Date: 22 March 2024

To: Shire President
Deputy Shire President
Councillors
Community

MINUTES – RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

21 MARCH 2024

Leonard Long
Chief Executive Officer

Contents

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING 4
2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE 4
2.1 ATTENDANCE 4
2.2 APOLOGIES 5
2.3 REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE 5
3. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS 5
3.1 DEPUTATIONS 5
3.2 PETITIONS 5
3.3 PRESENTATIONS 5
4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TIME 5
4.1 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE 5
4.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME 5
5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 5
5.1 FINANCIAL AND / OR PROXIMITY INTEREST 5
5.2 DISCLOSURES OF IMPARTIALITY INTEREST THAT MAY CAUSE CONFLICT 5
6. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES / OUT OF SESSION CONFIRMATIONS 6
6.1 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 19 FEBRUARY 2024 6
6.2 OUT OF SESSION CONFIRMATION – SUB- COMMITTEE RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF FEEDING PROGRAM 6
7. REPORTS OF OFFICERS 7
7.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 7
7.1.1 RYLINGTON PARK POTENTIAL SCHOOL PROGRAM - AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR STUDENT EQUITY AND SUCCESS (ACSES) FUNDING 7
7.1.2 PROPOSED RYLINGTON PARK ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKAGE 10
7.1.3 RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE AND RYLINGTON PARK SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 14
7.1.4 APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONTO THE RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE 16
7.1.5 RYLINGTON PARK ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024 19
7.1.6 RYLINGTON PARK CROPPING REPORT 25
7.1.7 EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY DRONE USAGE 28
7.1.8 PROPOSED HEMP TRIALS AT RYLINGTON PARK 31
7.1.9 PROPOSED MULESING AND RAM SELECTION FOR THE AWI SHEARING SCHOOLS 34
7.1.10 PROPOSED TREE FARM 37
8. MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 40
9. LATE ITEMS / URGENT BUSINESS MATTERS 40

9.1.1 LANDCARE AUSTRALIA / NBN RYLINGTON PARK FERAL ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR TRIAL 40
10. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS 43
11. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE 43

AGENDA

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6:01pm.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

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

Committee Meetings are public meetings.

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

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

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

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

This meeting will be audio recorded for minute taking purposes.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

2.1 ATTENDANCE

Councillors

Shire President	Cr Richard Walker
Deputy Shire President	Cr Helen O'Connell
Councillors	Cr Michael Wright
	Cr Darren King
	Cr David Inglis
Community Members	Mr Andy McElroy
	Mr Joshua Stretch
	Prof Kerry Brown (via MS Teams)

Council Officers

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

Observers / Public Members
Melissa Reimers – Principal - Boyup Brook District High School
Melissa Reimers left the Chambers at 6:55pm.

2.2 APOLOGIES
Councillor Cr Charles Caldwell

2.3 REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Nil

3. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

3.1 DEPUTATIONS
Nil

3.2 PETITIONS
Nil

3.3 PRESENTATIONS
Nil

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TIME

4.1 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE
Nil

4.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5.1 FINANCIAL AND / OR PROXIMITY INTEREST

- Rylington Park Farm Manager Marc Deas declared a Financial Interest in item 9.1.1 being the owner of Feral Logic.

- Rylington Park Farm Coordinator Erlanda Deas declared a Financial Interest in item 9.1.1 being the wife of Marc Deas Rylington Park Farm Manager.

- Cr O'Connell declared a Financial Interest in item 9.1.1 being an employee of the Blackwood Basin Group.

5.2 DISCLOSURES OF IMPARTIALITY INTEREST THAT MAY CAUSE CONFLICT

- Cr King declared an Impartiality Interest in item 7.1.1 being a parent member of the Boyup Brook District High School Board.

- Rylington Park Farm Coordinator Erlanda Deas declared an Impartiality Interest in item 7.1.1 being the Chairperson of the Boyup Brook District High School Board.

6. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES / OUT OF SESSION CONFIRMATIONS

6.1 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 19 FEBRUARY 2024

Moved: Cr. O'Connell **Seconded: Cr. Inglis**

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/022

That the minutes of the Rylington Park Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2024 be confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

6.2 OUT OF SESSION CONFIRMATION – SUB- COMMITTEE RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF FEEDING PROGRAM

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

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/023

That the following "Out of Session" resolution was endorsed by the Rylington Park Sub-Committee:

1. **Put the merino wether lambs on feed pellets with use of additional loaned feeders, to get approximately 29-tonne feeder capacity which allows for a second delivery of pellets before the feeders are empty, subject to the availability of pellets.**

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

7. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

7.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

7.1.1 RYLINGTON PARK POTENTIAL SCHOOL PROGRAM - AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR STUDENT EQUITY AND SUCCESS (ACSES) FUNDING	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	7.1.1A NCSEHE Trials and Evaluation Flyer

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

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/024

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **If successful, approves a contribution of $20,000 towards the grant submission to Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success being prepared by Prof Brown.**

2. **The contribution approved in (1.) above is to be funded out of Councils Co-contribution reserve.**

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

The committee is requested to support the submission being prepared by Prof Kerry Brown for a National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) grant by committing funds.

BACKGROUND

Professor Brown, Melissa Reimers (school Principal), Erlanda Deas (as School board chair) and Cr Darren King met on Monday 11th March 2024 to discuss potential grant submission.

REPORT DETAIL

A meeting with the Program Director, Trials and Evaluation, Associate Professor Lien Pham, of the Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success Centre (ACSES) was held on Wednesday 20 December together with Rylington Park Committee members.

The funding program provides the opportunity for applying for grant funding for trials and evaluation of programs that address student equity. The proposed grant funding

proposal is for a 1-2 year trial program and evaluation for the identified program that involves an intervention of regional education offered at Rylington Park and the Boyup Brook High School to support retention of students in the region to study agriculture and business and, provide pathways to local TAFE and ultimately to university studies.

The initial meeting was held to find out more about the program and understand if a project that involves Rylington Park and the region can be developed for possible funding. The Program Director was highly supportive of the project and encouraged further investigation of the grant proposal and development of a more detailed program.

The A/Principal, Boyup District High School has undertaken further meetings with the Rylington Park Committee members and the project offers a significant opportunity to support regional education and improve student retention in the region along with an innovative program to develop new pathways for student learning involving the local community, the Shire, Rylington Park and educational institutions including, School, University and TAFE.

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 – 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Social and Community**
	Outcome	Promote quality education, health, children, aged care, and youth services.
	Objective	Develop and maintain partnerships with schools and police.

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATION

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)
Nil

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)
Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risk that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk level	Comment
Medium	It is important to ensure the farm is run fiscally responsibly to ensure the farm can continue to provide research and training.

CONSULTATION

Nil

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial

Nil

Workforce

Nil

End

7.1.2 PROPOSED RYLINGTON PARK ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKAGE	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	7.1.2A Rylington Park Scholarship Application

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

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/025

That Council move into a Committee of the Whole as per clause 15.6 of the Standing Orders Local Law No.1 to allow free and open discussion on the matter.

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

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

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/026

That Council move out of a Committee of the Whole as per clause 15.6 of the Standing Orders Local Law No.1.

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

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

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/027

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **Approves the Rylington Park Scholarship Application Package as per attachment 7.1.2A, with the following amendment:**

   a. **The Scholarship will be awarded to two deserving year 10 students.**

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

The Rylington Park Scholarship, founded by the Rylington Park Management Committee Inc., embodies Eric Farley's vision of engaging and nurturing Boyup Brook's youth in agricultural endeavours. Supported by the Shire of Boyup Brook, which continued its commitment after assuming management of Rylington Park Farm, the scholarship aims to sustain the agricultural heritage of the community.

BACKGROUND

The item was presented to the Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2024; the following was resolved:

"That the Committee:

Lay the item on the table to allow the Chief Executive Officer to amend the scholarship application form and to bring back to a subsequent meeting".

REPORT DETAIL

The scholarship is proposed to be awarded to two deserving year 9 or 10 students, that reside within the Boyup Brook Shire. This will encourage students to pursue a career in agricultural.

The scholarship not only benefits the selected students but may also encourage students to return / continue agricultural pursuits within Boyup Brook.

- The first Scholarship valued at up to $3,000 ($1,500 year 11 & $1,500 year 12), to be put towards tuition fees for the recipient's Years 11 and 12 educations at the Agricultural school of their choice.

- The second Scholarship valued at up to $1,500 ($750 year 11 & $750 year 12), to be put towards tuition fees for the recipient's Years 11 and 12 educations at the Agricultural school of their choice.

To ensure all students that reside in Boyup Brook are provided an opportunity to apply for the scholarship the following advertising schedule is proposed:

Advertise the proposed scholarship as from 1 May until the last Friday in September each year.

- Shire Website (daily)
- Shire social media platforms (daily)
- Administration notice board (duration of time indicated above)
- Community Resource Centre notice board (duration of time indicated above)
- E-Gazette (Monthly)
- Gazette (Monthly)

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 – 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Governance and Organisation**
	Objective	Demonstrate effective leadership, advocacy, and governance
	Outcome	Provide transparent decision making that meets our legal and regulatory obligations, reflects the level of associated risk, and is adequately explained to the community

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS
Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT
Nil

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATION

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)

The scholarships represent an investment in the community's youth and future, enhancing educational outcomes, supporting the agricultural sector, and promoting community cohesion and pride. This strategic approach addresses educational retention, economic stimulation, and sustainable growth, benefiting the entire region.

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)

The proposed scholarship could significantly enhance community life by fostering a culture of educational engagement and strengthening community cohesion.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risk that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Medium	The Shire risks reputational damage should the scholarships not be proceeded with.

CONSULTATION

- Community Development Officer
- Rylington Park Farm Coordinator
- Chief Executive Officer

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial

The scholarship is funded annually through Rylington Park.

Workforce

Nil

End

7.1.3 RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE AND RYLINGTON PARK SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Absolute Majority
Attachment Number:	7.1.3A – Proposed Terms of Reference

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

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/028

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **Approves the Terms of Reference for the Rylington Park Committee and the Rylington Park Sub-Committee as per attachment 7.1.3A.**

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

The committee is requested to consider the proposed Rylington Park Farm 'Terms of Reference'.

BACKGROUND

It is important for any committee to have 'Terms of Reference' to ensure the committee operates smoothly and within the authority approved by Council.

REPORT DETAIL

Rylington Park Farm is a unique asset for the Shire to own and is difficult/challenging to operate/manage in terms of the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* without the creation of a committee as well as a sub-committee. In addition to the committee and sub-committee, policies will be created to ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1995*.

It must be noted the 'Terms of Reference' provide the committee with full approval authority should the 'Terms of Reference' be approved by Council, with the ability to sub-delegate to the sub-committee.

However, the delegated approval from Council to the committee is limited to those aspect contained within the 'Terms of Reference' scope under clause 2.

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 – 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Governance and Organisation**
	Objective	Demonstrate effective leadership, advocacy, and governance
	Outcome	Provide transparent decision making that meets our legal and regulatory obligations, reflects the level of associated risk, and is adequately explained to the community

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS
Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT
Nil

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATION

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)
Nil

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)
Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risk that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Low	Given that most Councillors (six) are on the committee and the decision made at the committee level is likely to be further approved by the full Council, the risk is considered moderate.

CONSULTATION
Nil

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial
Nil

Workforce
Nil

End

7.1.4 APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONTO THE RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	7.1.4A – Mr Andy McElroy Submission 7.1.4B – Mr Joshua Stretch Submission

Moved: Cr. Inglis **Seconded: Cr. King**

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/029

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **Appoints Mr. Andy McElroy and Mr. Joshua Stretch as the two community members to sit on the Rylington Park Committee.**

2. **Appoints Cr Caldwell, Cr Walker, Cr Inglis, Mr McElroy as the Sub-Committee.**

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

The Rylington Park Farm committee has been operating for several years. The Committee is requested to consider the appointment of the two community members onto the Rylington Park Farm Committee.

In addition, the Committee is requested to appoint a Sub-Committee whose scope would be to ensure swift decision making can be made when required on operational issues associated with the sale and purchase of the various crops and biological assets located on the Rylington Park Farm. The scope, and members ships is detailed in the draft Rylington Park Farm 'Terms of Reference'.

BACKGROUND

Nil

REPORT DETAIL

The call for expressions of interest for the community to join the Rylington Park Farm Committee was advertised in the local Gazette as well as placed on the Shire website and social media platforms. Submissions were to be submitted by Friday 8 March 2024 and had to provide details on the following:

- Name
- Email
- Phone number.
- Why you would like to be considered for this position.

Two submissions were received:

- Andy McElroy (Attachment 7.1.4A)
- Joshua Stretch (Attachment 7.1.4B)

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 – 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Governance and Organisation**
	Objective	Demonstrate effective leadership, advocacy, and governance
	Outcome	Provide transparent decision making that meets our legal and regulatory obligations, reflects the level of associated risk, and is adequately explained to the community

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATION

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)

By incorporating diverse perspectives and local knowledge into strategic planning, the committee can make more informed decisions that support the sustainable growth of the farm while fostering economic development in the surrounding area.

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)
Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risk that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Medium	The Rylington Park Farm is a large liability to Council. Input from community members on the committee is invaluable to the farms continued operations.

CONSULTATION
Nil

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial
Nil

Workforce
Nil

End

7.1.5 RYLINGTON PARK ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Erlanda Deas, Farm Coordinator
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	Nil

Moved: Cr. King Seconded: Cr. Wright

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/030

That the committee recommends Council:

1. **Receives the monthly activity report for the Rylington Park Farm for the months of February 2024.**

2. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a Livestock Management Plan, and to submit the plan to the Rylington Park Committee for approval no later than 31 May 2024.**

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

The monthly report is to provide Council with an update on the operations at the Rylington Park Farm.

BACKGROUND

The Rylington Park Institute for Agricultural Training and Research, known as Rylington Park, is a key agricultural asset located 27km from Boyup Brook, in Mayanup.

This 650-hectare property was donated to the Shire of Boyup Brook in 1985 by Mr. Eric Farleigh for agricultural research and training, aimed at the betterment of the Boyup Brook community. Managed by the Shire, the property runs various agricultural programs, including shearing schools and fertiliser and seed trials.

It also offers scholarships to youth in agriculture and has a strategic relationship with Edith Cowan University for research and education, with the intent to share findings with the local farming community. Rylington Park is committed to supporting the agricultural industry and the regional community through its various initiatives.

REPORT DETAIL

Weed Control

- Pulling out and spraying melons

Infrastructure and Equipment Maintenance

- Water system – no leaks at present, pumping from turkey's nest dam.
- Breaking down tank in paddock twenty and filling well
- Fencing maintenance clearing trees and limbs off fences
- Repairing oil leak on rock rake

Crop Management

- Sold 89.71 tonnes Canola @ $684,83 / tonne including oil
- Sold 46.7 tonnes GM Canola @$708,37 / tonne including oil
- Sold 51.65 tonnes Barely @$338,00 / tonne

Livestock Sales

- Sold 150 150 XB lambs @ $79 / hd
- Sold 599 cull 4 age ewes @ $51.11 / hd

Feed on Hand

- Barley 149 tonne
- Lupins 26 tonne
- Hay 221 bales
- Barley straw 128 bales

Feeding program

- 1550 adult ewes – barley 280 grams / hd / day
- 898 Maidens – barley, lupins (80:20) 320 grams / hd / day
- 720 ewe lambs - barley, lupins (70:30) 320 grams / hd / day
- 125 cull 4 age - barley 200 grams / hd / day
- 47 Rams (21=White Suffolk), 53 odds & sods (33=XB), 198 small wether lambs: barley, lupins 70:30. Between the lot (300 hd), they get 380grams / hd / day

Feeding hay to the mobs that have limited dry grass/stubble. Cut back a bit on how much feeding out - currently about 10 bales/week. Started putting straw out to the wethers on pellets but they don't seem very interested, so all the straw is still in the stack.

Livestock Handling and Management

- Mycotic dermatitis - unsuitable ewe lambs are culled, selection of rams, jetting during high fly strike times and monitoring.

- Rams were taken out

Livestock Inventory as of 31 February 2024

- 125 cull-for-age ewes, cull hoggets after scanning
- White Suffolk: twenty-three
- XB Lambs: 170
- Merino: 4,738

Wool Sales

- Sold five wool bales

Shearing Schools

- Hosted Shearing Schools:
  - 26 February – 1 March 2024

- Future Shearing Schools:
  - 15-19 April 2024

A shearing school was held on the farm during 26 February and 1 March, the following concerns were raised by the Shearing Trainers:

- Sheep (wether lambs) provided were too thin and difficult for students to learn on, it resulted in several sheep being 'nicked' and a larger number than usual being hamstrung. Ewe lambs were also shorn and were in better condition and easy to shear and teach students on. The wethers have always been run "harder" than the ewe lambs & the percentage of wethers with dags was typical to any other year. The sheep were yarded on Sunday & were empty.

- Several of the sheep had significant 'dags' making it difficult for students to learn without 'nicking' the sheep. This is not the desired way to introduce students to the industry. Rylington Park sheep have always been sheared through the shearing schools – including the lambs. In the past sheep were crutched by the students if needed, before being shorn. This was part of their learning for the week. No issues have been raised in the past.

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 - 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Natural Environment**
	Objective	Manage natural resources sustainably
	Outcome	Work with key stakeholders to manage land, fire disease, pest animals and weeds.

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS
Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT
Nil

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)

Rylington Park Farm contributes economically to both the Shire and Region by providing education and skill development in agriculture which can enhance the workforce, leading to more efficient and innovative farming practices.

Conducting agricultural research can lead to better farming techniques and increased productivity, positively impacting the local economy. The farm also hosting field days and the event draws visitors locally and regionally which can stimulate local spending.

Offering scholarships encourages local youth to pursue careers in agriculture, potentially leading to a more skilled labour pool. Shearing schools support the sheep industry, vital for the local economy. These activities can lead to job creation, increased productivity, and the overall growth of Boyup Brook's agricultural sector.

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)

Rylington Park Farm can impact the quality of life in the Boyup Brook community by enhancing access to agricultural training and education, boosting local economy through job creation and agricultural advancements.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risks that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Moderate	The Shire's risks regarding Rylington Park Farm include costs of operating the farm and funding programs may not always be covered by revenue or grants. Fluctuations in agricultural markets can affect the farm's economic viability. Extreme weather events could impact farm operations and ensuring all farming practices meet regulatory standards.

CONSULTATION
Nil

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial

Rylington Park Farming Operation

Income & Expenditure Statement for the Period Ended 29/02/2024

	Budget Feb24	Actual Feb24	Stock Programme	Cropping Programme	Education Programme	Events	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD	
Income										
Sheep Sales	0.00	42,465.00	42,465.00				115,916.03	195,000.00	-79,083.97	Deficit
Wool Sales	51,000.00	70,077.44	70,077.44				140,873.71	102,000.00	38,873.71	
Grain Income									0.00	
Barley				0.00			6,070.55	49,350.00	-43,279.45	Deficit
Canola		94,517.17		94,517.17			135,643.67	173,880.00	-38,236.33	Deficit
Hay				0.00					0.00	
Oats				0.00					0.00	
Wheat				0.00					0.00	
Shearing School	18,328.00				0.00		77,561.52	109,969.00	-32,407.49	Deficit
Training Events					0.00		363.64		363.64	
Accommodation	950.00	1,527.26			1,527.26		6,626.35	950.00	5,676.35	
Ladies Day		8,813.62				8,813.62	9,472.71		9,472.71	
Mens Field Day						0.00			0.00	
Farm Demos						0.00			0.00	
Interest Received									0.00	
Rebates							1,000.00			
Fuel Tax Credits		4,979.00	1,991.60	1,991.60	995.80		4,979.00		4,979.00	
Total Income	70,278.00	222,379.49	114,534.04	96,508.77	2,523.06	8,813.62	498,507.18	631,149.00	-132,641.83	Deficit
Expenditure										
Accommodation					0.00		115.45		115.45	
Catering	1,850.00	268.10			268.10		8,165.91	14,100.00	-5,934.09	surplus
Cleaning					0.00				0.00	
Contractors									0.00	
Crutching & Museling			0.00				8,342.25	15,800.00	-7,457.75	surplus
Fertilizer Spreading			0.00	0.00			1,742.50	2,900.00	-1,157.50	surplus
Harvesting	700.00	14,900.00	0.00	14,900.00			14,900.00	15,450.00	-550.00	surplus
Hay Baling			0.00	0.00			14,069.50	10,100.00	3,969.50	
Instructors/Tutors	11,800.00				0.00		68,320.30	70,800.00	-2,479.70	surplus
Seeding			0.00	0.00					0.00	
Shearing			0.00				405.00		405.00	
Speakers						0.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Spraying			0.00	0.00			1,696.00		1,696.00	
Donations							1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	
Electricity	667.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,785.63	5,336.00	-550.37	surplus
Events									0.00	
Field Day						0.00	213.55	4,000.00	-3,786.45	surplus
Ladies Day		329.17				329.17	931.59		931.59	
Fertilizer			0.00	0.00			16,230.00	19,520.00	-3,290.00	surplus
Fodder	10,870.00		0.00				14,581.20	21,220.00	-6,638.80	surplus
Freight & Cartage		1,774.00	1,680.00	94.00			7,277.25	24,300.00	-17,022.75	surplus
Fuel & Oil			0.00	0.00			10,381.73	14,500.00	-4,118.27	surplus
Gas					0.00		1,031.85		1,031.85	
Hire of Plant & Equipment				0.00			1,023.96		1,023.96	
Insurance	6,500.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,569.89	14,500.00	4,069.89	
Licence & Permits									0.00	
Payroll Expenses									0.00	
Farm Wages	13,067.00	9,755.75	2,438.94	2,438.94	2,438.94	2,438.93	113,142.17	105,536.00	7,606.17	
Teaching Wages									0.00	
Superannuation	2,443.00	1,203.84	300.96	300.96	300.96	300.96	13,505.74	17,264.00	-3,758.26	surplus
Pest Control			0.00	0.00			64.69		64.69	
Printing & Stationery	50.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,197.27	1,400.00	1,797.27	
Protective Clothing							238.27		238.27	
Rates							8,395.44	8,500.00	-104.56	surplus
Repairs & Maintenance	1,708.00						28,885.50	13,664.00	15,221.50	
Seed				0.00			93.30		93.30	
Seed Cleaning				0.00				4,950.00	-4,950.00	surplus
Selling Expenses									0.00	
Grain		1,269.60		1,269.60			5,715.20	11,949.00	-6,233.80	surplus
Stock	3,726.00	2,733.16	2,733.16				8,071.12	16,100.00	-8,028.88	surplus
Wool	3,300.00	3,710.54	3,710.54				7,648.77	6,600.00	1,048.77	
Sprays							8,996.57	13,500.00	-4,503.43	surplus
Staff Costs							154.55	0.00	154.55	
Stock Purchases		4,200.00	4,200.00				4,200.00	4,200.00	0.00	
Stock Requisites	3,083.00		0.00				16,012.03	24,664.00	-8,651.97	surplus
Subscriptions	600.00	549.09	137.28	137.27	137.27	137.27	1,705.48	2,000.00	-294.52	surplus
Telephone	167.00	63.59	15.90	15.90	15.90	15.90	961.34	1,336.00	-374.66	surplus
Training			0.00	0.00				3,000.00	-3,000.00	surplus
Waste Collection	120.00						522.75	960.00	-437.25	surplus
Wool Shed Requisites	750.00		0.00				107.01	4,500.00	-4,392.99	surplus
Working Dog	108.00		0.00				251.45	864.00	-612.55	surplus
Total Expenses	58,800.37	40,756.84	15,216.78	19,156.67	3,161.17	3,222.23	416,752.21	474,613.00	-57,860.79	
Net Profit/Loss for	**11,477.63**	**181,622.65**	**99,317.26**	**77,352.10**	**(638.11)**	**5,591.40**	**81,754.96**	**156,536.00**	**-74,781.04**	Deficit

Workforce
Nil

End

7.1.6 RYLINGTON PARK CROPPING REPORT	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Marc Deas, Rylington Park Farm Manager
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	7.1.6A Rylington Park Agronomy Plan 2024vrs2 7.1.6B Soil Test Results

Moved: Cr. Inglis Seconded: Cr. King

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/031

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **Request the Rylington Park Sub-Committee to consider the Annual Cropping Plan as per attachment 7.1.6A.**

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

The Committee is requested to consider the annual cropping report to enable the farm Manager to commence purchasing and preparations.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 19 February 2024 the Committee resolved as follows:

"RP 24/02/021

1. *Authorises the Farm Manager to place an order for the following fertilisers:*
    a. *Up to 12.75 tonnes Super Potash 4:1 with selenium (mixing rate 50kg/ha).*
    b. *Cropping blend as proposed by the current cropping plan as per attachment 7.1.3A.*
    c. *Up to 27 tonnes Flexi-N.*
    d. *Up to 17 tonnes Gran NS.*
2. *Requests the Farm Manager to provide the Committee with an amended cropping plan.*
3. *Request the Farm Manger to provide the Committee with the soil test results once received."*

REPORT DETAIL

The amended Cropping Plan, Attachment 7.1.6A.

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 - 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Natural Environment**
	Objective	Manage natural resources sustainably
	Outcome	Work with key stakeholders to manage land, fire disease, pest animals and weeds.

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)

The Rylington Park Farm is poised to bring substantial economic benefits to the community and region, serving as a catalyst for growth and innovation in the agricultural sector.

By acting as a hub for agricultural research, education, and demonstration, Rylington Park can attract professionals, students, and visitors, thus increasing local spending. The farm's focus on cutting-edge agricultural practices and technology transfer is expected to enhance productivity and sustainability for local farmers, potentially leading to higher yields and profits.

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)

Rylington Park Farm is likely to significantly enrich the community's quality of life. Through its focus on agricultural innovation and education, the farm can offer educational opportunities and workshops for local residents, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of sustainable farming practices.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risks that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Moderate	The income derived from cropping is considerable. A crop failure could lead to a direct financial loss for the farm, potentially reducing the farm's ability to contribute to local economic activities and investments. This situation may also diminish the farm's role as an educational and innovation hub, thereby affecting its capacity to attract visitors, students, and professionals.

CONSULTATION

- David Lane – Agronomist
- Dan Glover, CSBP

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial

The cropping plan forms an integral part of the budget preparations for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Workforce

Nil

End

7.1.7 EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY DRONE USAGE	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Prof. Kerry Brown
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	Nil

Moved: Prof K. Brown **Seconded: Cr. King**

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/032

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **Receives the ECU drone usage report, and request Prof Kerry Brown to provide a report to the next committee meeting on the usage of the drone (not limited to Rylington Park).**

2. **Invite Dr Blake to the next Rylington Meeting.**

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

Prof Kerry Brown from the Edith Cowan University (ECU) provides a monthly update on the usage of the drone (not limited to Rylington Park).

BACKGROUND

The Shire entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ECU on 29 October 2021. The MOU established an agreement for ECU to utilise Rylington Park for agricultural and regional development related research and allied education programs.

The MOU endorses a high-level strategic relationship with ECU, with the intention of expanding research and training opportunities for Rylington Park. It was intended that results of any research would be shared with farmers in Boyup Brook to the betterment of farmers and related businesses in the area.

On 8 March 2022 ECU wrote to the Shire inviting the Shire to partner in a major research initiative in co-funding a remotely piloted drone to assist in undertaking research projects at Rylington Park. Subsequently, Council at its Ordinary Council Meeting of 28 April 2022 approved funding of $10,000 from the Rylington Park account for a co-contribution to purchase a fixed wing drone in partnership with ECU.

REPORT DETAIL

The co-funded drone has been used in the following:

- Drone demonstration - Field Day Rylington Park
- Stock count trial data collection – Rylington Park
- Vegetation Survey - Kings Park Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
- Vegetation survey – Katanning Soil Health project

The ECU drone fleet has been expanded with a new higher-grade drone. This drone will be used for vegetation/soil/fire mapping in Walpole as well as adding support to the Katanning and Kings Park projects. There is scope to use this drone at Rylington Park as well. There is continued opportunity to use the co-funded drone at Rylington Park and in other agricultural spaces. Dr Dave Blake Chief Drone Pilot ECU has offered to attend a future Rylington Park Committee meeting to discuss further opportunities for drone use.

Action: Invite Dr Dave Blake to attend a future meeting of the Rylington Park Committee via Teams.

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 - 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Natural Environment**
	Objective	Manage natural resources sustainably
	Outcome	Work with key stakeholders to manage land, fire disease, pest animals and weeds.

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)

By acting as a hub for agricultural research, education, and demonstration, Rylington Park can attract professionals, students, and visitors, thus increasing local spending. The farm's focus on cutting-edge agricultural practices and technology transfer is expected to enhance productivity and sustainability for local farmers, potentially leading to higher yields and profits.

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)
Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risks that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Moderate	Not having a tangible result from the investment could have a negative impact on the Council.

CONSULTATION

Nil

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial

Nil

Workforce

Nil

End

7.1.8 PROPOSED HEMP TRIALS AT RYLINGTON PARK	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Prof. Kerry Brown / Cr King
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	Nil

Moved: Cr. King **Seconded: Mr A. McElroy**

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/033

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **Supports the trials for growing Hemp on 1ha of land at Rylington Park**

2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to submit an application for the relevant Hemp Licence to the relevant department.**

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

This purpose of this report is to provide the committee with an update on the potential hemp trials on Rylington Park.

BACKGROUND

Hemp cultivation in Western Australia (WA) represents an evolving sector within the state's agricultural landscape, driven by increasing interest in sustainable and versatile crops. Hemp, known scientifically as Cannabis sativa, is grown primarily for its fibres, seeds, and oil, which have a wide range of applications in textiles, construction materials, cosmetics, and health food products, among others.

The legal framework for growing industrial hemp in WA has developed over time, with significant milestones being the introduction of the *Industrial Hemp Act 2004*, which enabled the cultivation of hemp with a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of not more than 0.35%. This legislation marked the beginning of regulated hemp farming in the state, setting the stage for an industry focused on leveraging the environmental and economic benefits of hemp.

REPORT DETAIL

Representatives of the Rylington Park Committee and Boyup Brook Shire including Leonard Long, Darren King and Kerry Brown continue to meet with experts and representatives of the hemp industry including Don Telfer DPIRD,

and John Muir, expert Consultant to discuss industrial hemp as a possible crop trial at Rylington Park Farm.

At the meeting on 21 November, a team including with Don, John and Darren at Rylington Park Farm inspected a possible site for a Dryland Hemp Trial. DPIRD Manjimup were also present at the Rylington Park Farm inspection and meeting. Kerry Brown met with John Muir and Don Telfer on Thursday 14 December to discuss possible funding sources for the trial. The next stage is to secure funding for the trial and be a key part of a national trial of hemp which has been offered through the Cooperative Research Centre- Project: Healing Australian Carbon Wounds Using Hemp Plantation and Construction.

A further site inspection was undertaken on Saturday 24 February 2024 at Rylington Park with Ken Dods, of the CRC-P Healing Australian Carbon Wounds Using Hemp Plantation and Construction, Don Telfer and John Muir was undertaken and several site options were canvassed.

Rylington Park Committee members Kerry Brown and Darren King attended a Hemp Industry Day hosted at the Manjimup Horticultural Research Institute, Manjimup on Monday 26 February 2024 to further understand the requirements for a hemp trial at Rylington Park.

Hemp as a diversification strategy for farming in the South West offers a unique opportunity to activate a new industry that provides downstream processing opportunities and value add in the form of environmentally sustainable construction materials, seed production and other manufactured products to support regional economic development.

The next steps are to apply for hemp licenses and to consolidate the project requirements with the CRC-P Healing Australian Carbon Wounds Using Hemp Plantation and Construction.

Key Contact: Don Telfer | Project Manager Horticulture & Irrigated Agriculture Primary Industries Development Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 1 Nash Street, East Perth WA 6000| m +61 429 014 063.

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 - 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Natural Environment**
	Objective	Manage natural resources sustainably
	Outcome	Work with key stakeholders to manage land, fire disease, pest animals and weeds.

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Industrial Hemp Act 2004

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)
Nil

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)
Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risks that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Moderate	It is important to ensure the farm is run fiscally responsibly to ensure the farm can continue to provide research and training.

CONSULTATION
Nil

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial
Nil

Workforce
Nil

End

7.1.9 PROPOSED MULESING AND RAM SELECTION FOR THE AWI SHEARING SCHOOLS	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	Nil

Moved: Mr A. McElroy **Seconded: Cr. Wright**

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/034

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to instate mulesing of lambs as per an approved Livestock Management Plan.**

2. **Request the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and submit to the Rylington Park Committee for approval by 31 May 2024 a Ram Selection Guideline for all future shearing schools held at the Rylington Park Farm.**

CARRIED 8/0
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

The committee is requested to consider introducing mulesing of the Rylington Park Sheep.

BACKGROUND

Mulesing is the removal of wool-bearing skin from the back end of a sheep. Mulesing is considered routine practice and is performed to reduce the risk of flies and maggots causing irritation and infection in skin folds (flystrike).

REPORT DETAIL

Effective Prevention of Flystrike: Mulesing has been proven to be an effective method of preventing flystrike, which can cause severe pain, distress, and even death for affected sheep.

Reduction of Suffering: Proponents argue that mulesing, despite being a painful procedure, ultimately reduces the suffering of sheep by preventing the more severe pain and potential death caused by flystrike.

Maintaining Wool Quality: Mulesing helps maintain the quality of wool by reducing the risk of contamination from faeces and urine, as well as minimising the risk of wool quality deterioration due to flystrike.

Economic Viability: Mulesing can be economically viable for sheep farmers, as it reduces the costs associated with treating flystrike and lowers potential wool losses due to contamination.

Long-Term Solution: Some argue that until more effective and humane alternatives are developed, mulesing remains a necessary measure to protect sheep welfare and ensure the sustainability of the wool industry.

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 - 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Natural Environment**
	Objective	Manage natural resources sustainably
	Outcome	Work with key stakeholders to manage land, fire disease, pest animals and weeds.

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS

- Code of Practice for Sheep in Western Australia (2003)
- Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep (2016), recommend that mulesing should be accompanied by pain relief where practical and cost-effective.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Animal Welfare Act 2002

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)
Nil

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)
Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risks that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Moderate	It is important to ensure the farm is run fiscally responsibly to ensure the farm can continue to provide research and training.

CONSULTATION
Nil

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial
Nil

Workforce
Nil

End

7.1.10 PROPOSED TREE FARM	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	7.1.10A Decision Tree Model 7.1.10B DIY Model 7.1.10C Tree Agreement Model

Moved: Cr. Inglis **Seconded: Cr. King**

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/035

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to advice Wespine Industries that 'Tree Farming' will not be supported on the Rylington Park Farm.**

CARRIED 5/3
For: Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King
Against: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Prof Brown

SUMMARY

The committee is required to decide whether or not to pursue a portion of Rylington Park being set aside for a 'Tree Farm'.

BACKGROUND

In October 2023 through South West Timbers a 'Decision Tree Model' was run on the potential outcomes of a 'Tree Farm' enterprise on Rylington Park Farm (Attachment 7.1.10A).

At the Committees meeting held on 8 February Brad Barr, Resource Manager of Wespine Industries provided a presentation on the pros and cons from a financial perspective regarding Tree Farms.

REPORT DETAIL

Should 'Tree Farming' be considered on the farm there are two options that could be considered.

DIY Option

This option will require Rylington Park to establish the trees using its own funds, management of the 'Tree Farm' would be outsourced to the industry and

Wespine Industries would manage the carbon credits at no charge but with the agreement that future log sales will be with Wespine Industries.

Under this model the farm should see a positive cashflow from year 3 of the investment. The investment in the farm would be $5,960/ha over the life of the plantation, with a nett return (harvesting and haulage costs deducted) of $24,873.

A potential financial breakdown on this option is attached as Attachment 7.1.10B Financial Model.

Tree Plantation Agreement Option

This option will be a joint venture between Rylington Park and Wespine Industries. Wespine Industries will prefund all the capital for the establishment and management $5,960.ha. Rylington Park's input into the joint venture is the lease value of the land, the financial model is based on $300/ha/year.

The financial split between the Wespine Industries and Rylington Park is calculated to be 49% Wespine Industries and 51% Rylington Park, this would yield Rylington Park $15,725 per hectare of established 'Tree Farm'.

A potential financial breakdown on this option is attached as Attachment 7.1.10C Financial Model.

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 - 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Natural Environment**
	Objective	Manage natural resources sustainably
	Outcome	Work with key stakeholders to manage land, fire disease, pest animals and weeds.

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)
Nil

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)
Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risks that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Moderate	It is important to ensure the farm is run fiscally responsibly to ensure the farm can continue to provide research and training.

CONSULTATION

Nil

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial

Nil

Workforce

Nil

End

8. MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

9. LATE ITEMS / URGENT BUSINESS MATTERS

- Rylington Park Farm Manager Marc Deas declared a Financial Interest in item 9.1.1 being the owner of Feral Logic.

- Rylington Park Farm Coordinator Erlanda Deas declared a Financial Interest in item 9.1.1 being the wife of Marc Deas Rylington Park Farm Manager.

- Cr O'Connell declared a Financial Interest in item 9.1.1 being an employee of the Blackwood Basin Group.

Mr Deas, Mrs Deas and Cr O'Connell left the chambers at 9:05pm.

Mr Deas, Mrs Deas and Cr O'Connell returned to the chambers at 9:12pm.

9.1.1 LANDCARE AUSTRALIA / NBN RYLINGTON PARK FERAL ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR TRIAL	
File Ref:	RP/01/002
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	South-West NRM
Author and Title:	Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number:	Nil

Moved: Cr. Inglis **Seconded: Cr. King**

COMMITTEE DECISION RP 24/03/036

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. **Approve the use of Rylington Park for a six-month trial managed by the Blackwood Basin Group (as from February 2024) to observe feral animal behaviours.**

2. **Request the Landcare Australia / Blackwood Basin Group to provide a report on the outcomes to Council on conclusion of the trial.**

CARRIED 7/0
For: Cr Walker, Mr McElroy, Mr Stretch, Cr Inglis, Cr Wright, Cr King, Prof Brown
Against: Nil

SUMMARY

The Committee is requested to consider approving the trial as proposed by South-West NRM (previously the South-West Catchment Council). Management

of the project was moved from the South-West NRM to the Blackwood Basin Group.

BACKGROUND

The Farm Manager has previously obtained approval from the previous CEO to operate his business, Feral Logic outside of working hours. All input into the trial by Feral Logic will be done outside of normal working hours.

In early 2022 grants for using the NBN network for feral animal control were made available. The grant specified the use of NBN instead of the internet. The objective is to identify feral animals on-site, to show the effectiveness of the NBN in rural and regional areas.

Feral Logic was approached, and the project initiated two years ago and was discussed with the previous CEO at the time. The outcome of the grant application was only made available in October 2023.

REPORT DETAIL

South-West NRM (previously known as South-West Catchment Council) approached Feral Logic in early in 2022 for ideas to use the NBN network in feral animal control for a grant application. Initially there were 3 properties identified for possible locations for the proposed cameras. Being a pilot project, it was suggested that only one location be used, that being Rylington Park. This would make it easier and more cost effective.

Most trail cameras with email functionality use 4G - internet technology, these were not an option. Axistech was approached and will provide a trailer with a PTZ camera (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) featuring a powerful optical zoom and accurate pan/tilt/zoom performance. The Cam PTZ provides large monitoring range in great visual detail.

The trailer was installed in paddock thirty-three at the end of February 2024 and is proposed to be located there for a period of 6 months. As part of the grant, Landcare Australia will have community workshops sharing the data and showcasing to local farmers the use of the NBN network and the value in having real-time data in their own pest control regime on their farms.

To ensure openness and transparency the Farm Manager has declared a Financial Interest in the proposed trial being the owner of Feral Logic who will be advising on the camera setup, reviewing images, putting out attractants to observe behaviours and shooting/trapping.

SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021 - 2031

	Key Imperatives	**Natural Environment**
	Objective	Manage natural resources sustainably
	Outcome	Work with key stakeholders to manage land, fire disease, pest animals and weeds.

OTHER STRATEGIC LINKS
Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)
Nil

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)
Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risks that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Low	The trial will not have any impact on the daily operations of Rylington Park.

CONSULTATION

Previous CEO

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial
Nil

Workforce
Nil

End

10. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Nil

11. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 8 May 2024 at 6pm at the Council Chambers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:22pm.

_____ _____

Presiding Member Date

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of 18 April 2024 Council when considering the minutes of the Rylington Park Committee Meeting of 21 March 2024 resolved as follows:

"Moved: Cr. Caldwell Seconded: Cr. Inglis

COUNCIL DECISION 24/04/062

That Council:

Refers the Minutes of the Rylington Park Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2024 back to the Rylington Park Committee to reconsider items raised at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 18 April 2024.

CARRIED 7/1
For: Cr Walker, Cr O'Connell, Cr Alexander, Cr Kaltenrieder, Cr Inglis, Cr Caldwell, Cr Wright
Against: Cr King

Reason:
Council is of the opinion that the resolutions by the Committee needs to be discussed further by the Rylington Park Committee."

Outstanding Committee Resolutions		
Res #	Resolution	Status
~~RP 24/02/010~~	~~PROPOSED HEMP TRIALS AT RYLINGTON PARK Notes the update and requests Prof Brown to provide a further update on the matter at the next Rylington Park Committee meeting~~	~~Completed~~
RP 24/02/009	RYLINGTON PARK WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY Request the Rylington Park Farm Manager to provide the committee with the outcome and recommendations of the Safe Farms Health and Safety Assessment at the next Rylington Park Committee meeting	Farmsafe are scheduled to be on the farm on 25 March 2024.
RP 24/02/008	RYLINGTON PARK POTENTIAL SCHOOL PROGRAM Provides in principle support for the potential school program involving Rylington Park Farm and requests Prof Brown to provide further updates on the matter when additional information is available.	Pending
RP 24/02/006	RYLINGTON PARK FIELD DAY Notes the report and request the Rylington Park Farm Coordinator to provide a further update at the April Committee meeting.	Pending
RP 24/02/005	ECU DRONE USAGE Notes the report and requests Prof Brown to provide a further update at the next Rylington Park Committee meeting.	Pending
RP 24/02/004	WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION (WAARC) RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES Provides in principle support for the use of the Rylington Park Farm should the Edith Cowan University's project on Soil Health be successful with its grant submission to the Western Australian Agricultural Research Collaboration.	Pending
~~RP 24/02/017~~	~~PROPOSED RYLINGTON PARK ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION Lay the item on the table to allow the Chief Executive Officer to amend the scholarship application form and to bring back to a subsequent meeting.~~	~~Completed~~
RP 24/03/030	RYLINGTON PARK ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024 2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a Livestock Management Plan, and to submit the plan to the Rylington Park Committee for approval no later than 31 May 2024	Pending
RP 24/03/032	EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY DRONE USAGE 2. Invite Dr Blake to the next Rylington Meeting	Pending
RP 24/03/033	PROPOSED HEMP TRIALS AT RYLINGTON PARK 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to submit an application for the relevant Hemp Licence to the relevant department.	Pending
RP 24/03/034	PROPOSED MULESING AND RAM SELECTION FOR THE AWI SHEARING SCHOOLS	Pending

	1. Request the Chief Executive Officer to instate mulesing of lambs as per an approved Livestock Management Plan. 2. Request the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and submit to the Rylington Park Committee for approval by 31 May 2024 a Ram Selection Guideline for all future shearing schools held at the Rylington Park Farm	
RP 24/03/035	PROPOSED TREE FARM Request the Chief Executive Officer to advice Wespine Industries that 'Tree Farming' will not be supported on the Rylington Park Farm.	Pending
RP 24/03/036	LANDCARE AUSTRALIA / NBN RYLINGTON PARK FERAL ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR TRIAL 2. Request the Landcare Australia / Blackwood Basin Group to provide a report on the outcomes to Council on conclusion of the trial.	Pending