

Minutes Rural Advisory Committee

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Tuesday 26 September 2023 – 3pm-5pm

Community Room – 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale

Chair: Cr. David Eastham – Yarra Ranges Council

Meeting 3 - 2023	
Rural Advisory Committee	Betty Taylor; Kevin Sanders; Clive Larkman,
Council	Cr. David Eastham; Helen Ruddell; Jane Price; Johan Jansen Van Vuuren; Leanne Russell; Jess Kruger
Guests	Julian Guess, Sean O'Donoghoe; David Reid
Apologies	Dr Mick Blake; Robin Wood; Cr. Fiona McAllister; Kath McClusky; Steve Gartland; Len Rayner; Harold Fox.

Time	Topic	Speaker
3:00-3:05pm 5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting open & apologies Apologies received from Dr Mick Blake and Robin Wood. 	Cr. David Eastham
3:05-3:10pm 5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to disclose any conflicts of interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil Adoption of prior meetings minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Kevin, seconded by Betty. Matters arising from previous minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing agenda item regarding climate adaptation has been put on hold for this meeting and replaced by 2023/2024 fire season report but will be included in future meetings. Biosecurity submission – completed see below. 	Cr. David Eastham
3:10-3:15pm 5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria Consultation submission to DEECA (Dept of Energy, Environment & Climate Action) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Submission Link: Submission - Biosecurity Strategy Special thanks to Kevin, Clive and Robin for their contribution in the preparation of the submission. The submission was made to DEECA on behalf of the RAC. 	Cr. David Eastham

	<p><i>Action:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess to send a copy of the submission to David Reid. 	
<p>3:15-3:50pm 35 mins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Yarra Local Development Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy is a result of the decision to cease timber harvesting and is focused around employment generation in the region. State Government funding initiatives are targeted across two main areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those directly impacted by the closure (training, education and financial support) For affected regions to develop strategies to generate income, sustain the economy and townships into the future. <p><i>Feedback from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport diversity: subsidised e-bike hire options? Yarra Valley Trail extension improved mobility. Economic opportunity: Essential oil farming and production Options for local use of marc as noted by a business in Coldstream. 	<p>Julian Guess</p>
<p>3:50-4:00pm 10 mins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water diversion strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that diverters are not being consulted. <p><i>Action:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen to further investigate. 	<p>Clive Larkman</p>
<p>4:00-4:10pm 10 mins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse Deaths Refer <u>Sudden horse death investigations</u> for update. 	<p>Betty Taylor</p>
<p>4:10-4:20pm 10 mins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EOI RAC Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanks to Agribusiness Yarra Valley and RAC Committee for actively encouraging submissions. Stone fruit and berry growing sector – we might have a prospective member. <p><i>Feedback from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EOI forwarded to Landcare groups that might be able to represent the equine sector. <p><i>Action:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAC committee members to pass on contact details of potential new members to Council. The EOI process will be finalised and recommendations will be presented to Council for approval. 	<p>Helen Ruddell</p>

<p>4:20-4:35pm 15 mins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023-24 Fire Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the 2023-24 season <p><i>Feedback from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of the closure of Native Timber industry harvesting on Crown Land on community with future weather events. Is there potential for machinery to be purchased from the timber industry and kept within the local area at underutilised sites? Emergency Management Plan consideration regarding equine industry, communication, safety needs and prioritization of power and services of priority agricultural services. <p><i>Action:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For any further questions, please contact Sean via email: s.odonoghoe@yarraranges.vic.gov.au 	<p>Sean O'Donoghoe</p>
<p>4:35-4:40pm 5 min</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No matters for discussion. 	<p>Cr David Eastham</p>
<p>4:40-4:50pm 10 min</p>	<p>Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yarra Ranges Tourism Destination Management Plan <p><i>Feedback from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term accommodation tax: A submission to this tax will need to highlight the need for overnight stays in the region. <p><i>Action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will notify the RAC when the plan is open for consultation. Add "short stay tax" as an item for discussion at the next RAC meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Government's Migration Strategy will hopefully be released by end of year and may alleviate the need for a DAMA. Agricultural Sector engagement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Grants <p><i>Action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johan to further investigate and report back what services that could support agribusinesses access and submit grants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing In Victoria's Growing Food and Fibre Sector <p><i>Action:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information to be sent out with the 	<p>Helen Ruddell</p>

	<p>minutes of this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add to next meeting's agenda for discussion. <p>• Inquiry into food security in Australia</p> <p><i>Action:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardinia submission to be shared with the RAC. 	
4:50pm	Close	Cr. David Eastham