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Date: 24 November 2023

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



**MINUTES – RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Long". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

**Leonard Long**  
Chief Executive Officer

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## **AGENDA**

### **1. DECLARATION OF OPENING**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6:05pm.

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**

Deputy Shire President  
Councillors

Cr Helen C O’Connell  
Cr Charles A D Caldwell (Presiding)  
Cr Darren E King  
Cr David W Inglis  
Cr Michael J Wright

ECU

Prof. Kerry Brown

##### **Council Officers**

Chief Executive Officer  
Rylington Park Farm Manager  
Rylington Park Farm Coordinator  
Executive Officer

Leonard Long  
Marc Deas  
Erlanda Deas (arrived 6.12pm)  
Magdalena Le Grange

#### **2.2 APOLOGIES**

Shire President  
Community Committee Member

Cr Richard F Walker  
Andy McElroy  
James Johnston  
Joshua Stretch

#### **2.3 REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**4. ELECTION OF PRESIDING MEMBER**

4.1 Cr Caldwell called for nominations for the position of Presiding Member.

- One (1) nomination was received for Cr Walker.
- Cr O’Connell confirmed in Cr Walkers absence that he accepts the nomination.

<b>Moved:Cr O’Connell</b>	<b>Seconded:Cr King</b>
<b><u>COMMITTEE DECISION RP23/11/012</u></b>	
<b>That the Committee:</b>	
<b>1. Appoints Cr Walker as the Presiding Member of the Rylington Park Committee for a period of two years.</b>	
<b>CARRIED 6/0</b>	
<b>For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O’Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown</b>	
<b>Against: Nil</b>	

4.2 Cr Caldwell called for nominations for the position of Deputy Presiding Member.

- One (1) nomination was received for Cr Caldwell.
- Cr Caldwell accepted the nomination.

<b>Moved:Cr O’Connell</b>	<b>Seconded:Cr Inglis</b>
<b><u>COMMITTEE DECISION RP23/11/013</u></b>	
<b>That the Committee:</b>	
<b>1. Appoints Cr Caldwell as the Deputy Presiding Member of the Rylington Park Committee for a period of two years.</b>	
<b>CARRIED 6/0</b>	
<b>For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O’Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown</b>	
<b>Against: Nil</b>	

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**4.1 FINANCIAL AND PROXIMITY INTEREST**

Nil

**4.2 DISCLOSURES OF IMPARTIALITY INTEREST THAT MAY CAUSE A CONFLICT**

Nil

## 5. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### 5.1 RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2023

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr O'Connell

#### **COMMITTEE DECISION RP 23/11/014**

That the Minutes of the Rylington Park Committee Meeting held on 10 October 2023 be confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED 6/0**

**For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O'Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown  
Against: Nil**

## 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.*

No further info.

### 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.*

*Progress on obtaining comparison figures on the current income generated from the paddocks being considered for the tree planting.*

The CEO received a costing from Wespine Industries (Brad Barr) who would like to present at the following Rylington Park Committee Meeting. Information is being gathered for comparisons over a 5-year period.

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

*Prof. Brown to provide any new updates.*

Expression of interest for the restoration of degraded areas. ECU is working with Greening Australia, if the project is approved, the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage will involve ECU bringing Greening Australia and have a walk-around to identify areas for planting trees.

Greening Australia has committed to raising \$500,000 for the project.

ECU has requested \$800,000 contribution from the WAAC to conduct the project.

Once the outcome of the funding has been secured, Prof Brown will report back to the Committee.

## 6.4 ECU DRONE USAGE REPORT

*Prof Brown to provide any new update on the usage of the drone.*

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.



LiDAR drones are any drones made to carry a LiDAR sensor. They offer much better ability for data capture.

ECU is looking at building a research project that is original to Rylington Park – such as water, soil, feral animals etc, and utilise both the LiDAR drone and the shared drone bought with the Shire to conduct detail mapping.

Prof Brown has undertaken to write up a report on a LiDAR drone that the DEPIRD has available for research projects.

### 6.5 EVOKEAG CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY FEBRUARY 2024

**Moved:Cr Wright**

**Seconded:Cr King**

#### **COMMITTEE DECISION RP23/11/015**

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Recommend to Council to consider sending a representative/delegate from either the Shire of Boyup Brook or Rylington Park Committee to attend the EvokeAG Conference being held on 20 – 21 February 2024 at the Convention Centre in Perth.**

**CARRIED 6/0**

**For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O’Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown  
Against: Nil**

Prof. Brown to provide feedback on the meeting held on 19 October 2023.

Prof Brown suggested a delegate/representative of the Shire of Boyup Brook or Rylington Park Committee attend the EvokeAG conference being held on 20 – 21 February 2024 in Perth.

Prof Brown to send the link to the EvokeAG Conference to be distributed to the Rylington Park Committee.

Prof requested photos of the Launch of the Partnership between the Shire of Boyup Brook and Edith Cowan University that took place on 1 June 2022 be communicated to her to be attached to the EvokeAG Conference website to market/promote a day visit to Rylington Park and raise funding for the event.

### 6.6 GRASS TREES 7 DAMAGE CAUSED BY PARROTS

*Matter has been handed to Prof. Brown to add it to her mapping and identify whether ECU researchers has the expertise. ECU to get in touch with Blackwood Basin Group and Mr Adrian Price.*

This item has been dealt with and will be removed from the agenda.

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

*Feedback from stall holders (include all Committee members in the review process for feedback):*

- *Request an Official response from vendors (run sheet for reviewing at every field day)*
  - *On Shire documents (letterhead), minimum requirement = thank you for coming, your feedback and thoughts on doing things better, participate the following year (verbal feedback to be followed up)*
- *Set up vendors closer together to the shed;*
- *Put together event plans for years to come;*
- *Bring back to Committee in May to start planning for next field day;*
- *Potentially contact McIntosh to see if they can demo an autonomous tractor (active displays keep people there);*

- *Field day to cater to many people’s needs (something for everyone);*
- *Remote site (5 min drive) – isolating the genetics involved in the trial (biosecurity where many vehicles drive over paddocks);*
- *Have a bus with a presenter to have a running commentary on what is done in paddocks;*
- *Need to develop a way to get attendance statistics, might need to have someone on the gate.*
- Prof. Brown to check with her team to set up a Rylington Park Team site.

Ms Deas is in the process of preparing letters thanking all stall holders and requesting feedback which will be brought back to the following Rylington Park Committee.

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

<b>Moved:Cr O’Connell</b>	<b>Seconded:Cr Inglis</b>
<b><u>COMMITTEE DECISION RP 23/11/016</u></b>	
<b>That the Committee:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Request the Farm Manager to take water samples from the soak in paddock 20 and have the salinity test presented to the Rylington Park Committee meeting in February 2024.</b></li> <li><b>2. Request the Coordinator to investigate grants available to address water security on the farm.</b></li> </ol>	
<b>CARRIED 6/0</b>	
<b>For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O’Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown</b>	
<b>Against: Nil</b>	

*Mr M Deas to provide feedback.*

Committee members conducted a tour of the farm and current situation on Rylington Park. Further tours will be conducted in January/February 2024 as needed.

The soak in paddock 20 needs to be investigated. Water has been lying in the soak for many years. Need to determine the salinity level.

Cr Wright enquired on the caption area of the dam? What is the clay like? Is it central to the farm?

Response: It is a low-lying area and does get wet in Winter. It does not have a huge caption area, best to revisit after harvest. Obtain quotes from Blackwood Plant Hire to assess the site for quality to determine catchment ability.

Cr Wright recommended that if the dam is at a good site, to put tanks in that operate with solar pumps and not diesel pumps. Push water to fire trucks along the roadside for emergency water for Rylington Park and the community.

Response: Would there be funding available? Need to determine whether there are water grants available. The CEO cautioned the Committee to stay within Rylington Park Budget.



**7. REPORT OF OFFICERS**

<b>7.1 RYLINGTON PARK – OCTOBER 2023</b>	
<b>File Ref:</b>	Nil
<b>Previous Items:</b>	Nil
<b>Applicant:</b>	Nil
<b>Author and Title:</b>	Erlanda Deas, Farm Coordinator Marc Deas, Farm Manager
<b>Declaration of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	Simple Majority
<b>Attachment Number:</b>	7.1A Financials - July to October 2023 7.1B Mobble Report as at 15 November 2023

**Moved:Cr O'Connell** **Seconded:Cr King**

**COMMITTEE DECISION RP 23/11/017**

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Receive the Farm Manager’s Report in relation to the activities at Rylington Park for the month of October 2023.**

**CARRIED 6/0**  
**For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O’Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown**  
**Against: Nil**

**Moved:Cr Inglis** **Seconded:Cr Wright**

**COMMITTEE DECISION RP 23/11/018**

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Sell 400 head cross bread (XB) lambs.**
- 2. Authorised the Farm Manager to get a contractor to bale Barley straw this harvest.**

**CARRIED 6/0**  
**For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O’Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown**  
**Against: Nil**

**SUMMARY**

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

**BACKGROUND**

The October 2023 activity report of the Management for Rylington Park is below:

**Sheep**

- Crutched all hoggets
- All rams shorn
- Weaned all merino lambs
- Sold 80 wethers for \$40 each
- Sold 300 XB lambs for \$92.96
- Started feeding lambs
- Classed hoggets

**Cropping**

- Crop inspection & worked on plan
- Worked on fertiliser for next season
- Spraying thistles
- Hay was cut and has been baled

**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 chairman 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 shore 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 (Sub-committee consists of Prof Brown, Cr O'Connell & Ms Deas)

### **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
  - Funds should be put aside within the budget
  - Ms Deas to enquire from Talison for a grant as \$10,000 grants can be approved at management level.

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **• Trial Agreements**

No further feedback at this stage.

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**

**9.1 RYLINGTON PARK SCHOLARSHIP 2024 PROCEDURE**

Cr O’Connell provided background information on the scholarship to the newly elected Committee members.

The following recommendations were made:

- budgeted amount to be allocated in the budget;
- review and build the scholar application requirements;
- students from year 10 to apply;
- award scholarship to only 1 scholarship or 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes;
- have successful student write a half-time report and another at conclusion with career aspirations (planning on doing research);
- expression of interest, conducting interviews and award the scholarship to be conducted in term 3 of the school year;
- Shire of Boyup Brook to take control of the scholarship process.

<b>Moved:Cr O’Connell</b>	<b>Seconded:Cr Wright</b>
<b><u>COMMITTEE DECISION RP 23/11/019</u></b>	
<b>That the Committee:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Recommend that the Chief Executive Officer review the current Scholarship process and prepare procedures and set criteria for 2024.</b></li> </ol>	
<b>CARRIED 6/0</b> <b>For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O’Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown</b> <b>Against: Nil</b>	

**9.2 OWNER CLASSER PROCEDURE**

Owner classer course fees amounted to \$1,030 for 2023. Entrants receive \$1,000 from the Shire with an out-of-pocket amount of \$30 for the past year.

It is recommended that entrants should pay a % of the course fee as depending on grant funding.

<b>Moved:Cr O’Connell</b>	<b>Seconded:Cr Wright</b>
<b><u>COMMITTEE DECISION RP 23/11/020</u></b>	
<b>That the Committee:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Recommend that the Chief Executive Officer review the current Owner Classer process and prepare procedures and set criteria for 2024.</b></li> </ol>	
<b>CARRIED 6/0</b> <b>For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O’Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown</b> <b>Against: Nil</b>	

**9.3 RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Site visits at Rylington Park as required.

Rylington Park Committee meetings are to be held on the first Thursday of every second month.

**9.4 SUB-COMMITTEE OF RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE**

**Moved:Cr O'Connell**

**Seconded:Cr Wright**

**COMMITTEE DECISION RP 23/11/021**

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Nominate Cr Inglis as an interim member of the sub-committee of Rylington Park Committee until the next Rylington Park Committee Meeting.**

**CARRIED 6/0**

**For: Cr Caldwell, Cr O'Connell, Cr Wright, Cr Inglis, Cr King, Prof Brown  
Against: Nil**

**9.5 INDUSTRY HEMP**

Prof Brown and Cr King were approached by Industry Hemp as possibility of Hemp crop at Rylington Park.

Agri Futures Group have \$2.5 million for an emerging industry of hemp from seed, production, marketing, business plan etc. and what that outcome would look like, such as a house built from hemp.

Rylington Park Committee authorised ECU and Industry Hemp to conduct a walk-through at Rylington Park. If seen as a viable option, Industry Hemp to conduct a presentation / written submission.

Report at the next meeting.

**9.6 SCHOOL VISITS TO RYLINGTON PARK**

The CEO get the Education Department on board to offer hands-on education at Rylington Park.

The CEO to write letters to schools in the district to potentially partner in education program at Rylington Park.

**9.7 SAFETY PROTOCOLS AT RYLINGTON PARK**

Safety protocols need to be upgraded in that 4-wheeler motorbikes or quads are dangerous and need to be replaced with side-by-side/suitable vehicle or have a poker stick/stick-bar/roll-over protection installed.

Once the 4-wheeler is due for replacement, conduct a need assessment, obtain quotes and purchase required side-by-side/suitable vehicle.

The Farm Manager’s personal 4-wheeler is not to be used in farming purposes/activities at Rylington Park.

The Shire is working with the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to have a WHS Officer appointed who would conduct safety assessment at Rylington Park.

Ms Deas to arrange to have a safety assessment be conducted by SafeFarm WA that is farming orientated to which Ryling Park has membership.

Ms Deas to obtain quotes for helmets and to have poker stick/stick-bar/roll-over bar installed/fit-out on both 4-wheelers used at Rylington Park.

**10. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE OF MEETING**

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 February 2024 at 5pm at the Council Chambers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:01pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date