



RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

To be held on

Wednesday 17 May 2023

Commencing at 10.00am

Shire of Boyup Brook Council Chambers, Boyup Brook

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Clarke", is located below the meeting details.

Peter Clarke
Acting Chief Executive Officer



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4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Rylington Park Committee Minutes – 9 March 2023

RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – Item 4.1

That the minutes of the Rylington Park Committee Meeting held on Thursday 9 March 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record.

5. REPORT

5.1 Rylington Park – March – April 2023

Location: Not applicable
 Applicant: Not applicable
 Disclosure of Officer Interest: None
 Author: Erlanda Deas, Farm Coordinator
 Authorising Officer: Marc Deas, Farm Manager
 Attachments: Financials – July 2022 to April 2023

SUMMARY

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

BACKGROUND/COMMENT

The March to April 2023 activity report of the Management for Rylington Park is below:

Sheep

- Matt Chambers picked up oddments before the ladies day – 1164kg = \$5356.20
- Sold 29 bales (5190kg) for \$52918
- Preg scanned all ewes:

	Number scanned	Singles	Twins	Dries	Scanned %
Ewes mated to White Suffolk rams	1025	405	585	35	153.7%
Ewes mated to Merino rams	1466	759	653	54	140.9%
Total	2491	1164	1238	89	146%

- Most sheep are in confinement feeding
- 89 dry ewes sold- Walshes \$ 76.87 average
- We have 15 bales wool (2785kg) to sell plus oddments

Cropping

- Lime, super and Gran NS were spread
- Dan Glover (CSBP) did soil sampling
- Pasture reseeding done in 3 paddocks. Busy seeding hay
- First knockdowns done for barley and canola. Marcus Gifford seeding crop from Thursday

Trials

- DPIRD oat National Variety Trials (NVT)
- Boyup Brook Ag Supplies trial
- Summit fertiliser retained seed trial
- Phil Nichols (UWA) sub clover variety trial

Schools / Events

- Shearing school 27 Feb – 3 March
We had 14 students, 10 male and 4 female. 5 students are rousies and want to shear of which one has a learner stand lined up. 5 students are pressers and want to shear. One student shears alpacas and they would like to be able to shear sheep for small hobby farms as well. One of the ladies is a shearing contractor who wants to be able to shear as there is such a shortage of shearers. We had 2 raw learners of which one is a qualified bricky – he booked himself in for another school and advertised himself on facebook and now has a job with a contractor. We had a shearer shearing alongside them to be able to get through the sheep. They shore 934 for the week.
- Ladies day – 24 March
- Shearing school 1-5 May
We had 14 students, 10 male and 4 female. 6 students are rousies of which one wanted to learn to press, one is going to get her classer's stencil and the rest want to shear. 5 of the students are currently pressers for various contractors. One student is not working in the industry at the moment and was going back after the school. One student works as a shearer and brought his 14 year old son who works in the sheds during school holidays and over weekends. We used a different wool handling trainer, Roxanne King, who helped us to register for WoolClip and set us up to do our wool species online. The students shore 474 green tag full wool ewes.

General

- Flexi-N tank delivered and filled with 20000 litres of Flexi N
- Dug trenches for pipes to flexi-n tank, water tanks, etc and connected everything
- Serviced and fixed seeder
- Replaced water pump
- Ladies day preparations and clean-up
- Hot water system at house was replaced
- Feeding all sheep hay, grain and mineral lick
- Stubble was raked and burned
- WA Shearing Contractor's Association did a SafeShed inspection and registered us on their app to be able to put in place a schedule of repairs but also to use for inducting students at shearing schools
- Attended MLA MeatUp workshop in Albany
- Attended sheep productivity workshop in Kojonup

What lies ahead

- Feeding sheep grain & hay
- Seeding and spraying
- Spraying for red mite
- Fixing and replacing water troughs
- Capsules in ewes
- Sheep counting for end of financial year
- Working on doing reporting from shire synergy program from the 1st of July

Calendar:

- Nil

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 the Rylington Park Committee receive the Farm Manager’s Report in relation to the activities at Rylington Park for the months of March to April 2023 and the Financials July 2022 to April 2023.

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:	Peter Clarke, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

SUMMARY

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

BACKGROUND

At the previous Committee meeting the following resolution was put:-

Rylington Park Committee Meeting minutes 9 March 2023:

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

It is unknown as to whether any action has been taken in respect to the above resolution.

COMMENT

Mr Smith had provided the following information at the previous meeting:-

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 KNo3 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 15th 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

Submitted for further consideration of the Committee in light of the previous resolution passed at the March 2023 meeting.

5.3 Production of Dry Land Hemp

Location:	Not applicable
Applicant:	Not applicable
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	None
Author:	Cr King, Councillor
Authorising Officer:	Peter Clarke, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

SUMMARY

Cr 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.

BACKGROUND/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.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

Rylington Park Committee Meeting minutes 9 March 2023:

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

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

Submitted for the Committee’s consideration.

5.4 Shearing Industry Case Study

Location:	Not applicable
Applicant:	Not applicable
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	None
Author:	Bindi Murray, Sheep Producers Australia
Authorising Officer:	Peter Clarke, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

SUMMARY

Industry case study on the importance of sheep production and the phasing out of live sheep export.

BACKGROUND

Bindi Murray is a director of Sheep Producers Australia.

Ms Murray communicated with the Farm Coordinator regarding responding to a number of questions in relation to the above.

Ms Murray's comments in relation to the questions are as follows:-

"We can decide whether we want to use all the questions or just some of it. It is about why sheep producing is so important to regional employment. Our interview will form part of the Sheep Producer Australia's submission against phasing out live sheep export."

Questions would be along the lines of:

1. Can you tell me a little about your role – what you do, how long you have been involved in the sheep industry and how long you have been involved in training?
2. Can you help me understand how live sheep exporting impacts on your business?
3. How many of the trainees that go through the Rylington Park would shear sheep or handle wool from sheep that are destined for live export?
4. How much do you think demand for shearers could drop if live export was phased out?
 - a. Can you put a dollar value on that?
5. The sheep industry has experienced a lot of challenges in the past 30 years, why have you stuck with the industry?
6. If live export was stopped in one year, what impact would it have on your business, your family, yourself?
7. What about in five years or 10 years?
8. What support measures could be put into place to help the transition away from live export without losing employment opportunities in the regional communities? Planning workshops or change management? Financial support – what would that look like?

These next questions are to help us understand local economic impacts:

9. Where does your business currently get most supplies? How much of your business income is spent locally?
10. How many people do you employ locally including contactors?
11. In your experience is shearing a good employment opportunity for indigenous, disadvantaged, rural, female and or young people?
12. What geographical areas do graduates from your training go to work after completion?

13. What other regional employment opportunities would graduates have or transferable skills if there was a decline in shearer and shedhand demand?
14. How do you see the phase out would impact your town? Businesses? Other families? Community groups? School?
15. Do you have any comments about how the government consultation process has been run on the phase out?

CONSULTATION

Nil

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – Item 5.4

That the Committee grants approval for Rylington Park Farm Coordinator to respond to the questions presented.

5.5 General Business

CURRENT ITEMS

- Rylington Park Roof Replacement – A/CEO to update
- UWA Sub Clover trials – Chairperson and Farm Manager to provide update
- PF Olsen Meeting Wednesday, 10 May – Chairperson to provide update

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- 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).

6. NOTICE OF MOTION/S FOR WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Two (2) Notices of Motion have been received from Cr O'Connell

6.1 That Edith Cowan University be invited to nominate a representative on the Rylington Park Committee

Motion

That Edith Cowan University (ECU) be invited to nominate a representative on the Rylington Park Committee.

6.2 That a report on the costs of the '2023 Storm in a Teacup Womens' Field Day' be provided at the May 2023 meeting

Motion

That a report on the costs of the '2023 Storm in a Teacup Womens' Field Day' be provided at the May 2023 committee meeting.

7. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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