



Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee
Minutes
Wednesday 10th April 2019
Conference Room
Anderson Street Office Lilydale
5:30 – 7:45 pm

Meeting Open	5:30pm	Chairperson: Cr Mike Clarke
Members Present		Darcy Duggan, Graeme George, Julian Hill, Katherine Selwood, Laurence Gaffney, Lauren Dwyer, Melanie Birtchnell, Michelle Masterson, Ron Sawyer, Ben Viola, Jessica Fettell, Luke Boontjes, Sarah Gaskill (Melbourne Water), Joanne Antrobus (Parks Victoria), Corinne Mays (Port Phillip and Westernport CMA), Merryn Kelly (DELWP), Cr. Mike Clarke, David Harper (YRC), Simon Woodland (YRC), Sarah Bond (YRC)
Apologies		Jeff Barlow, Mark Varmalis, Kym Saunders, Jess Rae
Welcome	5:35 – 6:10	Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks from the Chair, Cr Mike Clarke • Introductions from each member
Item 1	6:15 – 6:45	Introduction to Council and the Role and Function of YREAC How does Council focus its effort, and draw on its Advisory Committees? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan • Strategic Framework • Organisational Structure • YREAC Role, Structure, Terms of Reference
Discussion		David – all members are encouraged to spread the word through their networks that there is a vacancy in the community member position for someone with links to the indigenous community. Melanie Birtchnell – interested in being able to represent YREAC at an upcoming Indigenous Advisory Committee meeting.
	6:50	Declaration of Interest Any members with interest in matters to be discussed to declare
		Cr Mike Clarke – Declaring any interests – it’s much better to declare an interest than to discover later. Open to the floor for any declaration of interest. None put forward.
Item 2	6:55 – 7:35	Introducing the New Committee Each member to introduce themselves, in approx. 2min, & share:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A favourite place in, or feature of, the Yarra Ranges environment • One change you hope to contribute to through your participation in YREAC • A strength, passion, or interest you bring to the committee
Discussion		<p>People want to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed/Invasive Species Policy • Waste Management • Bushfire Management • Acceptance of now living in the Anthropocene • Landholder Weed Management • Loss of Big Trees – enhance and protect native vegetation • Net Zero Emissions Council by 2030 • Ecosystem Dynamics – relationship between humans and these dynamics that can be translated to good policy • Good Process • Alternative Energies – Zero Carbon • Strategy and knowledge from an agency regional viewpoint - PPWCMA • Connection and communication from Melbourne Water • Deer Control – DEWLP & Parks Victoria • Take knowledge from meeting back to broader community • Threatened Species • Return to the forefront of Environmental Stewardship – addressing underlying issues that are affecting threatened species and dwindling of normal fauna levels • Fuel reduction burning/Fire ecology • Sustainable hobby farming and horses
Item 3	7:35 – 7:50	<p>A Brief History of YREAC, and The Term Ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights and key focus topics of the last term: 2015-2018 • Priorities for the 2019-22 term • Schedule of meetings for 2019
Discussion		<p>Darcy - What is the status of the tree strategy/management plan? Simon – the tree team are working on the scope of this plan and on securing a staff resource to head up the project. Community consultation will be consolidated with other projects in coming months.</p> <p>Ben – There seems to be a lot of interest around deer, will the biodiversity asset strategy also reference other pest animals? Simon – Yes!</p> <p>Laurence – Will the committee continue to use govdex as a means of communication and sharing of information between meetings? Cr Mike – This is a collaborative online portal where you can share and contribute as members. Will add new committee to the site.</p> <p>Joanne – will the agency updates still be a standing item? Will items</p>

		<p>need to be provided a week in advance of the meeting to go out with the agenda?</p> <p>Mike – Yes.</p>
Action Arising		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Mike Clarke to add new committee members to govdex portal. • All new members to look out for an invitation to govdex portal. The invitation link will have an expiry so members should be aware to register promptly. Reminder at next meeting.
Meeting Close	7:50	Close of formal meeting
	7:50 – 8:00	<p>Eat, Meet & Greet</p> <p>An opportunity to continue getting to know one another, over a light meal.</p>
Next Meeting		Thursday 2 nd May