

*CRC Work Group – Flora, Fauna and Beachscape  
Minutes – 22/7/16*

Teleconference  
Number: 1800 766 715  
Conference code: 355 751 7622

8 Nicholson Street  
Level 3, Room 2

**Invitees**

<b>Chair:</b>	Joanne Tyler	Chair
	Ted Gannan	
	Erin Letovsky	DELWP
	Yvonne Sheppard	
	Stewart Anderson	COS
	Juliet Le Feuvre	
	Tegan Brown	DELWP
<b>Apologies:</b>	Sibylle Noras	

Item No.	Purpose	Agenda Item	Time	
		Welcome and Introductions		Chair
		Actions		Chair
		<b>Ratify Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed</li> </ul>		
	Update	Legal issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRC Work Group community members should not</li> </ul>	1035 - 1040	

		<p>be seen to be giving advice - there are potential legal liabilities if this occurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of matters that we discuss could in impact on people's rebuilding plans, etc.</li> <li>• Not currently protected re any liability.</li> <li>• Will be resolved in the coming weeks through the CRC, DELWP, Minister Neville's Office and COS.</li> </ul>		
	Update	<p>Work Group Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a work group we haven't had a chance to come up with our own work plan yet.</li> <li>• As per ToR, each group needs to come up with a plan over August to be ratified at a CRC meeting end of August.</li> <li>• Suggesting that we start a conversation through the team messaging apps.</li> <li>• YS - need to think about the long term and short term, as people will be rebuilding for years. A lot can't think about replanting until after they have rebuilt.</li> <li>• JT – we can think about seasons in our longer term approach.</li> </ul>	1040 – 1045	Joanne
	Proposal	<p>Use of 'Slack' – team website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping the correspondence between us organised and decrease email traffic. Using Slack.</li> <li>• Can file matters into themes.</li> <li>• There is a price if over 5GB, can revisit if we're getting close to the limit</li> </ul>	1045 - 1050	Erin
	Discussion	<p>Guidelines for tree removal on private land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents can have a discussion with their arborist and come up with a plan that they are comfortable with for tree removal/pruning on their land.</li> <li>• Independent arborist suggesting removal of more trees overall.</li> <li>• Suggestion that Surf Coast Trees may have been too conservative in their assessment. Also a view that some trees blew down in Sep that were previously passed.</li> <li>• Risk assessment: some arborists may be more risk averse. Difficult for people to navigate the process, difficult decision to be made by landowners.</li> <li>• YS - before bushfire, thick trees, trees help to disperse wind. More wind stress on existing trees.</li> </ul>	1050 - 1105	Juliet / Joanne

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TG - Kevin Tolhurst has indicated to him concern about some trees blowing down because they are now more exposed.</li> <li>• JT - Grocon services won't be available indefinitely. In the future tree work and liability will need to be managed by landowners .</li> <li>• TG – Will some funding remain to do a review in 12 months? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SA - efficiency gains of doing it all together.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• JLF - consistent differential between initial arborist, follow up arborist being more risk averse.</li> <li>• May depend on the time frame over which risk is assessed</li> <li>• JLF - can we seek understanding of the variation of the findings between the arborists.</li> <li>• SA - what is EMV's scope?</li> <li>• Resolution: to ask for the scope provided to arborists and make it available. (EL)</li> </ul>		
	Proposal	<p>Perception of live trees needing removal for APZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TG - cluster meetings really well done and a pity that they were not better attended.</li> <li>• Some issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Not feasible in some areas because of slope - potential APZ areas have variable degree of slope.</li> <li>○ Some areas not practicable to use machines on due to slope and risk.</li> <li>○ Visualisation between 2 extremes. About 1/3 of the trees are dead, so a starting point could be to remove dead trees</li> <li>○ EL - feasibility includes capacity to use APZ as an operational firefighting line.</li> <li>○ Part of the project is looking at the continuity of an APZ option.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>DUNLEVY ESTATE and APZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project is looking at ALL options, feasible or not.</li> <li>• Could an APZ be reliably established and maintained over a long period of time such that the Minister would be comfortable signing off on reduced BAL ratings?</li> <li>• Would an APZ be able to implemented in the short to medium term or is this part of a much longer ongoing project?</li> </ul> <p>OUTCOME: Erin will take the perspective re dead trees back the APZ Project Group.</p>	1105 – 1120	Ted

	Update	<p>Hydromulching Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydromulching needs to be implemented in conjunction with a number of other erosion and sediment control strategies.</li> <li>COS have engaged a consultant to put together a cross-tenure erosion control plan which will be available in draft form in the next 2 weeks. We will know more then.</li> <li>For those that don't get action on their land as a part of erosion control management, is there private mitigation that residents can implement? Could we give advice on this?</li> <li>Need to consider what will grow and the seasonality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TB: yes, seed selection for hydromulching will be done in conjunction with experts and this group to ensure that it is compatible with local native flora.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1120 – 1125	Tegan
	Update	<p>Weed control in Wye &amp; Sep gullies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yvonne is FFB work group member on the WRSC Weeds Steering Committee (may be renamed to Weeds Restoration or similar for clarity).</li> <li>Primary focus is to reduce the post-fire impact of significant weeds.</li> <li>Online version of the revegetation booklet vs. print version? Live document so it will be online for now.</li> <li>JLF - properties in Wye River that did preparedness really well? Local examples?</li> <li>TG - submitting the plans for his property to a review panel for endorsement? Could then be used as a model?</li> <li>Please feed comments on the revegetation booklet back to Stewart</li> <li>Can provide link on WyeSep.Connect for further information about weeds that public can access.</li> </ul>	1125 – 1135	Stewart
	Proposal	<p>Proposed relationship of WRSC Weeds Steering Committee to FFB Work Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed that the WRSC Weeds Steering Committee reports in to this group, and is a working group arm of FFB that focuses on revegetation, weed management and fauna</li> </ul>	1135 - 1145	Erin

		<p>(biodiversity + pests).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name might change.</li> <li>Proposing to formally link the committee to the FFB group.</li> <li>Yvonne to be a committee member on both groups, encourage the FFB group's agenda.</li> <li>75K targeted for weed work in Wye/Sep not to be used for moving the trees in gullies - this would be part of Grocon activity.</li> <li>Weeds Consultative Committee is an ongoing committee chaired by COS (not Recovery specific) and does not have any formal links with this group. However, Stewart Anderson sits on both and can provide a link.</li> </ul>		
	Proposal	<p>Otway birds day funding proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simon Starre, coming to Wye on 8th October at SLSC. Talk first about birds in the area and then a tour at some favourite bird watching spots.</li> <li>Will be a cost of Simon's accommodation and then also his travel and services. Cost will be \$580, plus cost for Roy's bus if it is used</li> <li>Would the trip be limited to a certain number of people? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are lots of birds - not anticipating this to be too big a problem.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Birds are part of fauna, revegetation and a part of community recovery.</li> </ul> <p>Stewart agreed that funding for this activity can come from the weeds budget in order to allow planning to go ahead, while Yvonne will continue to look at other funding options. \$580 agreed.</p>	1145 – 1155	Yvonne
	Update & approval	<p>Fluker Posts</p> <p>Proposal to seek support from group to install fluker posts in WRSC to capture community rebuild and revegetation. Idea supported, action item for next meeting determine where they might be best placed.</p>	1155 – 1200	Tegan
	Proposal	<p>Arresting the erosion of the grassed area beside the main</p>	1200 –	Yvonne

		<p>entrance to Wye River beach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boardwalk that has been installed - the sand has washed away. Needs some proper engineering.</li> <li>• OCC responsibility - but they might have limited funds for this kind of work.</li> <li>• Grassed area with picnic tables also seems to be rapidly eroding away.</li> <li>• JLF - what is the action and how would you arrest the erosion?</li> <li>• YS - needs a specialist engineer.</li> <li>• Tammy Smith (DELWP) has funding of 50K for beach furniture, could this be used? Erin following up for the competitive grant or current programs that would make funding available for this kind of program.</li> </ul>	1210	
	Approval	<p>Microbat Boxes in Harrington Park</p> <p>BIRD BOXES / ARTIFICIAL HOLLOWES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial donation of 40 bird boxes, Men's Shed making more. Over 90 requests for bird boxes.</li> <li>• COS providing 3K for materials to make boxes.</li> <li>• Barley Langham (SCT) will install them at \$70 per box (bird boxes).</li> <li>• Can construct 15 artificial hollows in living suitable trees - \$300 per tree.</li> <li>• Total cost of implementation = 10K.</li> </ul> <p>MICROBAT BOXES IN HARRONGTON PARK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only a couple of meters up the trees.</li> <li>• Green Army crew (through SOLN) can come and install them.</li> <li>• Have 8 waiting to be installed.</li> <li>• Previously a colony in the park.</li> <li>• Permission: Stewart to deal with offline.</li> </ul>	1210 - 1220	Yvonne / Stewart
		<p>Other business</p> <p>Town Boundaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees that have been felled as a consequence of fire-fighting are sitting near the town boundaries /</li> </ul>	1230	

		<p>Donlevy Estate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big logs that could possibly roll down the hill, and generate fire risk. Riverside, Karingal, back of Bass Ave? Follow up with Jenny Howell (Otway Fire District) around private land rehabilitation.</li> <li>• Dead trees below Paddy's Path? Will be looked at as part of planned works.</li> </ul> <p>FORESHORE TG - A foreshore table has been replaced Done by OCC as part of normal works.</p> <p>PLANTING ON SLOPE</p> <p>TG: could we set up a mock up / example of what to plant on slopes – specific vegetation that will grow well on slopes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SA: good idea, will take on board through the revegetation programs.</li> <li>• YS: there are already some groups set up that could provide advice on this.</li> <li>• JT: we could sponsor a program / event to get local nurseries to come to WRSC with good plants that will grow well / are native to WRSC.</li> <li>• SA: the revegetation booklet could deal with some of this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggest as agenda item for next meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p><i>Next Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. 13:30 – 13:30.</i></p>				

Action:	By whom:	By when:	Complete
<p>How can the FFB WG be involved in the master-plan for weeds (including Harrington Park).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMcN hasn't been able to do an assessment of trees in HP. Observed some trees that have been pushed into the gullies that need to be removed.</li> </ul> <p>Path and railing - no intention to do a long term plan for HP through the recovery team, but commencing efforts shortly to replace damaged</p>	Stewart Anderson	Next meeting	

<p>infrastructure in the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TG - there is a lot of unattractive dead veg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SA - will be addressed after the APZ project has commenced. At the moment some of that vegetation is being considered in the APZ Project, it would be efficient to wait until we understand the outcomes of that process.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<p>Share detail of license conditions of river pipe &amp; pump users with the FFB WG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific conditions, they're standard.</li> <li>• 4ML per year capacity. Doesn't reflect more water being used, just the capacity of the pump.</li> <li>• Foreshore should have their own - won't come out of that pump.</li> <li>• Key point is that the amount of water coming out of the river won't change.</li> <li>• Managed through Southern Rural Water</li> </ul>	Erin Letovsky	Next meeting	
<p>Are arborists contacting landholders re trees?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, they are. There is a new round of engagement happening now, landholders don't have to agree with the arborists reports.</li> </ul> <p>TG: how can residents who did not have their house burn down get in touch with Grocon to have their trees removed too? JT: likely that the time has passed to sign up, but should contact Grocon to confirm.</p> <p>JT: Lee Miezis was going to put together a short and long term tree maintenance guide, where is that up to? EL: Pending with LM.</p>	Joanne Tyler		
<b>New Action Items</b>			
Is there a private license for the pump?	Stewart Anderson	Next meeting	
Ted to investigate some team messaging applications that the group could use and report back to the group.	Ted Gannan	Next meeting	Complete
Tegan to set up team messaging application for	Tegan Brown	Next	

the group.		meeting	
Can the implementation of bird boxes / hollows and microbat boxes be picked up by Grocon through EMV?	Erin / Tegan to follow up with Deb Jeppsom (EMV).	Next meeting	
Discuss permissions and other associated issues with installation of Microbat Boxes in Harrington Park with members of the FFB work group offline.	Stewart Anderson	Next meeting	
Erosion on the beach - Erin following up on information for the competitive grant or current programs that would make funding available for this kind of program in WRSC. Report back to group.	Erin Letovsky	Next meeting	
Erin / Tegan to follow up with Jenny Howell in Otways Fire District about the trees and debris on Donlevy Estate behind houses.			
Erin / Tegan to discuss the use of \$50K beach furniture funding and how this funding is allocated.	Erin Letovsky / Tegan Brown	Next meeting	