Strategy to the next meeting</p> <p>DELWP are currently reviewing their 'Authority to control wildlife' regulations under the <i>Wildlife Act 1975</i>. Further information can be accessed at https://engage.vic.gov.au/atcwreview</p> <p>ACTION: Biodiversity team to purchase publications relevant to the weed management space, as recommended by the committee.</p> <p>Committee expressed interest in the 'Return of the Firestick' project.</p> <p>ACTION: Extend invitation to Emergency Management and Community Safety Team, Uncle Dave Wandin and/or Brett Ellis (Emergency Victoria) to attend future meeting.</p> <p>Committee raised concern about roadkill within the municipality and questioned if there was a register for recording roadkill by species/numbers?</p> <p>ACTION: council to look at data collection in relation to roadkill collection through the roads team. .</p>
Next Meeting		9 th August 2018.
Meeting Close		8.50pm