



Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee
Minutes Meeting 51
Thursday 11th October 2018
Conference Room
Anderson Street Office Lilydale
5.40 – 8.50 pm

Meeting Open	5.40pm	Chairperson: David Harper
Members Present		Laurence Gaffney, Graeme George, Darcy Duggan, Melanie Birtchnell, Valerie Stewart, Jo Antrobus (PV), Sarah Gaskill (MW), Simon Woodland (YRC), David Harper (YRC)
Apologies		Mark Varmalis, Amanda Smith, Jess Rae, Lee Hodges, Sophie McCracken-Evans
Welcome	5.40 – 5.50	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>David Harper commenced chairing of meeting, with Cr. Clarke delayed.</i></p> <p>Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 9th August 2018, subject to amendments</p> <p>Moved: Melanie Seconded: Darcy</p> <p>NOTE: Darcy should be listed as an apology at the Aug meeting.</p>
	6.00	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Agency Reps (Sarah Gaskill and Jo Antrobus) both highlight their involvement in developing the Draft Deer Management Strategy, hence won't be contributing to a committee response, but happy to speak to the draft from their respective agency perspectives.</p>
	6.00 – 6:40	<p>Actions</p> <p>ACTION: Amanda will send out the notification of the Victorian Deer Management Strategy consultation to the committee once online. Released 2 October at link below. On agenda for tonight's meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: get back to the committee on the funding agreement from the Feds and what the conditions are. What parameters did they use to determine to fund the project. Pending</p> <p>ACTION: 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. Pending</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Warburton MTB Trail.</p> <p>Committee wishes to see an integrated management plan for the trail network, to ensure environmental values are managed and enhanced in an ongoing, sustainable manner. Also, the funding for the project should not be the only driver for the project proceeding. All appropriate assessment and rigour should be applied to determine the viability of the project irrespective of the investment made, or committed.</p> <p><i>Cr. Clarke arrived and assumed role of chair at</i></p>
Item 1	6.40 – 7.10	Victorian Deer Management Strategy submission discussion

		<p>Draft Deer Strategy released for comment, see Engage Victoria website: https://engage.vic.gov.au/draft-victorian-deer-management-strategy Discussion on strategy development provided by DELWP to guide conversation.</p> <p>Recommendations, actions and comments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can YRC host an online data capture system that would source sightings and movement data from the community, to inform future management? • Sarah highlighted that there is also a Federal Government enquiry into feral deer, pigs and goats, with submissions closing November 2 • Suggest that the 4 species of deer flagged for ongoing protection be swapped with the 4 who are proposed to be listed as Prohibited Pest Animals (as per Bradley Method approach) <p>ACTION: Jo (PV) provided some detail on the current control program in this region, and will follow up with additional detail in writing.</p> <p>ACTION: Simon to distribute draft submission to YREAC for comment, and seek support for the submission.</p> <p>ACTION: Darcy to send through observations from the Perrins Ck and Sassafras Ck areas to Jo Antrobus for referral to the operations officer for that region.</p>
Item 2	7.10 – 7.40	<p>Panel Hearing for C148 update</p> <p>A summary was provided to the committee on the proceedings of the Panel Hearing held in August, at which the sub-committee presented YREACs submission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The panel report is pending, which will provide recommendations to council on the amendment. • YREAC presentation to the panel is uploaded to Govdex for committee viewing. • Laurence presented a report to the Panel as a private submission. He was given an undertaking that he would be contacted by Planning for an update on their investigation into matters raised, but has not heard anything. A copy of Laurence's submission has been uploaded to Govdex for committee viewing.
Item 3	7.40 – 7.50	<p>David's discussion on weeds</p> <p>David introduced his intention to lead a detailed discussion with the committee on the topic of weed management and biodiversity conservation strategy. However, due to time constraints, this item was deferred to next meeting (December) to allow adequate time for detailed discussion.</p>
Item 4	7.50 – 8:10	<p>Agency Reports- Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria.</p> <p>Jo Antrobus (PV): update appended to minutes along with community updates on Badger Weir and Olinda.</p> <p>Sarah Gaskill (MW): A Spring Fresh (environmental flow) release is scheduled for coming weeks in the upper Yarra, detailed info on MW website. Have put sandbags in Monbulk Ck to direct water out onto the floodplain, as per natural regime. Yarra Frog Census will have a big focus this year, via Frogs App. Details at website; https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/help-protect-environment/frog-census Rowan Hore has had some good results with direct seeding along Piccaniny Ck, Healesville.</p>

		<p>Healthy Waterways Strategy has been endorsed by the MW Board, and is now with the Minister for sign off. Stakeholders will be re-engaged regarding implementation around Feb 2019.</p> <p>ACTION: A presentation from MW on how the Yarra's environmental water entitlement is managed has been added to the forward schedule for 2019</p> <p>ACTION: Sarah will send through some links to Vic Env Water Authority for videos about how this is governed and delivered.</p>
Item 5	8.10 – 8:20	<p>Council Environment & Sustainability Update</p> <p>Simon Woodland – Environmental Stewardship; Jess Rae – Sustainability, Amanda Smith – Biodiversity</p> <p>Updates appended to minutes.</p>
Item 6	8.20 – 8.50	<p>Other Matters</p> <p>Invitation to next Community Environment Forum references a presentation from YREAC members on the current functioning and activity of the committee. <i>This was an error in advertising of the event. It is scheduled for Amanda Smith to present on YREAC role and function, along with the advertising of a new committee shortly. Should any current committee members wish to attend this event and provide some insight into their role and time on the committee, please contact Amanda to arrange.</i></p> <p>Mel: Congratulate YRC on the David Holmgren talk. Thought it was a great presentation, particularly the exposure it gave Permaculture to councillors present. One grievance was the tea bags provided afterwards – individually wrapped, nylon tea bags! Should never be allowed to happen at Environment events.</p> <p>Darcy: Still awaiting feedback and resolution to items raised at a meeting held March 2018 with Amanda Smith and Mark Varmalis.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Council to deliver a training session for the Code of Environmental Practice for contractors, to update their understanding and commitment to environmental best practice within YR.</p>
Next Meeting		13 th December 2018
Meeting Close		8.53pm