

## **Minutes of Meeting No. 16 held on 21 March 2017 at DELWP/ Parks Victoria office, Symes Road, Woori Yallock at 9am.**

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

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

#### **Conflicts of Interest:**

The committee noted the potential conflict of interest that Cr Jim Childs may have when the Council comes to consider a report on the proposed Yarra Ranges Amendment C148.

#### **Attendance:**

**Members:** Anne Langworthy (Convenor), Cr. Jim Child (Yarra Ranges Council), Jeff Latter (Community Rep – Cardinia), Dan Harley (Zoos Victoria), Ben Cullen (Trust for Nature), Dan Robertson (Melbourne Water), Bob Anderson (Community Rep – Yarra Ranges), Peter Cooper (Community Rep – Yarra Ranges) Merryn Kelly (DELWP),

**Guests:** Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), Victoria Purdue (DELWP), Chris Vassos (DELWP), Conrad Annal (Parks Victoria), Damien Cross (Yarra Ranges SC), Dr Kevin Tolhurst AM (School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, University of Melbourne).

**Secretariat:** Keith Longridge

**Apologies:** Stephen Thuan (PPWCMA), David Renkin (CFA) Craig Bray (Parks Victoria), Sue Tardif (Community Rep – Yarra Ranges)

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

Acceptance of the minutes meeting No. 15 held on 21 February 2017

#### **MOTION:**

That the minutes of meeting No.15 on 21 February 2017 as circulated be confirmed, with one correction, namely that Marianne Sawyer attended the meeting.

**Moved:** Jim Child                      **Seconded:** Jeff Latter

#### **CARRIED**

#### **2.1 Review of previous actions:**

Number	Action Item	Assigned to
2.1.1	Executive Officer update Anne Langworthy reported that Keith Longridge has been appointed to the position of Executive Officer Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee (YCACC) on limited tenure. Keith Longridge provided a brief outline of the recent activities he had undertaken to familiarise himself with the work of YCACC to date and the	

## Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee

	responsibilities that lay ahead of the committee.	
2.1.2	Information requested to be provided to committee Victoria tabled the Bushfire Planning proposal and copies of the proposal provided to consultants.	Victoria Purdue
2.1.3	Spatial categorization working group Victoria Purdue distributed notes of the recent workshop undertaken by the Spatial Categorization Working Group and the meeting referred discussion to later in the meeting at Item 3.	Victoria Purdue
2.1.4	Working relationship with DELWP Anne Langworthy tabled the DELWP responses to the recommendations of the Briefing Paper dealing with the working relationship between DELWP and YCACC, set out in a briefing note dated 16 March 2017, prepared by Kelly Crosthwaite and Anne Langworthy and copies of the note were distributed to committee members.	Merryn Kelly
2.1.5	Yellingbo Conservation Area Timeline DELWP and PV staff have reviewed the planning framework and Merryn Kelly tabled a draft illustrating a diagrammatic overview of the respective Action Plan, Concept Plan, and Implementation Plan. Comprehensive discussions ensued on the interrelationships between action/ implementation plans and the development of key performance indicators, timelines with a view to further development of that overview.	Merryn Kelly

## 2.2 Correspondence

Victoria Purdue reported that Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Incorporated (Wurundjeri Tribe), has requested representation on YCACC. The committee deferred discussion of this matter to other business.

### **MOTION:**

That a working group be established comprising Anne Langworthy, Keith Longridge, Victoria Purdue, Merryn Kelly and Stephen Thuan, to develop an agreed communication protocol between YCACC and the major stakeholder agencies, relating to project delivery, correspondence and other communications, community engagement activities, media releases, and key messages as part of the YCACC Engagement and Communications Plan.

**Moved:** Merryn Kelly      **Seconded:** Bob Anderson

### **CARRIED**

### **MOTION**

That the Chief Executive Officer of Parks Victoria be invited to visit, or meet with the Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee as soon as possible.

**Moved:** Bob Anderson      **Seconded:** Dan Robertson

### **CARRIED**

### 3. Spatial Categorisation Working Group

Victoria Purdue tabled an outline of the proposed categories, noting that the categories had been reduced from four to three, and the categories now being by character type rather than priority. Victoria spoke briefly to the reasons for the changes and offered the new classification to YCACC for approval with the intention of reconvening the working group.

**MOTION:**

That YCACC approve in principle the new categories for the spatial categorisation as presented.

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

**CARRIED**

Victoria further requested that committee members send comments on the categorisation characterisations, terms or form of words and any other matter in the briefing paper to herself within seven days.

**MOTION:**

That the spatial categorisation working group be convened to complete the mapping process with the new categories.

**Moved:** Dan Harley      **Seconded:** Jeff Latter

**CARRIED**

At 10:10 Convenor suspended the meeting for morning tea.

At 10:20 the meeting resumed and with the approval of the committee members Convenor Anne Langworthy invited the Manager of Development Services at Yarra Ranges SC, Damien Cross to outline the Yarra Ranges SC Review of the Environmental Significance Overlay.

### 6. Yarra Ranges Review of the Environmental Significance Overlay

Damien briefly outlined to the committee the background, intent and processes involved in the proposed Yarra Ranges Amendment C148. In summary, the main points are:

- The original strategic studies supporting the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) were undertaken in the 1970s and 1980s by the then Regional Planning Authority, Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority (UYVDRA).
- Further strategic studies were undertaken in 2010.
- Ecology Australia was engaged to identify large, ecologically significant patches of greater than 10ha in area and riparian corridors (waterways).
- Background reports are posted to the council's webpage.

- As a local control, the intent of the Yarra Ranges Amendment C148 is to make the planning scheme more transparent. While under the provisions of Clause 53 in the planning scheme (Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Region), a planning permit may be required to construct a building or construct or carry out works and remove, destroy or lop any vegetation; it is council's intention to apply more specific and readily discernible controls under the provisions of the ESO.
- Council also intends to add a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) with similar control triggers.
- The Municipal Strategic Statement in the scheme is also being revised to better identify those issues of greatest significance to residents of Yarra Ranges. It is the most comprehensive rewrite since 2000.
- Submissions commenting on the proposed amendment will be reported to the Council and Council is likely to refer consideration of the proposed amendment to a Planning Panel in due course.
- It is noted that the provisions of the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme must be consistent with the Regional Strategy Plan.
- The public notice period is now closed but a submission is invited from YCACC.

**MOTION:**

That this committee (YCACC) makes a submission to Yarra Ranges SC in support of the proposed Amendment C148, responding at a high level emphasising the close alignment of the coverage of the proposed overlay with that of the proposed Yellingbo Conservation Area as shown in Figure 3.1 on page 28 of the final report of the VEAC Yellingbo Investigation.

Moved: Jeff Latter    Seconded: Dan Harley

**CARRIED**

The committee noted the potential conflict of interest that Cr Jim Childs may have when the Council comes to consider a report on the proposed amendment.

## **7. Cardinia Environmental Significance Overlay**

Marianne Sawyer representing Cardinia Shire Council provided a brief outline of the coverage and relevant provisions of this planning control, the Cardinia Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO). Marianne illustrated this outline by projecting maps of the ESO, the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) and the DELWP Biosite 25b.

## **4. YCA Budget**

Merryn Kelly tabled the updated budget and spoke briefly to the main items.

## **5. DELWP project update**

Victoria Purdue distributed copies of the DELWP projects update and spoke briefly about each to clarify issues, report status and outline future actions. The main topics canvassed were as follows:

- Recruitment update;

- Water frontages;
- Working with other agencies;
- Meeting with Wurundjeri;
- Haining Farm Working Group;
- Bushfire planning process; and
- Spatial categorization process.

A copy of the report is attached, (see Appendix).

## 8. Bushfire planning presentation

Kevin Tolhurst provided a comprehensive outline of the bushfire planning report related to Haining Farm and the technical assessment processes involved. Many factors impact the spread, speed and likely adverse consequences of bushfires and the modelling in this case considered the likely impacts at 224 locations, under three sets of parameters and under three weather streams, among other things.

Those fire scenarios were illustrated with video screenings using predictive software to provide a compelling visual representation of the likely spread, speed and impacts of bushfires. Kevin cautioned against reading these indications in isolation and emphasised that any marginal increased risks may be mitigated by other actions in the study area and likewise in the extensive areas comprising the proposed Yellingbo Conservation Area. A comprehensive discussion ensued on the implications of the results for the redevelopment of Haining Farm and the wider implications for how best this committee may approach its work to support the proposed Yellingbo Conservation Area.

The full report may be read on the Haining Farm website, or may be viewed here:

<https://www.bushfireplanning.net/new-page>

At 12:00 Convenor Anne Langworthy, with the approval of committee members, allowed an extension of time to deal with other business.

## 9. Other business

### 9.1 Wurundjeri Tribe

As noted at Item 2.2 above, the Wurundjeri Tribe has requested representation on this committee (YCACC). Following a brief discussion on the merits of the request and there being no objection the following motion was proposed:

#### **MOTION**

That the committee request the Minister to appoint a representative of the Wurundjeri Tribe to the Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee.

**Moved:** Ben Cullen    **Seconded:** Dan Harley

#### **CARRIED**

## 9.2 Letter to licensees

Following a brief discussion about the content of a draft letter proposed to be sent by DELWP to licensees in the north-east corner of the proposed Yellingbo Conservation Area, it was resolved that a copy of the draft be provided to committee members for *comment*.

## 9.3 Request from Water Resources Group

The Convenor, Anne Langworthy reported that a submission had been received from a coalition of 30 environmental groups including the Yarra Ranges Landcare Network requesting to meet with the YCACC Convenor. Following a brief discussion canvassing the merits and the available alternatives for so doing, the following motion was proposed:

### **MOTION**

That this committee write to the main signatory to invite three representatives from the coalition to meet with YCACC at its May meeting, to articulate the opportunities for the various interest groups to participate in the implementation of the Yellingbo Conservation Area project, noting that YCACC is obliged to follow Ministerial directions and comply with Ministerial undertakings.

**Moved:** Merryn Kelly **Seconded:** Jeff Latter

**CARRIED**

## Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 12:30.

Keith Longridge

**Executive Officer**