
Date: 7 November 2023

To: **Rylington Park Committee**
Shire President
Deputy Shire President
Councillors
Community



NOTICE AND AGENDA – RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The Rylington Park Committee Meeting of the Shire of Boyup Brook will be held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday 8 November 2023 commencing at 6:00pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Long", is written in a cursive style.

Leonard Long
Chief Executive Officer



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AGENDA

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at ____pm.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

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

The meeting will be audio recorded for minute taking purposes.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

2.1 ATTENDANCE

Councillors

Shire President	Cr Richard F Walker
Deputy Shire President	Cr Helen C O'Connell
Councillors	Cr Charles A D Caldwell
	Cr Darren E King
	Cr David W Inglis
	Cr Michael J Wright

Community Committee Member	Andy McElroy
	James Johnston
	Joshua Stretch
ECU	Prof. Kerry Brown

Council Officers

Chief Executive Officer	Leonard Long
Rylington Park Farm Manager	Marc Deas
Rylington Park Farm Coordinator	Erlanda Deas
Executive Officer	Maggie Le Grange

2.2 APOLOGIES

2.3 REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 FINANCIAL AND PROXIMITY INTEREST

4.2 DISCLOSURES OF IMPARTIALITY INTEREST THAT MAY CAUSE A CONFLICT

5. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5.1 RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2023

Moved:.....	Seconded:.....
<u>OFFICER RECOMMENDATION RP 23/11/...</u>	
That the Minutes of the Rylington Park Committee Meeting held on 10 October 2023 be confirmed as being a true and accurate record.	
..... For: Against:	

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 RYLINGTON PARK AERATION TRIALS

Feedback on the aeration of the soil done by Cr King and the progress made on the installation of the fence / cage suggested at the previous meeting.

Cr King informed this Committee on 10 October 2023 that no difference was visible at the time of the Rylington Park Field Day held on 14 September 2023.

6.2 DECISION TREE

The grant has been approved and the model has been run by PF Olsen on the areas of interest at Rylington Park. The details around the figures are expected in the coming weeks. Staff are also busy obtaining comparison figures on the current income generated from the paddocks being considered for the tree planting, which will be presented at a subsequent meeting.

It is suggested that a production estimation be calculated over the past 5 years. The cost of fencing must be considered or the area left out.

6.3 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COLLABORATION (WAAC) – RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Prof. Brown will be providing further feedback on the issue at either the October or November meeting.

6.4 ECU DRONE USAGE REPORT

Prof. K Brown to provide feedback on the current projects that the drone is being used for.

The success of drone research and the partnership between ECU and Rylington Park Agricultural Research and Training Institute and Boyup Brook Shire is highlighted in this news item from Countryman outlining the drone and sensor research undertaken by ECU and the role of Rylington Park Farm in promoting the research.



AIDAN SMITH

Drones could soon replace the need for farmers to mount quad bikes to check on stock after new camera technology research was able to identify individual sheep in clusters from hundreds of feet up. Farmers in the South West were introduced to the research by Edith Cowan University lecturer Dr David Cook at the Rylington Park annual field day at Boyup Brook in September.

Mr Cook, who was recently awarded Achiever of the Year, and co winner of Transformative Solution of the Year at the WA

Information Technology and Telecommunications Awards 2023 in August, said drone technology could soon pay dividends for farmers who were busy and needed detailed information about their flocks in real time.

He said, working in conjunction with Dr David Blako, also of ECU, who owns a few high functioning drones — and having secured some funding from the Shire of Boyup Brook — they were able to flight test the drones, worth from \$30,000-\$100,000, at Rylington Park.

“You can go down to the shops and buy a recreational drone for

\$1000 and fly through the air and hopefully it doesn’t crash,” Mr Cook said. “The kinds of drones we are talking about are at a different level, we are talking about those that fly a lot higher into controlled air spaces, and are able to fly in the wind, beyond the visual line of sight at up to 70 kilometres per hour.

“They can also take a payload of up to 25kg, which will lift some large heavy camera equipment for very unique photographing, or otherwise it could be used for weed spraying or other things like that.”

With the drones they focused

a part of their research on counting sheep in paddocks.

“One of the things we can do is fly a drone at 120m — we could fly lower but sheep don’t like the sound of drones and it makes them move,” he said.

“If you want to count them and do it accurately you don’t want the sheep scattering off.

“We can take great photographic images at that height.”

The images were able to pick up sheep in clusters, or against fences and other objects and identify them individually.

He said this was something that could be a challenge for the

naked eye in the field, and which would give sheep producers a better understanding of what was happening with their flocks at real time.

“This is the type of stuff that is emerging — the future is coming and I think drones will play a big part in how we control the movement of sheep,” Mr Cook said.

The research included using fixed wing drones that could be used to cover cropping areas at much faster speeds and greater heights to pick out chemical application densities and issues that may be occurring with the crops.

6.5 EVOKEAG CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY FEBRUARY 2024

Prof. K Brown to provide update on the EvokeAg 2024 Conference opportunity.

Prof. Brown arranged a meeting for Thursday, 12 October 2023 with Prof. Flavio Macau, Cr O’Connell, Ms E Deas and Kristy Gillian to progress the planning of the field trip for delegates to visit Rylington Park as part of the Conference in 2024.

A subsequent meeting was held at the CRC on 19 October 2023.

6.6 GRASS TREES 7 DAMAGE CAUSED BY PARROTS

Cr O’Connell informed the Committee on 10 October 2023 that Cr Price has spoken about damage at numerous Blackwood Basin Group meetings over the last couple of years and suggested to put it to ECU for research.

Rylington Park has not been affected but farms in the Mayanup region have been damaged. Parrots tend to congregate on the edges of crops and spillage from trucks.

Prof. Brown will add it to her mapping and identify whether ECU researchers has the expertise. ECU to get in touch with Blackwood Basin Group and Cr Price.

6.7 2023 RYLINGTON PARK FIELD DAY (Keep as a standing item)

Mrs E Deas to provide feedback on the Rylington Park Field Day held on 14 September 2023.

Prof. Brown to check with her team to set up a Rylington Park Team site.

6.8 WATER SECURITY ON FARMS (Keep as a standing item)

Mr M Deas to provide feedback.

Trials

- GRDC oat NVT
- Boyup Brook Ag Supplies trials
- Summit fertiliser retained seed trial
- Phil Nichols (UWA) sub clover variety trial
- Decision Tree – grant application sent in
- DPIRD red legged earth mite trial

Schools / Events

- Shearing school 2-6 October – had a total of 18 students at various times of the week who shored 394 white tag ewes. One lady has only been in Australia for 3 months from NZ and is learning to shear merinos; 2 ladies (1 from Scotland) working for teams and getting stands before the end of the year; 2 boys from Ag schools; 1 farmer from Mount Barker who wants to be able to shear his own sheep when necessary; young boy working in a team who will get some in-shed training before maybe coming to an advance school; a local guy working for a cocky run doing muelsing, crutching and now shearing; 2 guys from Katanning working for a contractor with the promise of stands in January; husband and wife who owns a farm in Three Springs who thought they will be able to shear their own sheep but are now happy to pay for shearing; 2 guys who weren't really interested in the school; 4 back packers for a few days each as a contractor in Frankland is desperate for shed staff.
- Shearing school 23-27 October – had 13 students who shored 346 orange tag ewes, 201 green/purple tag ewes, 160 hoggets and crutched 315 XB lambs. The 2 guys from Katanning and the local guy came back; a young 14 year old boy who goes to school 2 days a week and is in the sheds the rest of the week came with a guardian who works with him and also needed shearer training; 2 pressers who want to shear; a lady rousting in North Hampton who wanted to learn to be able to jump up; 1 ag school girl; 1 young man from Perth who worked in the sheds before and is going back first as rousty and presser; 1 guy shearing in a team who needed to learn to slow down and shear cleaner who will come to the advance school in December; 1 girl (local) and 1 boy wanting to do wool handling – the boy started in a team straight after the school.
- AWI board charman Jock Laurie, CEO John Roberts and WA public relations officer Jodi King visited the last school. Prime Super also had a chat to the students. Ethan Gellatly, old Rylington student and now one of AWI's WA Ambassadors visited both schools and shored all the rams.
- Have people in accommodation for 1 and a half weeks – fertilising for tree companies. They might stay here after the next shearing school as well.

General

- JD 6420 tractor head gasket replaced and head reconditioned
- Ordered extra pump to use from dam in #8
- EvokeAg meetings

What lies ahead

- Checking sheep – flystrike
- Feeding sheep
- Market cull for age ewes
- Market cull hoggets
- Sell XB lambs
- Hay

Calendar:

- Shearing schools dates:
 - 13-17 November 2023
 - 18-20 December 2023 – improver school
 - 15-19 January 2024
 - 26 February – 1 March 2024
 - 15-19 April 2024
- Ladies day – 15 March 2024

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

• **Trial Agreements**

CEO is currently reviewing the agreements and will in due course put a ‘letter of agreement’ in place for all commercial and collaboration agreements and that it encapsulates that results of trials be communicated to the Committee and that researchers should showcase at Rylington Park Field Days.

- **Potential research project proposed by Greening Australia (rehabilitating creek line and establishing a native plant seed bank).**

Matter is on hold.

Professor Brown communicated that the collaboration with Greening Australia has been put back due to a delay at government level.

9. FURTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE OF MEETING

Next meeting to be held on _____ 2023 at _____pm at the Council Chambers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at ____pm.

 Presiding Member

 Date