

Minutes: Rural Advisory Committee

Friday September 30th, 2022 - 3pm to 5pm

Community Rooms – 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale

Chair: Cr. Jim Child – Yarra Ranges Council

Meeting 3 - 2022	
Rural Advisory Committee	Betty Taylor; Karen Thomas; Kevin Sanders; Steve Gartland, Robin Wood; Clive Larkman
Council	Cr. Jim Child; Cr. Fiona McAllister; Kath McClusky; Ben Harnwell; Amanda Bunn; Beck Stevens
Guests	Jess Rae; Alex Hill; Cr. Eastham
Apologies	Amanda Smith; Harold Fox; Len Rayner; Dr Mick Blake

Time	Topic	Speaker
3 min 15:00 – 15:03	1) Welcome & Apologies	Cr. Jim Child
2 min 15:03 -15:05	2) Matters arising from previous minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Recovery Plan Consultation. Slide pack shared. • Economic Development Strategy consultation. Slide pack shared. • Advocacy. Slide pack shared. • Insurance issues raised regarding sandwich panels: Leila from Eco Dev has been in contact with Kevin • GM Chrysanthemums: update in meeting. • Tracing horse/donkey movements moved forward from prior meeting. 	Motion: Minutes of previous meeting agreed as a true and accurate record Moved by Kevin Sanders Seconded by Betty Taylor All in favour of motion – carried.
25 mins 15:05 – 15:30	3) Seasonal Workforce: Visas & Postcodes Update. Letter of advocacy endorsement. – Alex Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advocacy through various Council forms has been going on 2 decades now. • Two main asks in current advocacy: DAMA creation & postcode inclusion for working holiday visa extension. • DAMAs historically work well, but takes a long time to bring to fruition. • Since skills and jobs summit, hunger for reform regarding the visa. Opportunity to 	Actions/Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the letter checked by advocacy again, potentially include a map showing which areas have the most farms and where visa work is not currently allowed. Motion: Strongly Supporting the advocacy piece for the DAMA and the continued

	<p>advocate for that reform, the letter from the RAC adds to that voice.</p>	<p>efforts of the Eco Dev team to support agri employment in the region</p> <p>Moved by Clive Larkman</p> <p>Seconded by Betty Taylor</p> <p>All in favour of motion – carried.</p>
<p>20 mins 15:30 – 15:50</p>	<p>4) Biodiversity Update - Jess Rae</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 2% of municipality is bushland managed by Council. Because of this part of Councils role in this area is to advocate for the remaining bushland areas to the State and Federal Gov, and to work with residential areas. • 4 key themes in the nature plan; landscapes and ecosystems, pest plants and animals, land use and changing climate, people and nature. • Issue raised: If 66% is crown land, the main impact comes from the crown land, we need more on the advocacy proposals and to ensure they're in line with the nature plan. <u>Deer</u> and wild dogs are a major factor on crown land, along with environmental weeds. Want to see more effort in advocacy, more representation at a higher level. • Q: Ribbons of green. Why just plants? Why not other indigenous things added such as cool burning. A: Cool burning included, with plans to expand and include deer control also. • Parks and Forestry dept working with landholders in planned burning. Also needs to be integrated with viticulture timing. Cool burns are done by the cultural teams (main advantage to take out the leaf litter, to encourage biodiversity and take out either the upper or lower layer. Resource people intensive, and legal on private property), different to the fuel reduction burns when the land is dryer, and the burn is much quicker. 	<p>Actions/Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please provide any further feedback through the Shaping Yarra Ranges page. • Steve Gartland: DELP Vic Deer strategy and setting up regional action strategies. Will follow up with them. • Betty Taylor: Email from ?? regarding a survey in this space, will check who it was from and report back.
<p>8 mins 15:50 – 15:58</p>	<p>5) Biosecurity Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have Your Say On Victoria's Biosecurity Laws • Update on GM Chrysanthemums • FMD, Phylloxera, Varroa - Amanda Bunn • Vic gov seeking feedback on potential changes to biosecurity laws. • Regarding Biosecurity laws, for nursery sector, the number 1 priority is to work co- 	<p>Actions/Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft letter from RAC. Cautious to align with a national level, as to not give up the good level that we have in Vic. • Clive Larkman: Coming back to the committee with a specific paper to start conversation regarding clearer messaging that is more

	<p>operatively with all biosecurity departments and for them to all talk to each other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM Chrysanthemums: With GM there is always a lot of emotion and fear around the gene “escaping” into the environment, Clive advises this is basically impossible. Even with deliberate cross pollinating it would be extremely unlikely to work, as most GM flowers produced are often sterile and incapable of reproducing, and we have no native chrysanthemums in Aus. • Regarding biosecurity risks and outbreaks: We are working on strengthening our relationships with integral organisations such as Wine YV, Agribusiness YV, and working alongside Abby in Advocacy to lobby and keep our region as safe as we can with the most up to date information as possible. 	<p>common sense, and for agencies to talk to each other.</p>
<p>5 mins 15:58 – 16:03</p>	<p>6) Economic Development Strategy Update - Ben Harnwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy been out for consultation. Moving towards a regenerative future. • Results of consultation: A lot of support, many comments echo what is already in the strategy. Will go to council for adoption. Priority areas were reaffirmed in feedback. Draft still available on shaping YR page if still want to read. Next step: deliver the 10-year plan. • Q: Will YR still be classified as urban? A: We are hoping for peri urban. Certainly not hoping to become overdeveloped. Point raised that we must facilitate small farmers, because if they go, land will run wild with weeds and just get slashed. Modern methods of farming should be allowed on small farms. Room for advocacy in this area regarding restrictions within the green wedge. • Opportunity to promote the region as a niche farming region. • Q: Can we have someone on council who can advise on what people can develop on that land. Opportunity in the Investment Attraction Plan (IAP) coming out of the EDS. • Q to group: We talk about food and wine in the region. Can we change it to food and drink/beverage? A: Vic lobby industry group now use that terminology. Group happy with Drink! 	<p>Actions/Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft still available on shaping YR page if still want to read. • Change terminology from Food and Wine to Food and Drink. • Explore opportunities to advocate for farmers working on Green Wedge land more freedoms. • Continued work on the IAP incorporating feedback.

<p>30 mins 16:03 – 16:33</p>	<p>7) Review of the RAC terms of reference, current vacancies, and attendance history - Ben Harnwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current ToR are that positions are fixed term, which would put every member over. There is also the concern of patterns of non-attendance. Have the chair use degression to discuss with those who are regularly not attending. • Seek to fill vacant positions. • Update to Melbourne port water. • Quarterly meetings working well, as is having the meeting at the end of the quarter, but Friday afternoons are difficult to make it to. Look at having the day of the week changed. The time works for most but not all. 	<p>Actions/Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send a poll for which day of the week the meeting would be best suited. <p style="text-align: center;">Motion:</p> <p>Make the following changes to the RAC terms of reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the chair use degression to discuss with those who are regularly not attending whether they are still a suitable candidate for the position. • Seek to fill the current vacancies, including education. • Change “strawberries” to berries in rural sectors. • Assess adding representatives for Landcare and Allied Trades. • Update to Melbourne Water from Port Phillip & Westernport CMA <p style="text-align: center;">Moved by Jim Child Seconded by Kevin Sanders All in favour of motion – carried.</p>
<p>10 min 16:33 – 16:43</p>	<p>8) Tracing of Horse/Donkey movements State issue, waiting for next election. Tracking between movements of thoroughbred horses.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Betty Taylor</p>
<p>4 min 16:43 – 16:47</p>	<p>9) Crown land camping Concerns about biosecurity. Staring to see a backflip from state gov on certain sites.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Betty Taylor</p>
<p>2 min 16:47 – 16:49</p>	<p>10) Pet “return” procedures If you find a pet that is loose, you can call the shire, or take to animal aid, or to local vet. Council has asked vets to check for microchips. Vets are allowed to charge a “reasonable fee”, for this service. Council charges a fee for having an animal loose. Betty to get back to group regarding the fees.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Betty Taylor</p>
<p>10 min 16:49 – 16:59</p>	<p>11) Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to the Tech School • Visit to Coranderrk 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cr. Jim Child</p>

	<p>Visit to the tech school: students chose to work on the Sanitarium building. Asset to have the campus on our doorstep.</p> <p>Q: State of the roads, not operated by the council. Opportunity to work with DOT on road condition. Cr Child to raise with the team.</p>	
17:00	12) Close	Cr. Jim Child