



**Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday 27th June 2019**  
**Conference Room**  
**Anderson Street Office Lilydale**  
**5.30 – 8.00 pm**

<b>Meeting Open</b>	5.48pm	Chairperson: Cr Mike Clarke
<b>Members Present</b>		Darcy Duggan, Graeme George, Jeff Barlow, Katherine Selwood, Laurence Gaffney, Lauren Dwyer, Melanie Birtchnell, Michelle Masterson, Ron Sawyer, Benjamin Viola, Jessica Fettell, Luke Boontjes, Joanne Antrobus (PV), Corinne Mays (PPW CMA), Cr. Mike Clarke, David Harper (YRC), Simon Woodland (YRC), Sarah Bond (YRC), Mark Varmalis (YRC), Jess Rae (YRC), Cr Len Cox, Victoria Purdue (PV), Jaci Lees (PV) Leah Wheatley (DELWP)
<b>Apologies</b>		Julian Hill, Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), Kym Saunders (YRC), Merryn Kelly (DELWP)
<b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b>		<p><b>Welcomes</b></p> <p><b>Acknowledgement of Country</b></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 and present, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 (published on YRC website)</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Katherine Selwood</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Lauren Dwyer</p>
		<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Tammi Rose (CEO) – brief introduction to the committee, expressed appreciation for YREAC.</p> <p>Cr Len Cox spoke of his interest in seeing a Central Highlands National Park established in the region.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> allocate agenda time at the next YREAC meeting for discussion.</p>
	5:54pm	<p><b>Declaration of Interest</b></p> <p><i>Any members with interest in matters to be discussed to declare</i></p> <p>None declared</p>
	5:55pm	<p><b>Matters Arising/ Actions</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> allocate an hour in next agenda for WMBS presentation. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Simon to provide pre-reading from RAL team before next meeting on WMBS. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Jo to report on the percentage of Bunyip State Park that was burnt. <b>Completed – see Agency Update</b></p>

		<p><b>ACTION:</b> Merryn to send Mike (&amp; Sarah B) EOI about Community Reference Group for distribution to committee. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Simon to follow up on the document detailed by Jeff about reaching net zero in Daylesford area. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Provide information on EAGA for new members. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> draft a position regarding the CACE declaration, and committee to provide comments through govdex on proposed targets by next meeting. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Katherine and Ron have volunteered to join the sub-committee. Meeting to be organised before next YREAC meeting. <b>Completed.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Report back at next YREAC meeting about discussion by sub-committee. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Kelly Delaney to assist in organising a field trip detailed in email from Mel Birtchnell before next meeting. <b>Pending</b></p>
		<p><b>Discussion/Questions:</b></p> <p>Biodiversity Sub-committee report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David summarised the initial discussions held at the first meeting on 15 May. The subcommittee will continue to meet.</li> <li>• Question was raised by Darcy regarding the updated Melbourne Water data on first and second order streams and if this information could be incorporated into the existing model. Darcy referred to work done by Strategic planning to consolidate the 5 &amp; 10 hectares model for the revised ESO and requested the aforementioned data from Melbourne Water be included in the revised ESO.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> List Biodiversity Sub-committee report as an agenda item at YREAC future meetings.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Schedule a second sub-committee meeting in next 4 weeks to continue discussions.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> David Harper to respond to Darcy regarding the Melbourne Water data incorporation.</p> <p>Other Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laurence raised an item from the Matters/Arising Action item list as from agenda 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018: <i>Provide the following Information to this committee; a copy of the World Trails report and their brief, copy of the Practical Ecology report and their brief, the TOR for Project Steering Committee, any advice provided by councils Environment department to RAL team in the early scoping phase.</i></li> <li>• Mark Varmalis confirmed that he responded to Laurence via email in December 2018, specifying that further information will be available through the Project Reference Group, when ready for public release.</li> </ul>
Item 1	6:20pm	<p><b>Warburton Mountain Bike Trail</b></p> <p>Matt Harrington - Executive Project Manager - Warburton MTB Phil Murton - Manager Recreation Projects &amp; Parks</p>
		<p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <p>Matt presented on the Warburton MB Destination Project.</p> <p>Presentation is available on request.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Mountain Bike Guidelines (Mountain Bike Australia) will be those applied across the network.</li> <li>• Some existing issues in the area will be rectified using trail funding</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– wingless stonefly habitat and artificial hollow construction for the Leadbeaters possum.</li> <li>• There will be close monitoring of the trail during construction and after opening to assess the impacts on the environment as this type of research has not been completed in Australia before.</li> <li>• An EES is being conducted before referral to DELWP to review all of the impacts and determine if they are acceptable.</li> <li>• The Master Plan is currently being reviewed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion/Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodation - a number of planning applications are in train for new accommodation in the area.</li> <li>• Accident rate is expected to be low as there are not many jumps and the tracks flow is in one direction.</li> <li>• Trail fee - revenue to maintain trails will be generated through sponsorship and merchandise sales.</li> <li>• The consultation process was commended for the experts that have been engaged as part of the project.</li> <li>• Myrtle wilt and phytophthora – David Cameron is assessing this risk and advising on mitigation measures. Cleaning facilities are being investigated.</li> <li>• Concerns were raised regarding post-production monitoring and negative effects. There is funding for 5 years monitoring after trail completion and will be the responsibility of Parks Victoria in future. Council has committed to overseeing the track and any environmental re-alignments will be firstly discussed with council.</li> <li>• Improvements to be made to the Mt Donna Buang carpark as part of mountain bike project to protect Stonefly habitat.</li> <li>• Concerns were raised regarding the impact on Cool Temperate Mixed forest, given the threatened forest type .</li> <li>• EES referral – WSP engaged as consultants.</li> <li>• Lysterfield Mt Bike destination is not a good example track as the standards used were very different and are not comparable to those specified for the Warburton trails.</li> <li>• EPBC – Practical Ecology have been engaged as consultants.</li> </ul>
Item 2	7.24pm	<p><b>Tree Strategy Scope Discussion</b></p> <p>David Harper – Manager Sustainable Environment and Facilities Presentation on the scope of the <a href="#">Tree Policy</a></p>
		<p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <p>David outlined a tree strategy discussion, and posed three questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>When thinking about trees in the Yarra Ranges municipality, what comes to mind that we should really be thinking about on behalf of our community?</i></li> <li>• <i>What do you see in relation to management of trees around the municipality that you like/don't like?</i></li> <li>• <i>What would you like to make sure we are thinking about in developing a 20 year Tree Strategy for Yarra Ranges?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion/Questions:</b></p> <p>There were general themes of discussion surrounding development of a tree strategy, along with main points captured in the notes, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution of trees to biodiversity and their ability to offer interconnectedness between people and the environment.</li> <li>• Highlighting the importance of habitat value.</li> <li>• Creating an inventory of trees to ensure significant trees are registered and adequately managed.</li> <li>• Revegetating when removal is necessary.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring consistency with planning permits, especially for new developments.</li> <li>• Offering community education on value of trees</li> <li>• Establishing proactive rather reactive approach to tree management, i.e. planning for the future.</li> <li>• Inclusion of fire resistant species as street trees.</li> <li>• Dividing the resourcing and responsibilities by area, i.e. Hills, Valley and Urban.</li> <li>• Reporting annually on tree health and general conditions.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Consolidate responses and present as an attachment to the minutes.</p>
Item 3	8:06pm	<p><b>Agency Reports</b></p> <p><i>See Agency Reports (attached).</i></p>
		<p><b>Discussion/Questions:</b></p> <p>Parks Victoria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wingless Stone Fly – request for additional information.</li> </ul> <p>Port Phillip and Westernport CMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BirdLife Australia and Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater have created a new education resource: <a href="http://www.helmetedhoneyeater.org.au">www.helmetedhoneyeater.org.au</a></li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joanne to provide further feedback on Wingless Stone Fly.</li> <li>• Joanne to update YREAC on the Indigenous and heritage findings at Bunyip State Park.</li> <li>• Melanie to provide Laurence with a CFA contact regarding burn mapping at Bunyip State Park</li> </ul>
Item 4	8:21pm	<p><b>Sustainability and Environment Team Updates</b></p> <p><i>See Team Updates (attached).</i></p>
		<p><b>Discussion/Questions:</b></p> <p>Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Environmental Practice review – will include training for staff and contractors.</li> </ul> <p>Sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upcoming event – Community Solutions in a Changing Climate, 9 August.</li> </ul>
Item 5	8:26pm	<p><b>Committee Discussions</b></p> <p>CACE letter from Jeff Barlow</p>
		<p><b>Discussion/Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Mike Clarke presented a Motion to the 25<sup>th</sup> June Council Meeting, regarding Climate Policy review and action. The motion was carried.</li> <li>• Jeff outlined community support for a declaration of a climate emergency and requested YREAC convey this appeal to Council.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion:</b> <i>That Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee acts to advise Yarra Ranges Council to consider and to sign the Climate Emergency Declaration.</i></p>

		<p><b>Moved:</b> Jeff Barlow  <b>Seconded:</b> Darcy Duggan  <i>Unanimous support.</i>  Further discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YREAC would like to be involved in drafting a declaration.</li> <li>• Julian Hill submitted comments via email: benefits/costs to the community, risk management and governance should all be considered.</li> <li>• Michelle highlighted that the Climate Emergency Declaration has grown to become a global movement that is widely recognised. We need to move beyond 'what council are doing' and 'what community groups are doing', to work together under one umbrella, with a common approach and shared goals.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Melanie to draft motion for next meeting on actions to declare a biodiversity emergency.</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>		Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August. Conference Meeting Room
<b>Meeting Close</b>	8:47pm	