



Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee
Agenda
Thursday May 20 2021
Online Zoom Meeting
5.30pm – 7.30 pm

Meeting Open	5.30pm	Chairperson: Cr Johanna Skelton
Members Present		Jeff Barlow (member), Graeme George (member), Laurence Gaffney (member), Lauren Dwyer (member), Julian Hill (member), Ron Sawyer (member), Cr Johanna Skelton, Joanne Antrobus (Parks Victoria), Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), Corinne Mays (Port Phillip and Westernport CMA), David Harper (YRC), Mark Varmalis (YRC), Jess Rae (YRC), Isabel Ebsworth (YRC), Suzanne Burville (YRC)
Apologies		Merryn Kelly, Kym Saunders (YRC), Amanda Smith (YRC), Cr Tim Heenan
Welcome	5.30	<p><i>Meeting etiquettes:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Remain on mute and ‘raise your hand’ using the zoom functions if you want to speak. The Chair will invite you to speak in turn.</i> 2. <i>Raise questions, where possible, using the ‘Chat function’</i> 3. <i>Try to limit distractions, either in the physical background or notifications from other applications.</i> <p>Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p><i>We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri People as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respects to all Aboriginal Community Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.</i></p> <p>Confirm minutes of meeting held on 11 March 2021 Moved: Lauren Dwyer Seconded: Graeme George</p>
	5.35	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Any members with interest in matters to be discussed to declare.</p>
	5.35 – 5.40	<p>Matters Arising/ Actions</p> <p>ACTION: YRC to commence recruitment for next committee over the coming months (rather than end of the year), due to number of vacancies. Ongoing</p> <p>ACTION: Committee members please contact Isabel to express intentions going forward. Ongoing</p> <p>ACTION David to contact the secretariat of IAC and RAC to discuss options for cross-pollination of the two committees. Completed</p>

		<p>ACTION: David to determine how best to achieve reporting on the Liveable Climate Plan & how this is reported at YREAC Ongoing</p> <p>ACTION: Isabel to schedule Biodiversity subcommittee meeting Completed</p> <p>ACTION: Isabel to circulate link to plant directory with minutes Completed</p> <p>ACTION: Team updates to include information on Warburton Mountain Bike Trail Project. Completed</p> <p>ACTION: Fire Stick Officer to provide brief regarding scope of his role & discuss cultural burning Ongoing</p> <p>ACTION: Investigate possibility of in person meeting for July. Ongoing</p>
Item 1	5.40– 6:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Presentation, Graham Brew • Yering Billabong Restoration Project, Isabel Ebsworth • Committee reset (ToR amendments), David Harper
		<p><i>See accompanying presentations.</i></p> <p>Waste Management Presentation: <i>The last few years has seen many changes in the waste industry (The biggest in 30 years). This presentation provides an outline of what is happening in the waste management space at Yarra Ranges.</i></p> <p>Yering Billabong Restoration Project **Confidential** <i>Funding from DELWP as part of Yarra Strategic Plan to restore floodplain at 100Ha Reserve & secure extension to Murrup Brann Billabong system. **Not yet publicly announced**</i></p> <p>Committee Reset: Will use upcoming committee recruitment as opportunity to increase scope (to include Waste) & update Terms of Reference.</p>
Item 2	6:05 – 6:20	<p>Committee Discussions</p>
		<p>Waste: To have your say re waste please fill out survey & reference YREAC in the comments field https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/community-waste-survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why can't we localise recycling? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - needs to be looked at but requires industry permits • There are aims to establish a waste facility locally (by around 2025-26) where waste can either be recovered or turned into energy. Remaining 20% would go to landfill site in western suburbs, reducing landfill & amount of transporting. • Ideally by 2030 nothing would go to landfill, but behavioural change is needed. Education & behavioural change program

		<p>being established to get all the community on board to make the change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback provided regarding council website & inconsistent information about what can go to landfill/be recycled. • Concern expressed regarding making an industry around waste. Who determines what success will look like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working group will set KPI's & take on board feedback from community, including YREAC. • Number of surveys returned so far: over 4,500 <p>Yering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exciting project with long term goals. • Apprehension around long-term site management (could be very costly, needs community support & to be carefully planned). • Considerations to be made around minimising impact as a result of earth works, burning & weed control. • While the project is in early planning stages, when more detailed plan are available regarding site management these will be brought to the group.
Item 3	6:20 – 6:40	<p>Committee Members: Open Floor</p> <p>An opportunity for committee members to raise issues or concerns</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest within the Healesville Community Bushfire Group in using cultural burning as part of a risk reduction program in the Chum Creek area north of Healesville, particularly along roadsides, but potentially as part of fuel reduction on private land and close to assets in forested areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Firestick Officer, Darren Wandin, would certainly be interested in discussing the above project further & would be happy to come to the next meeting along with Garry Detez (Indigenous Development Coordinator)
Item 4	6:40 – 6:55	<p>Sustainability and Environment Team Updates</p> <p>Follow up for Sustainability and Biodiversity Coordinators.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YRC does not have a current biodiversity strategy. The Biodiversity plan is currently being developed in house by Amanda Smith. • Discussion regarding the importance of language: using the word Nature instead of the more narrow term Biodiversity may better lead us and the community into what is perhaps a more important subject for discussion and policy development i.e. “Ecological Justice”.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While 'Biodiversity' has been chosen as it is recognised terminology within council, YRC remains open to further conversations about wording. • While Warburton Mt Bike Trail remains an issue of growing concern within community & YREAC preference would be for it to remain a standing agenda item, it will continue to be addressed in YRC team updates & key progress updates will be provided by WMBT team as soon as available.
Next Meeting		Thursday 8 July
Meeting Close		
Deferred Topics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned Burns at Launching Place by Laurence Gaffney – next meeting. • ROG presentation