



MINUTES

**RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held on

**Thursday 9 March 2023**

Commenced at 10.00am

Shire of Boyup Brook Council Chambers, Boyup Brook

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyrion", is positioned above the printed name of the Acting Chief Executive Officer.

**Athanasios Kyrion**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer



**INDEX PAGE**

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS AND DISCLAIMER ..... 3

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE..... 3

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST ..... 3

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ..... 4

5. REPORT..... 5

5.1 Rylington Park – February 2023 ..... 5

5.2 Rylington Park Future Trial Plans ..... 8

5.3 Production of Dry Land Hemp ..... 12

6. CLOSURE OF MEETING ..... 13

**1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS AND DISCLAIMER**

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and work.

Council Meetings are public meetings.

The Council Chambers are not a parliament and Parliamentary Privilege does not apply.

Elected Members and staff risk being held personally liable if their comments are defamatory, or breach any duty of confidentiality.

Statements made during Council meetings are solely those of the person making them. Nothing expressed at a Council Meeting can be attributed to the Shire, unless it is adopted by a resolution of Council.

The Confirmed Minutes of a Council Meeting are the official record of that Council meeting. Verbatim Minutes are not required.

May I ask everyone here this evening, to make sure your mobiles are turned off or on silent for the duration of the Meeting.

**2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Councillors:	Shire President Deputy Shire President Councillor	Richard F Walker Helen C O’Connell Darren E King Kevin J Moir
Committee Members:		Andy McElroy Joshua Stretch
Invited Guests:		Prof. Kerry Brown Alec Smith (arrived 10.25am) Kristy Gillian (via MS Teams from 10.33am)
Staff:	Acting Chief Executive Officer Deputy CEO Rylington Park  Executive Assistant	Athanasios (Arthur) Kyron Carolyn Mallett Marc Deas Erlanda Deas Maggie Le Grange
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr Charles A D Caldwell James Johnston
<b>LEAVE OF ABSENCE:</b>		Nil

**3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Rylington Park Committee Minutes – 2 February 2023**

**That the unconfirmed minutes of the Rylington Park Committee Meeting held on Thursday 2 February 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record.**

**MOVED: Cr Helen C O’Connell**

**SECONDED: Mr Andy McElroy**

**CARRIED 6/0**

**Res 23/03/026**

## 5. REPORT

### 5.1 Rylington Park – February 2023

Location:	Not applicable
Applicant:	Not applicable
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	None
Author:	Erlanda Deas, Farm Coordinator
Authorising Officer:	Athanasios Kyron, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Shearing School Financials

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#### **SUMMARY**

This report is for the Rylington Park Committee to receive the update on the activities at Rylington Park.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Rylington Park Institute for Agricultural Training and Research (Rylington Park) is located 27km from Boyup Brook town site on the Boyup Brook – Cranbrook Road in Mayanup.

The 650 hectare property was gifted to the Shire of Boyup Brook in 1985 by the late Mr Eric Farleigh for Research and Training in Agriculture and the betterment of Boyup Brook.

The property is managed by the Shire of Boyup, who employ staff to operate the farm, host shearing schools and coordinate fertiliser and seed trials on the property.

Rylington Park host field days each year, which include the ‘Storm in a Teacup’ Women’s Day in March and the Annual Field Day in September.

Supporting youth in the district who are considering a future in agriculture, Rylington Park provides financial support by granting scholarships to students attending Agriculture Schools in Year 11 and 12.

With the financial support of Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Rylington Park hosts 8 shearing, and wool classing schools each year. These training schools attract youth to take up the shearing or sheep handling profession, which is important for the sustainability of the Sheep industry.

Rylington Park has a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) with Edith Cowan University (ECU). Signed on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the MOU established an agreement for ECU to utilise Rylington Park for agriculture and regional development related research and allied education programs. The MOU endorses a high level, strategic relationship with ECU, which has potential to expand research and training opportunities for Rylington Park. It is intended that results of any research will be shared with farmers in Boyup Brook to the betterment of farmers and related businesses in the area. The MOU is a 20-year agreement.

The [Charter of The Rylington Park Institute for Agricultural Training and Research](#) was adopted by Council in November 2021 to confirm that the Rylington Park farming property, home of The Rylington Park Institute for Agricultural Training and Research, will be held in trust by the Boyup Brook Shire to benefit the Boyup Brook community and for the use of agricultural training and research.

#### **COMMENT**

The report of the Management for Rylington Park is below:

### **Sheep**

- White Suffolk rams were taken out
- Bought MMM mineral lick and feeding it to sheep

### **Cropping**

- Recommended changes were made to the crop plan
- Busy organising lime, fertiliser and pasture seed
- Dan Glover (CSBP) did soil sampling

### **Schools / Events**

- Owner Classer course – 2 students came from Boyup Brook
- Fox control workshop organised by BBG
- Provided accommodation during the Boyup Brook Red Card fox shoot
- Busy with shearing school
- Ladies day organisation is well underway. We have sponsorship from the Boyup Brook Co-Op, Boyup Brook Ag Supplies, Talison Lithium, the Southwest Development Commission and various others putting things into the goodie bags.

I need 2 “volunteers” to man the gate, ticking off names, welcoming the ladies, giving out tickets and goodie bags. Ideas for donating money to:

- bowls club needs new carpet; put towards sporting clubs;
- CoMHAT is in the process of installing their new youth centre donga – they can use the money to kit it out.

We are hoping for ECU involvement. Jane Kelsbie will attend the day and the new agricultural minister, Jacky Jarvis, was also invited.

### **General**

- Finished bunding and shelving in chemical shed
- Lining was put into concrete water tank
- Made sand pad for Flexi N tank
- Busy fixing seeder – parts ordered
- Budget review items were sent in
- Dam in paddock 44 will be cleaned with excavator and dead trees pushed over while machine is here
- Feeding all sheep
- Spraying thistles and pulling melons

### **What lies ahead**

- Flexi N tank will be delivered
- Plumber will dig trench to bury water pipes and install shower at chemical shed
- Shearing schools & ladies day
- Feeding sheep grain & hay
- Checking sheep for fly strike
- Take merino rams out.
- Fencing
- Spraying summer weeds
- Fixing seeder and clearing paddocks for seeding
- Fixing and replacing water troughs

### **Calendar**

- 27 February – 3 March novice shearing school
- 24 March Storm in a Teacup
- 1-5 May novice shearing school

## **General Business**

### **Potential Research Projects for discussion**

- Potential research projects proposed by the Boyup Brook Agricultural Supplies (information emailed to committee members last week)
- Potential research projects proposed by Andy McElroy (were sent to ECU in 2022, however, there hasn't been any interest from researchers at present)
- Potential research project proposed by Greening Australia (rehabilitating creek line and establishing a native plant seed bank).

### **CONSULTATION**

Nil

### **STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS**

Council committees must comply with the *Local Government Act 1995* subdivision 3 – Matters affecting council and committee meetings.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

### **RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 5.1**

**That Council endorses the allocation of the proceeds of the Rylington Park Ladies Day Auction of 2023 to CoMHAT to the new Youth Transportable Unit.**

**MOVED: Cr Helen C O'Connell**

**SECONDED: Cr Darren E King**

**CARRIED 6/0**

**Res 23/03/027**

### **RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 5.1**

**That Rylington Park Committee invites Edith Cowan University to provide a sign recognising the partnership between the Shire of Boyup Brook and Edith Cowan University under the existing Memorandum of Understanding.**

**MOVED: Mr Andy McElroy**

**SECONDED: Cr Darren E King**

**CARRIED 6/0**

**Res 23/03/028**

## 5.2 Rylington Park Future Trial Plans

Location:	Not applicable
Applicant:	Not applicable
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	None
Author:	Alec Smith, Kojonup Ag Supplies
Authorising Officer:	Athanasios Kyron, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

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### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to consider the identified research projects for Rylington Park.

### **BACKGROUND**

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Rylington Park host field days each year, which include the ‘Storm in a Teacup’ Women’s Day in March and the Annual Field Day in September.

Supporting youth in the district who are considering a future in agriculture, Rylington Park provides financial support by granting scholarships to students attending Agriculture Schools in Year 11 and 12.

With the financial support of Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Rylington Park hosts 8 shearing, and wool classing schools each year. These training schools attract youth to take up the shearing or sheep handling profession, which is important for the sustainability of the Sheep industry.

Rylington Park has a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) with Edith Cowan University (ECU). Signed on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the MOU established an agreement for ECU to utilise Rylington Park for agriculture and regional development related research and allied education programs. The MOU endorses a high level, strategic relationship with ECU, which has potential to expand research and training opportunities for Rylington Park. It is intended that results of any research will be shared with farmers in Boyup Brook to the betterment of farmers and related businesses in the area. The MOU is a 20-year agreement.

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**COMMENT**

As Senior Agronomist at Kojonup Agricultural Supplies it puts me across different areas of Agriculture. I am primarily the Senior Agronomist at Kojonup Ag Supplies, and a Partner in the business. We also own and run the store in Boyup Brook, Boyup Brook Ag Supplies.

In addition to my Agronomy work I am helping David Lane coordinate the trial work that we perform at Rylington Park. This trial work at Rylington has been running successfully for several years, with fantastic grower attendance and interaction all through the year. Wearing another hat, I am also the Vice Chairperson of Southern Dirt Incorporated, a not-for-profit organisation based in Kojonup that organises trial work and grower extension across the Great Southern.

The reason for my discussion with you, as stated, is to see if any of the proposed trial work that we are looking at over the course of the next few years aligns with your research focus, or available resources at Rylington.

I see a fantastic opportunity for Rylington Park, on the back of its collaboration with ECU, to tap into some of the benefits of the recent Federally Drought Fund. This fund, as you know, is aimed at improving resilience in farming communities, and is backed by a significant contribution from the Federal Government totalling \$8 million dollars over four years.

Looking at some of the successful applicants on the East Coast, I can see good reason why effective research and extension work in our area would a prime opportunity.

Name of person/organisation	Region	Legislative Purpose	Description	Payment Amount (GST exclusive)	Payment Date (GST exclusive)	Total Amount Paid as at 30 June 2022 (GST exclusive)	Total Amount Payable (GST exclusive)
University of New England	New South Wales	s21(1)(c) – Carrying out a project that is directed towards achieving	Drought Resilience Innovation Grants Program - Innovation Grant	\$1,897,111.38	30/06/2022	\$1,897,111.38	\$3,000,000.00
				\$538,731.78	31/03/2023		
				\$564,156.84	31/03/2024		

**figure 1.** Taken from the attached file "fdf-funding-information-innovation-grants.pdf" The context that UNE used was "Using a co-learning approach to increase the adoption of deep-rooted legumes and conserved forage as key drought resilient strategies for Northern Australian grazing systems." The aim is to achieve drought resilience by overcoming the knowledge gaps.

Listed below is some of the plans we have going forward for the next few years - most of which I have pitched to the Future Drought Fund.

- Soil amelioration. Obviously, there is a plethora of data in Wheatbelt to support amelioration to provide a bigger bucket by maximising rooting depth, reduce stratification of minerals, reduce non-wetting, clay dispersal, and frost mitigation. We have not broadly embraced it as we are not forced to. However, preliminary evidence shows 500kg yield gain on canola and 1t on cereals post Grizzly amelioration to 300mm.

Alternatively, Mouldboard Plows could be used. We have both a Grizzly "Tiny"460 and a Gregoire Besson 8 row Mouldboard plow available. We would run an EM38 survey first to determine depth of topsoil, then ameliorate in March/April. Alternatively, a spade/seeder could be used. Continued rotation would clarify long-term economic benefits. Incorporate a green manure in October would be another option to include biomass to depth to improve hostile subsoils. Monitoring with Soil Moisture probes would show increased utilisation of soil moisture.

- Deeper sowing. This could be implemented using existing systems, just duplicating replications to show benefits and risks. Deeper sowing offers more sowing options, mitigating less consistent or less significant opening rains. Showcase long coleoptile wheat material, as well as demonstrating the hybrid vigour of, say, 160,000 seed count/kg canola sown at 5cm.
- Manipulating fertiliser strategies to offset moisture stress - specifically foliar K in addition to standard K treatments. Higher tissue concentrations of Potassium allow better water regulation, both through osmoregulation, stomatal closure as well as uptake potential. 2% tissue concentration (Dry Matter) is a luxury level we never attain, we could get to 1.5% via foliar spray of KNo<sub>3</sub> prior to flowering. This would apply to all crops, improving WUE and yield potential, as well as reducing fertiliser inefficiency.
- Harvest timing for cutting hay and Silage crops to optimise value of MJ/ME/KG, fodder conservation is an important part of Drought preparation. Silage is a better option for \$/MJ if on farm management solutions allows, newer technology is putting silage in grain bags. <https://versacorporation.com/> This allows effective, efficient fodder conservation on farm that ensures fodder is preserved for Drought conditions.
- Successful demonstration of integration of deep-rooted perennial pasture legumes into existing farm rotations. In conjunction with improved fodder conservation strategies, this will allow Farmers to see the short-, medium- and long-term benefits. Both economic (as well as environmental) analysis would be of benefit to local growers, again using modern agronomy. This would entail a complete Agronomy package, follow up with soil moisture monitoring, pasture management and best practice fodder conservation.
- A novel idea for Australian Canola producers is the use of in crop Plant Growth Regulators (PGR's) to optimise harvest index - leading to more efficient fertiliser usage, reduced evapotranspiration, improve WUE. In this space, Paclobutrazol (PBZ) leads to increased concentrations of Abscissic Acid (ABA) giving stress protection against salinity, ozone, heat, chilling and freezing. ABA increase is a result of Giberellic Acid blocking, resulting in better water regulation in the plant. Additionally, Cytokinins (CT) are destroyed during heat /stress events, and it takes weeks to return to normal hormone levels. We could manipulate stress with rainout shelter during flowering, while applying PBZ + CT treatments. Additional benefit to these treatments is that exogenous hormone applications are classified as Biological Chemical Treatments by the APVMA, so it's a bit easier to satisfy MRL/crop safety issues.
- Another novel idea utilising PGR's is to investigate their role in altering flowering timing in Winter cereals. Certain PGR's have been shown to hasten crop maturity, with specific application at specific time. It is environment and Variety specific, so need ground truthing. For instance, next year we will be planting Winter wheats such as Illabo, Wedgetail, Accroc and the Slow-Spring Denison. Sowing date will be 15<sup>th</sup> April, then manipulated to bring flowering forward by two or three weeks. This would allow us to access the longer growing season benefit of early sown cereals (remembering root growth of 12mm/day) whilst being able to "dial in" our preferred flowering window. This has the potential to be a game changer for all wheat growers, with a novel usage pattern of PGR's that could be applied from Merredin to Manjimup. Mitigation of frost, heat stress as well as optimising WUE.

**CONSULTATION**

Consultation on projects will be undertaken with the Shire of Boyup Brook, Rylington Park Committee and Edith Cowan University.

**STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

The activities of Rylington Park must be aligned to the terms of the gifting and the MOU between the Shire of Boyup Brook, Rylington Park and ECU.

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

**RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 5.2**

That Rylington Park Committee requests an elaboration of the projects outlined in the project brief submitted by Alec Smith setting out the problem definition, project description, benefits, costs, and duration and:

1. Edith Cowan University to provide feedback on projects and what are achievable.
2. Suggestions regarding aeration and use of soil wetters are to be incorporated in the trials.

**MOVED: Cr Darren E King**

**SECONDED: Cr Kevin Moir**

**CARRIED 6/0**

**Res 23/03/029**

### 5.3 Production of Dry Land Hemp

Location:	Not applicable
Applicant:	Not applicable
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	None
Author:	Cr Darren E King, Councillor
Authorising Officer:	Athanasios Kyron, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

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#### **SUMMARY**

Cr Darren E King presented a verbal request for Rylington Park to explore the idea of the production of dry land hemp production in the Shire of Boyup Brook.

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**COMMENT**

As there needed to be more information for the Committee to consider Cr King was asked to provide more information for the next meeting.

**CONSULTATION**

Nil

**STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS**

Council committees must comply with the *Local Government Act 1995* subdivision 3 – Matters affecting council and committee meetings.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

The activities of Rylington Park must be aligned to the terms of the gifting and the MOU between the Shire of Boyup Brook, Rylington Park and ECU.

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

**RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 5.3**

**The establishment of dry land Hemp production in the Shire of Boyup Brook be discussed at the next Rylington Park Committee Meeting.**

**MOVED: Cr Darren E King**

**SECONDED: Cr Helen C O'Connell**

**CARRIED 6/0**

**Res 23/03/030**

**6. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 6 April 2023 at the Shire Council Chambers (time to be confirmed).

There being no further business the Shire President, Cr Walker thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 11.59am.