

Minutes of Meeting No. 19 held on 20 June 2017 at Woori Yallock at 9am

1. Welcome and acknowledgement of traditional owners of the land:

Convenor Anne Langworthy opened the meeting, welcomed committee members and other invitees, and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

Attendance:

Members: Anne Langworthy (Convenor), Cr. Jim Child (Yarra Ranges SC), Marianne Sawyer (Cardinia SC), Jeff Latter (Community Rep – Cardinia SC), Dan Harley (Zoos Victoria), Stephen Thuan (PPWCMA), Ben Cullen (Trust for Nature), Dan Robertson (Melbourne Water), Bob Anderson (Community Rep – Yarra Ranges SC), Sue Tardif (Community Rep – Yarra Ranges SC), Craig Bray (Parks Victoria), Merryn Kelly (DELWP).

Guests: Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), Victoria Purdue (DELWP), John Terrick (Wurundjeri Tribe), Laurence Gaffney, Anne Fitzpatrick, Karen Garth.

Secretariat: Keith Longridge

Apologies: Peter Cooper (Community Rep – Yarra Ranges SC).

Conflicts of Interest:

Nil

2. Minutes of the previous meetings:

Acceptance of the minutes meeting No. 18 held on 16 May 2017.

MOTION:

That the minutes of meeting No.18 held on 16 May 2017, as circulated be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Jim Child **Seconded:** Stephen Thuan

CARRIED

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

Proposed YCACC tour of Yellingbo Conservation Area.

Considerable discussion ensued about how best to incorporate the wide spatial distribution of important sites and specific environmental issues into the inspection tour for committee members. Ultimately the committee resolved as follows:

MOTION:

That,

1. A tour of inspection of the Yellingbo Conservation Area (YCA) be organised for YCACC members during the

last week of July 2017, to take in a comprehensive spatial distribution of sites comprising the proposed YCA.

2. That the Executive Officer draft a preliminary itinerary for review by committee members.
3. That a further tour be arranged for mid-August 2017 to take in further specific sites such as Haining Farm, Coranderrk, and Butterfield Reserve.
4. That a future meeting of YCACC be held at Healesville Sanctuary.

Moved: Dan Harley **Seconded:** Bob Anderson

CARRIED

4. Correspondence

A letter has been received from Minister D'Ambrosio about appointing a representative of the Wurundjeri Tribe to YCACC.

5. Communications and Engagement Plan

A workshop session was undertaken whereby the committee members broke into small discussion groups to consider the following matters:

1. Stakeholder analysis;
2. Identify preferred communication types to sectors/ stakeholders;
3. Identify partnerships; and
4. Consider draft of mission, vision and values.

After 20 minutes discussion, each sub group reported their deliberations to the main group and the following resolutions proposed:

MOTION:

That the reworked Mission, Vision and Values statement as reported, be adopted.

Moved: Sue Tardif **Seconded:** Dan Robertson

CARRIED

MOTION:

That,

1. A revised draft of the Communications and Engagement Plan modified to incorporate suggestions from the discussions today, be developed by Merryn Kelly and Anne Langworthy for further consideration by YCACC at

its next meeting.

2. Merryn Kelly finalise the stakeholder databases integrated by Jessica Pocklington for review at the next YCACC meeting.

Moved: Merryn Kelly **Seconded:** Sue Tardif

CARRIED

6. Regular updates

(a) Budget update

Merryn Kelly reported that the financial system at DELWP had not been operating for several days and therefore a budget update was not available.

(b) DELWP – YCA Project team

Victoria Purdue spoke briefly to the main items canvassed in the briefing paper distributed with the agenda.

There followed a discussion about the respective responsibilities of YCACC/ agencies vis `a vis submissions to, and participation in, public consultations undertaken as part of the Haining Farm project. Consequently, the committee agreed that YCACC make a submission to the Engage Victoria process prior to conclusion of the consultation period on July 2, supporting Concept three as per the VEAC recommendations as supported by Government. In addition, that submission should request that YCACC be included in the decision making process with DELWP and Parks Victoria on the Haining Farm project. It is noted that Cr Jim Child dissented suggesting that YCACC engage with Parks and DWELP after the process had been completed.

The committee requested that Victoria provide a briefing paper on encroachments to the next meeting.

At 1045 hours, the Convenor, Anne Langworthy suspended the meeting to allow committee members to take morning tea with guests for agenda item No.7.

At 1100 hours, the Convenor, Anne Langworthy reconvened the meeting and the committee agreed to defer the resumption of agenda item No.6 (Regular updates) until after Item No.7.

7. Presentation from coalition of conservation groups

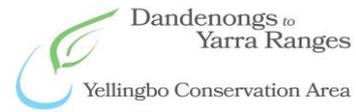
The coalition was represented by three people, namely, Anne Fitzpatrick, Karen Garth and Laurence Gaffney who each addressed the meeting in turn.

Anne Fitzpatrick

Anne outlined the geographic coverage, objectives, management, and funding of the Landcare groups. The groups meet regularly to contribute to the larger Landcare network in the region and undertake a range of revegetation weed and pest removal projects.

Anne spoke briefly to the submission made to YCACC at its March meeting and restated the eight major points that address the 10m restriction of the YCA in the North-East part of the Investigation area. In summary, Anne asserted that the decision was not consistent with the science, mandate or government policy, and further, characterised the decision as a political response to concerns expressed by specific interest groups to protect assets on Crown land. Anne advocated reform of how Crown land reserves are managed.

Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee



Karen Garth

Karen explained that the coalition was constituted from 32 individual community conservation groups including Landcare groups. . Karen indicated that the coalition was motivated by the lack of trust in Government processes to establish the Yellingbo Conservation area to date. Karen enlarged on this argument by asserting a lack of clarity around the respective responsibilities between the agencies and other participating organisations. Karen advocated management of Crown land for the wider community and asserted the belief that community groups have not been consulted adequately to date. Thus, Karen invited YCACC to consult widely in the community.

Laurence Gaffney

Laurence reiterated the coalition's in-principle support for the establishment of the Yellingbo Conservation Area. In so doing, Laurence referred to the central role of the Friends of Hoddles Creek Inc in submitting ecological reports to the former regional planning authority, Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority (UYVDRA) and Local Government Authorities (LGAs), to support what is in effect, the Yellingbo Conservation Area (YCA). Specifically, Laurence emphasised that,

The environmental community supports evidence based/ consistent policy and strategy as well as strong action to ensure our riparian zones and waterways are environmentally healthy and provide amenity value for the long term.

Laurence projected a PowerPoint presentation and spoke briefly to the following points:

- That the coalition recommended YCACC provide advice to the Minister regarding future conservation agreements, in relation to definition, eligibility criteria, and specific terms and conditions;
- That the existing licences over Crown land need to show the breakdown by licence type;
- It appears that riparian management licences will be issued on individual parcels for a maximum of 10 years. Will this apply only to the North – East corner, of the YCA or the whole of the YCA?
- Will the requirement to hold a riparian management licence apply to all applicants for Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Management Program grant funding assistance?
- Concerns have been expressed over the reliability of the computer modelling , 'Phoenix' established by the Bushfire CRC, to accurately assess local bushfire risks;
- Misleading information distributed by particular community groups highlighting potential bushfire risks was noted; and the lack of YCACC and agency condemnation of such misinformation was highlighted;
- The apparent paradox that wherein the VEAC Recommendation R3 i.e. 'That any introduction of fire to Nature Conservation Reserves must have ecological purpose', it appears that at least three planned burns within such reserves were identified as being for the purpose of 'Fuel Reduction, LMZ';
- That, in relation to the '10 metre revegetation restriction', as it applies to the Yarra River, appears to be inconsistent with the requirements of the *Heritage Rivers Act 1992 (Vic)* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)* and *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 (Vic)*, by virtue of the lack of consultation with the lead agency/ managing authority (Melbourne Water), YCACC, and the Wurundjeri Tribe; and
- Potential illegal vegetation clearance in an area of public land/ streamside reserve/ Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve at Hoddles Creek.

In summary, Laurence emphasised that the Friends of Hoddles Creek believed that the way forward for implementing the Yellingbo Conservation Area be characterised by the attributes of honesty, transparency and accountability.

Convener Anne Langworthy thanked the speakers for addressing the committee and raising specific issues of concern.

Following a brief discussion, the committee resolved as follows:

MOTION:

1. That YCACC send the coalition of environmental groups written appreciation of their attendance to address

YCACC.

2. That YCACC send a response to the coalition of environmental groups that addresses specific questions and issues raised by the speakers and sets out how YCACC can respond to the issues raised within the confines of its role.

Moved: Ben Cullen **Seconded:** Sue Tardif

CARRIED

Abstained: Jeff Latter

A 1200 hours agenda item No. 6 (Regular updates) resumed. In the interests of trying to maintain the meeting time schedule, the following reports were truncated.

Item 6 (Regular updates)

(c) [Melbourne Water](#)

Dan Robertson reported excellent collaboration between Melbourne Water staff and YCA project team and that Melbourne Water staff are working with individual landowners to address major weed infestations.

(d) [Parks Victoria](#)

No report.

(e) [Actions list](#)

Taken as circulated with the meeting agenda.

(f) [YCACC website](#)

Merryn Kelly spoke briefly to the briefing paper compiled by Jessica Pocklington and tabled at the meeting. Merryn highlighted that a draft of the 'frequently asked questions' (FAQs) for the YCACC website have been distributed to committee members for comment.

Following brief discussions, the committee agreed that two additions be made to the regular updates on the YCACC meeting agenda namely, 'Tall Trees' (Jeff Latter) and Haining Farm (Bob Anderson).

8. Process for future budget allocation bid for next triennium

Anne Langworthy outlined the requirement for YCACC, under its terms of reference, to (among other things), 'Identify resources and partnerships essential to the achievement of the identified priority actions'. Anne led discussions about the actions the committee has identified to date to comply with that requirement. Following discussion of clarifications by member agencies, the committee agreed that the recommended budget bids needed to be finalised in the period December 2017 to January 2018.

To support the development of this budget allocation bid, the committee requested that Parks Victoria provide a copy of the original funding estimates to the Executive Officer.

9. Other Business: Concept Plan

Committee briefly discussed the outline process drafted previously for undertaking the development of the Yellingbo Conservation Area Concept Plan. In the first instance, the committee requested that member agencies forward copies of their relevant strategic plans that may impact on the implementation of the YCA, to the Executive Officer.

At 1230 hours, Convenor, Anne Langworthy suspended the meeting for the lunch break.

At 1300 hours, Convenor, Anne Langworthy reconvened the meeting.

10. Action Plan

Workshop session was undertaken whereby the committee members split into small discussion groups to consider the following specific matters in relation to the draft documents circulated with the briefing paper and meeting agenda, namely:

1. Format/ structure;
2. Content/ extent of detail; and
3. Specific actions identified to date.

After about 20 minutes, the sub groups reported findings to the whole of committee for further discussions. In summary, the committee preferred that the Action Plan incorporate the following attributes:

- (a) The format take this form:
Introduction;
Statement of purpose;
Mission, Vision and Goals;
Flow chart enlarged and to include community inputs;
Goals as sub headings; and
What needs to be achieved; i.e. actions are the means to achieve same.
- (b) The content to be presented in tabular form;
Delete performance indicators;
Add priority;
Add timeframe e.g., Year 1, 2, or 3.
- (c) Tables to include priorities, timeline, status, responsible agency and that actions identify the link back to the respective item of the government response.

The committee requested that the Action Plan working group meet to incorporate the above recommendations with a view to present the final draft to the next meeting of YCACC.

11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 18 July, at Woori Yallock.

Close: The meeting closed at 1410 hours.

Keith Longridge

Executive Officer