

# Agenda: Rural Advisory Committee

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Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 - 3pm to 5pm

Community Rooms – 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale

Chair: Cr. David Eastham – Yarra Ranges Council

Meeting 2 - 2024	
Rural Advisory Committee	Christine Ross; Hamish Mitchell; Kim Anning; Kevin Sanders; Clive Larkman; Robin Wood
Council	Cr. David Eastham; Amanda Bunn; Amanda Kern; Leanne Hurst
Guests	Juan Guess; Methni Dahanayake; Simone Marais; Steph Wallace; Bow Harris
Apologies	David Reid; Cr. Fiona McAllister; Lea Russell

Time	Topic	Speaker
5 min 15:00 – 15:05	1) Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acknowledgement of Country</li> <li>- Apologies</li> </ul>	Cr. David Eastham
5 min 15:05 – 15:10	2) Matters arising from previous minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of minutes of prior meeting. <i>Seconded by Clive Larkman Moved by Kevin Sanders</i></li> <li>- Opportunity to disclose any conflicts of interest. <i>Clive has a short stay accommodation but declared he could remain impartial.</i></li> <li>- Council discussion underway on how to best provide feedback and advice to Council and State.</li> <li>- Short term accom short stay tax. <i>Conversations happening within Council regarding a potential position on this. Potential for a sub-committee in the future.</i> <i>Action: follow up within Council regarding a position on short stay accommodation, how the RAC can give feedback, and required timing.</i></li> </ul>	Cr. David Eastham
10 mins 15:10 – 15:20	3) Update on submission and hearing regarding the inquiry into securing the Victorian food supply	Kevin Sanders and Hamish Mitchell

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Kevin and Hamish travelled to Morwell to discuss submission and give further feedback at hearing. Discussed food security, commercial viability, land values, quality of roads, and the green wedge. Presented with Bronwyn Koll. Follow up consultation scheduled between Daniela De Martino MP, Hamish, and Kevin.</i></li> </ul>	
<p>15 mins 15:20 – 15:35</p>	<p>4) Update on the Upper Yarra Timber Transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Project is currently at the stage of starting up innovation working groups across the following categories:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Eco tourism</i></li> <li>- <i>Energy resilience &amp; renewable energy</i></li> <li>- <i>Repurposing abandoned places</i></li> <li>- <i>Improving transport and access</i></li> <li>- <i>Animal processing facility (abattoir)</i></li> <li>- <i>Sustainable &amp; productive land management</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Noted that an abattoir would assist in disposing of feral deer which has been mentioned at prior meetings.</i></li> <li>- <i>Do we need an agricultural strategic position for YRC? Consensus is yes.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Julian Guess Upper Yarra Development Strategy YRC</p>
<p>20 mins 15:35 – 15:55</p>	<p>5) Council protocol regarding lost and wandering livestock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>If livestock are found to be lost or on a roadway, Council can be contacted. Safer communities team help move livestock off the road if necessary. If owner cannot be found, animals are impounded at Council facilities and if owners still cannot be found, animals are re-homed.</i></li> <li>- <i>Concern around members of the public placing animals into fencing on properties that they may not belong to, creating biosecurity risks. Potential for council messaging regarding what to do if you see lost livestock to increase public awareness to correct process.</i></li> <li>- <i>Emergency management: when people gather with animals in an emergency, animals are checked for recent vaccinations, worming, etc.</i></li> <li>- <i>Problem of roosters being dumped after school hatching programs.</i></li> <li>- <i>Correct procedure: Call Council on 1300 368 333, call will be transferred to the team. This is the quickest way to get in touch and report.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Steph Wallace and Bow Harris Safer communities / animal management</p>

	<p><i>Action: discuss possibility of a communications plan regarding 'what to do with lost livestock' with Communications and Safer Communities. Explore option of signage. Also contact VicPol and discuss their process.</i></p>	
<p>20 mins 15:55 – 16:15</p>	<p>6) Healthy and Active Ageing Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation around the new plan in development and aging in place</li> <li>- <i>Delays in services available to people in rural areas, reducing the ability for people to age in place.</i></li> <li>- <i>Additional dwelling opportunities needed for those aging in place on farms. Concerns around the regulations that can inhibit this.</i></li> <li>- <i>Community or Council used to have community busses that would transport elderly, and that this would be a benefit if brought back. Isolation causes those aging to continue driving to access medical facilities. Mobility access for parking and safety of driving narrow streets. More promotion of seniors parking could assist.</i></li> <li>- <i>Reliance on digital technologies that older generations don't like using or cannot use.</i></li> <li>- <i>Lack of succession planning. Earlier conversations needed regarding transition to retirement.</i></li> <li>- <i>Lack of superannuation, especially among women.</i></li> <li>- <i>Mental health benefits of aging on farm are high, but aforementioned issues can inhibit it.</i></li> <li>- <i>Property management concerns. Opportunity for collaborations between property owners and those who want to farm the land.</i></li> <li>- <i>Possibility of doctor, pharmacy, etc visits to the residence would assist.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Action: distribute other opportunities to contribute to the plan to the RAC.</i></p>	<p>Methni Dahanayake &amp; Simone Marais</p> <p>Social Policy Planning / Healthy Active Aging YRC</p>
<p>10 mins 16:15 – 16:25</p>	<p>7) CSIRO Ag2050 scenarios report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Phase 2: broader program that will build on the report.</i></li> <li>- <i>Good thought prompters, lacking direction for implementation.</i></li> <li>- <i>With the population growth expectations, farming must be profitable.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Cr. David Eastham</p>

10 mins 16:25 – 16:35	<p>8) Climate Change/Adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formation of standing agenda item</li> <li>- <i>Bite sized useful information delivered or that they can take away.</i></li> <li>- <i>Example: CSIRO have a website allowing you to locate your address and check future climate expectations.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Action: Distribute CSIRO climate projections site to RAC.</i></p>	Amanda Bunn YRC
15 mins 16:35 – 16:50	<p>9) Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thank you to those who provided feedback into the inquiry into securing the Victorian food supply. Special thanks for Kevin and Hamish for attending the hearing and providing an update to the committee.</li> <li>- Recognition of Kevin Sanders recent lifetime achievement award.</li> <li>- Recent media releases, attached</li> <li>- Fire preparedness toolkit, attached</li> </ul> <p><i>Action: Send links discussed to group</i></p> <p><i>Action: Check if Council are making a submission regarding game regulations.</i></p> <p><i>Action: Community awards: agriculture sector not covered; will this be expanded?</i></p> <p><i>Action: Cr. Eastham following up with roads team regarding potential for council advocacy on safety of state roads.</i></p>	Cr. David Eastham
16:50	10) Close	Cr. David Eastham

#### Actions from last meeting:

	Action	Who is to take the lead?	Date Completed
1.	<i>Clive to write submission to Council regarding the Short Stay Tax from Dec 2023 meeting.</i>	Clive Larkman	Draft submitted 8/7/24
2.	<i>Clive to link Yarra Valley Water with Agribusiness Yarra Valley to communicate with local farmers.</i> <i>Christine to link Yarra Valley Water to Landcare.</i>	Clive Larkman Christine Ross	10/7/24
3.	<i>Link Hamish to Julian Guess regarding transferrable skills of workers.</i>	Amanda Bunn	10/04/2024
4.	<i>Form working group for a submission. Deadline Friday April 26.</i>	Amanda Bunn	Feedback submitted but not through a working group

5.	<i>Distribute Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land Action Plan for reading.</i>	See email accompanying this meeting minutes	10/04/2024
6.	<i>Wandering Livestock - Report back to on the process of community safety officers. Concerns around biosecurity threats.</i>	Amanda Bunn	9/7/24
7.	<i>Speak to emergency management team regarding power outage payments and report back with any update.</i>	See email accompanying this meeting minutes	10/04/2024
8.	<i>Update on Yellingbo conservation area for Helmeted Honeyeater.</i>	See email accompanying this meeting minutes	10/04/2024

**Actions from this meeting:**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who is to take the lead?</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
1.	<i>Follow up within Council regarding a position on short stay accommodation, how the RAC can give feedback, and required timing.</i>	Amanda Bunn	
2.	<i>Discuss possibility of a communications plan regarding 'what to do with lost livestock' with Communications and Safer Communities. Explore option of signage. Also contact VicPol and discuss their process.</i>	Amanda Bunn	
3.	<i>Distribute other opportunities to contribute to the Healthy and Active Aging Plan.</i>	Amanda Bunn	10/7/24
4.	<i>Distribute CSIRO climate projections site to RAC</i>	Amanda Bunn & Kevin Sanders	
5.	<i>Send extra links discussed in general business to the group: Victorian Wine Strategy; Wildlife (game) regulations 2024 and regulatory impact statement; Reforming Victoria's animal care and protection laws</i>	Amanda Bunn	
6.	<i>Check if Council are making a submission regarding game regulations.</i>	Amanda Bunn	They are not.
7.	<i>Community awards: agriculture sector not covered; will this be expanded?</i>	Amanda Bunn	
8.	<i>Follow up with roads team regarding potential for council advocacy on safety of state roads.</i>	Cr. David Eastham	