

Communications Report
Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management

February 2015

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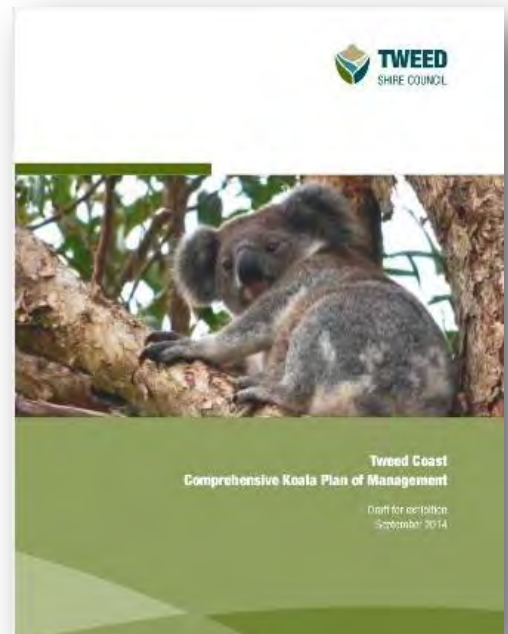
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Introduction

The 2011 Tweed Coast Koala Habitat Study revealed that the Tweed Coast koala population has declined by approximately 50 per cent within the last decade. Remaining koala numbers are now so low (around 144 animals) that mortalities due to fire, cars and domestic dog attack are no longer sustainable by the population over the long term. If nothing is done, there is a very real risk that koalas could disappear from the Tweed Coast within the next 15 – 20 years.

Based on the outcomes of the Tweed Coast Koala Habitat Study, and in conjunction with the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Group, Tweed Shire Council prepared a draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management in accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 – Koala Habitat Protection.



The plan applies to approximately 21,200 ha of land extending southwards from the Queensland/NSW border encompassing the mostly urban areas of Cobaki, Tweed Heads, Bilambil Heights, Terranora and Banora Point, and thereafter extending along the coast generally east of the Pacific Motorway for approximately 37 km to the Tweed Shire boundary.

The overarching vision of the plan is that the Tweed Coast koala population will be recovered to more sustainable levels over the next two decades.

To ensure the Tweed community was given an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan before its adoption by Council, a detailed communications plan was prepared in line with Council's Community Engagement Strategy.

The draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management was placed on public exhibition from Tuesday 21 October until Tuesday 2 December 2014.

During this time, another koala-related matter became prominent in the local media and caused some confusion within the community about the scope of the draft plan. There was divided community opinion over whether the Black Rocks sports field in Pottsville should remain available for community use, or should be revegetated to provide improved habitat for the local koala population. In discussions with members of the community throughout the consultation period, Council officers learned that some people mistakenly believed the draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management was solely related to the Black Rocks site. Thus, there was sometimes a need to first explain the true scope of the draft plan as an holistic approach to the conservation and management of koala populations in the Tweed, before seeking feedback from those individuals.

This report provides details of the various communications tools and methods that were used, and an evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the communications plan in achieving the stated objective.

Communications objective

The communication objective, as articulated in the communications plan was:

To **maximise community awareness** of the draft
Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management and
encourage feedback on the document.

Level of engagement and target audiences

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy, the level of engagement identified for this project was 'Consult', so our promise to the community was:

We will listen to you, consider your ideas and concerns, and keep you informed.

The following primary stakeholders / target audiences were identified:

- Tweed Shire residents
- Tweed Shire ratepayers
- Government agencies and statutory authorities
 - National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS)
 - Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
 - Local Land Services (LLS)
 - Rural Fire Services (RFS)
 - Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)
 - Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)
- Adjacent Councils and regional bodies
 - Byron Shire Council (BSC)
 - Kyogle Shire Council (KSC)
 - Lismore City Council (LSC)
 - Gold Coast City Council (GCCC)
 - Regional Development Australia - Northern Rivers (RDA)
 - Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC)
- Council committees, advisory groups and affiliated volunteer groups
 - Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Group
- Interest groups
 - Koala Connections
 - Friends of the Koala
 - Team Koala Inc
 - Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers Inc

Budget

The total expenditure on communications activities and materials was \$3061.50.

A detailed budget is included as *Attachment 1*.

Internal communications

The importance of internal communications is two-fold. Firstly, Council employees need to be informed about the programs being delivered by the organisation, both for their personal awareness and to ensure they are able to appropriately direct any questions or comments from the community. Secondly, with more than 600 employees, Council's staff represents a large and diverse audience base, capable of disseminating key messages to broader networks in the community.

Corporate Knowledge Base

Council's custom-built Corporate Knowledge Base (CKB) is the organisation's multi-purpose corporate business system, comprising 600 pages of content-managed information including both public content that feeds through to Council's websites and supporting notes and information for staff reference.

Activity summary

Prior to the commencement of the exhibition period, new content was added to the existing 'Koalas' page on the CKB. This included basic information about the Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management and staff notes directing customer service enquiries to the relevant project officer.

Cost

Nil

Outcome

Providing timely details about the project on the CKB ensured any Council staff member with computer access was able to be informed about the project and was appropriately equipped to deliver high quality customer service to community members with enquiries or comments.

InsideOUT

InsideOUT is Council's monthly internal newsletter, used to keep staff up to date on current projects, initiatives and general news. Each issue of InsideOUT is distributed to all of Council's 685 staff, either by email (365 copies for indoor staff) or in hard copy, stapled to payslips (320 copies for those without computer/intranet access at work).

Activity summary

In the November issue of InsideOUT, a story and photo appeared on page two, drawing staff attention to the two market stalls hosted at Pottsville and Kingscliff to raise awareness of the draft plan.

Cost

Nil

Outcome

Coverage in InsideOUT ensured all of Council's 685 staff members were made aware of the draft plan and the opportunity to have their say. It also provided them with information to share with their families, friends and networks.



Figure 1: Story and photo appearing in the November issue of Council's staff newsletter, InsideOUT.

Councillor briefing pack

A Councillor briefing pack comprises a small compilation of communications materials (prepared as part of the communications plan) intended to provide to all Councillors with basic information about a particular project/program/event.

Activity summary

Prior to the exhibition period, on Thursday 14 August 2014, the project officer met with Councillors to provide a face-to-face briefing about the draft plan and the proposed upcoming stakeholder and community consultation.

On Thursday 23 October 2014, all Councillors were provided with a briefing pack, which included: a printed copy of the draft plan; a copy of the two FAQs sheets; and a copy of the reply paid feedback postcard.

Cost

Nil

Outcome

Providing this information ensured all Councillors were informed about the draft plan and made aware of the opportunities for community members to have their say during the public exhibition period.

External communications

A range of communications tools were used to disseminate messages about the draft plan and seek feedback from the Tweed community.

Printed and digital communication materials

Printed and digital communication materials such as posters, flyers, brochures etc are a simple, attractive and cost-effective way of communicating additional detail about Council initiatives.

Activity summary

The following printed and digital communications materials were prepared to support project communications:

- **Draft plan** - To encourage people to read and review the draft plan, it was professionally designed, laid out and bound into a book. Copies were distributed to key stakeholders and were made available to interested members of the community upon request. A PDF version was made available on the Council website and the online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed.
- **FAQ sheet - general** - A double-sided A4 sheet of frequently asked questions for the general public, 250 full colour copies were professionally designed and printed. Copies were distributed to key stakeholders and made available at the community market stalls hosted by Council during the exhibition period. Digital PDF versions were also made available at Council's online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed.
- **FAQ sheet - landholder** - A double-sided A4 sheet of frequently asked questions for the landholders within the subject area, 250 full colour copies were professionally designed and printed. Copies were distributed to key stakeholders and made available at the community market stalls hosted by Council during the exhibition period. Digital PDF versions were also made available at Council's online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed.
- **Feedback postcards** - A double-sided A5 postcard upon which people could record their feedback and return, postage paid, to Council, 500 full colour copies were professionally designed and printed. The postcards included fields for people to provide their full name and residential address, as required for a formal submission to Council. They also provided web links to further information and a copy of the draft plan.
- **Market stall sign** - A single-sided, full colour, 900x600mm sign reading 'Come and chat to us about koalas'. This was used to draw attention to Council's community market stalls hosted by Council during the exhibition period.
- **Map of plan area** - A single-sided, full colour, 900x600mm map showing the geographic area covered by the draft plan, including the location of existing local koala plans of management. This was used to explain the location of known koala populations, the scope of the draft plan and its relationship with existing local plans of management. This map was also made available as a PDF at Council's online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed.
- **Website banners** - Digital banners inviting feedback on the draft plan were added to the Council website [homepage](#), [Environment](#) and [Energy](#) pages. Each banner included a link directly to the [Koalas](#) page, where information about the draft plan was hosted. The

banners went live on Tuesday 21 October and were removed on Tuesday 2 December 2014.

Copies of these printed and digital materials are provided in *Attachment 2*.

Cost

\$2616.00.

This figure includes \$1200 for graphic design services including the layout of the draft plan and FAQs sheets. Itemised costs are included in the budget provided as *Attachment 1*.

Outcome

The draft plan, FAQs sheets and map were designed to make the content of the draft plan more accessible and easy to digest. There was a good uptake of these documents as demonstrated by the following figures:

- **Draft plan** - 88 views of the PDF on Your Say Tweed, 365 views of the SlideShare file and a number of hard copies were distributed.
- **FAQ sheet - general** - 30 views on Your Say Tweed and many hard copies distributed.
- **FAQ sheet - landholder** - 24 views on Your Say Tweed and many hard copies distributed.
- **Map of the plan area** - 41 views on Your Say Tweed and many views of the large scale map at the community market stalls hosted by Council during the exhibition period. The map helped landholders visualise the application of the plan in relation to their properties and was particularly important when explaining the broad scope of the draft plan beyond the site-specific issue of koalas at the Black Rocks sports field in Pottsville.

The market stall sign was effective in drawing attention to Council's presence at both Pottsville and Kingscliff, encouraging people to come in and have a chat.

Of the 500 feedback postcards that were printed, nearly all were distributed either at the community market stalls hosted by Council during the exhibition period, by post or passed on by key stakeholders and interest groups to their networks. Fourteen completed postcards were returned to Council and the feedback recorded.

Tweed Shire Council website

With more than 30,000 hits per month, the corporate website www.tweed.nsw.gov.au is an important medium for Council when communicating with the community.

Activity summary

Council maintains a permanent page on its website dedicated to koalas in the Tweed at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/koalas.

Prior to the consultation period, new content was added to this page, providing general information about the draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management and inviting interested members of the community to provide feedback. A link was also provided

to a dedicated project page on Council's online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed (see relevant section in this report).

Cost

Nil

Outcome

During the consultation period (Tuesday 21 October - Tuesday 2 December 2014) the 'Koalas' page on the Council website received 158 page views, an increase of 73.63 per cent from the 91 page views in the immediately preceding period (Wednesday 8 September - Monday 20 October 2014).

Visitors spent an average of 4 minutes and 9 seconds on the page, up 85.71 per cent from the average of 2 minutes and 14 seconds spent by visitors during the preceding period.

Sources of this traffic were:

- 113 (71.52%) organic search
- 23 (14.56%) referral
- 20 (12.66%) direct
- 2 (1.67%) social

Most visitors to the page (140 users, 88.61%) accessed the page via a desktop computer, while others used a tablet (12 users, 7.59%) or a smartphone (6 users, 3.80%).

The increase in traffic to the page during the consultation period highlights the value of including the page URL in communications materials to drive visitors to the Council website. The longer average time spent by visitors on the page, suggests users took the time to review the information on the page and learn more about the issue.

The use of a variety of devices to access the page confirms the importance of ensuring content on the Council website is equally accessible from computers, tablets and smartphones.

Contact Centre

Council's Contact Centre handles the majority of customer service interactions over the phone, in person, by email and online. Based across two office locations at Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads, the Contact Centre team receives an average of 8000 calls and 5000 walk-in enquiries each month and aims to handle the majority of these at the first point of contact.

Activity summary

On Wednesday 29 October 2014, the project officer met with the Contact Centre team to provide a project briefing, including background information and directions for staff receiving calls in relation to the draft plan.

Cost

Nil

Outcome

While most communications materials provided the direct line phone number of the project officer, Contact Centre staff also played a valuable role in fielding customer enquiries that came through to Council's switchboard and directing these to the project officer.

Tweed Link

Tweed Link is a gazetted weekly newspaper, produced in-house at Tweed Shire Council and distributed to 40,100 households across the Tweed. According to an independent survey conducted in May 2010, it has a readership rate of 79 per cent. Tweed Link is the only newspaper to cover the entire geographic footprint of the Tweed Shire.

Activity summary

The following table outlines the relevant editorial and advertising content published in the Tweed Link:

Issue run date	Content type	Details	Cost
Tuesday 21 October 2014	Advertisement	15x3, advising draft plan on exhibition	\$445.50
Tuesday 28 October 2014	Editorial	Promoting Kingscliff Markets info stall	N/A

Copies of the published Tweed Link content are provided in *Attachment 3*.

Cost

\$445.50

Outcome

Based on a readership of 79 per cent across 40,100 households, the advertisement and editorial content mentioned above would have resulted in approximately 63,385 impressions relating to the project.

As the Tweed Link is distributed to all households in the local government area, all residents had the opportunity to be informed about the proposal and to have their say.

Media coverage

Council's Communication and Customer Services Unit, through the Communications Officer - Media, maintains relationships with key media contacts and issues regular media releases and story suggestions for their consideration. This often results in coverage across a range of media including print, radio, television and online.

Activity summary

The following media releases were disseminated in relation to the draft plan:

- Thursday 23 October 2014, *Comprehensive plan to help save Tweed koalas*
- Tuesday 25 November 2014, *Last chance to have your say on Tweed Coast koala plan*

Copies of these media releases are provided in *Attachment 4*.

Cost

Nil

Outcome

During the consultation period, the following media story was published:

Run date	Publication	Details
Saturday 25 October 2014	Tweed Daily News	Brief, 'Koala strategy', p.2
Friday 7 November 2014	ABC North Coast Radio	Pre-recorded interview for broadcast after 9.30am news

It should also be noted that during the consultation period, other, related topics were covered in the media which had the potential to influence community engagement in relation to the draft plan:

- **Green Globe Award**

Council's Koala Connections program received a prestigious 'Green Globe Award', which drew increased public attention to the issue of koala conservation and highlighted the positive achievements of Tweed Shire Council and the local community in this field.

- **Koalas at Black Rocks sports field**

Also in the media at this time were a number of articles and letters to the editor regarding the contentious issue of koalas at the Black Rocks sports field in Pottsville. Specifically, these articles addressed divided community opinions over whether the sports field should remain available for community use, or should be revegetated to provide improved habitat for the local koala population. From discussions with members of the public throughout the consultation period, Council officers learned that the coverage of this particular issue had created some confusion in the community, with some people believing the draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management was all about the Black Rocks issue.

Copies of print media coverage received during the consultation period are included in *Attachment 5*.

Your Say Tweed

Your Say Tweed is Tweed Shire Council's online hub for community engagement; a one-stop source of information about all of Council's engagement campaigns, including access to online forums, surveys, quick polls and videos.

Anyone can view content on Your Say Tweed, but only registered users can contribute feedback via the platform. Registration requires two-step verification of an active email address.

Activity summary

A new project page was created at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014 and went live on Tuesday 21 October 2014.

Content on the page included:

- Background information about the draft plan
- Key dates, including details of information stalls at local markets and the closing date for submissions
- A copy of the draft plan (available for download as a PDF and also for viewing online as a SlideShare presentation)
- Supporting documents and information, including:
 - Frequently asked questions and answers for both community and landholders
 - A map of the plan area
- An online submission form, which people could complete to have their say
- Details of how to make a submission by email or post, including a link to Council's email address
- Contact details for further information

Note: The page remains live, however the online submission form has been removed and content has been updated to advise the consultation period has now concluded.

Cost

Nil.

Outcome

Your Say Tweed uses the definitions 'aware', 'informed' and 'engaged' to describe the level of participants' activity on the site.

Aware	Informed	Engaged
<i>People who visited the 'Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management' project page.</i>	<i>People who took an additional action (e.g. downloading a document or visiting other pages on the Your Say Tweed site).</i>	<i>People who actively contributed feedback (e.g. by using the online submission form).</i>
307	129	6

Informed users took the following additional actions while on the project page:

- 119 visited the document library
 - 88 viewed the draft plan in PDF
 - 41 viewed the map of the plan area
 - 30 viewed the FAQs - general
 - 24 viewed the FAQs - for landholders

- 9 visited the key dates (note: these were visible from the main page, so there was no need to 'click through').
- The SlideShare version of the draft plan was hosted on an external site, and details are reported in the following section of this report.

Engaged users actively contributed in the following ways:

- 6 completed the online submission form.

The online submission form required users to provide their full name, residential address, suburb and postcode. All respondents resided within the Tweed local government area.

Note: The above figures apply to the consultation period (Tuesday 21 October until Tuesday 2 December 2014).

SlideShare

SlideShare is an online community that allows users to easily upload and share presentations, infographics, documents, videos, PDFs and webinars. Users can choose to view the information online or download and save files to view offline or at a later time. These options benefit users who may have limited download allowances (and therefore do not wish to download large files) or those with limited internet access (who may wish to download the file while they do have internet access, for review at a later time/place where internet may not be available).

Activity summary

On Friday 10 October 2014, a PDF of the draft plan was uploaded to the SlideShare site, but was kept private until the beginning of the exhibition period on Tuesday 21 October 2014. A widget linking to the SlideShare content was embedded on the Your Say Tweed page, enabling users to view the entire document online, without having to download it.

Cost

Nil

Outcome

During the period Sunday 19 October until Saturday 6 December 2014¹, 365 views were recorded. Of these, 345 views came from Your Say Tweed.

Direct mail

Direct mail is an effective way to provide information and printed materials directly to a defined stakeholder group, by delivering it to their home or postal addresses. Council uses its existing databases and/or GIS systems to generate mailing lists that target those members of the community most likely to be affected by a given project or initiative.

¹ Slide Share's free reporting is limited to weekly timeframes. Daily reporting is only available through a paid subscription, which Council does not currently have.

Activity summary

On Tuesday 21 October 2014, Council officers sent letters to 23 government stakeholders and 34 resident, business and community interest groups advising that the draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management was on exhibition and inviting feedback. Non-government stakeholders were also offered the opportunity for Council officers to meet with their respective groups to deliver a presentation and answer any questions about the draft plan.

Included with the correspondence were copies of the frequently asked questions sheets.

Copies of both letters are included as *Attachment 6*.

Cost

\$34.20² (approximately)

Outcome

Using direct mail ensured all key stakeholders and known organisations with an interest in the content of the draft were directly informed about the exhibition period and given the opportunity to learn more and have their say.

Community market stalls

A community display or stall is when Council officers and/or Councillors are available at a nominated venue for a specific period of time, encouraging citizens to attend and discuss topic(s) of interest.

Activity summary

Council hosted two community market stalls during the consultation period, where people were invited to come and discuss the draft plan:

- Sunday 2 November 2014, Pottsville Markets from 7.30am until 1pm.
- Saturday 22 November 2014 at Kingscliff Markets from 7.30am until 1pm.

These sessions were advertised in the Tweed Link and publicised via Your Say Tweed.

Cost

Nil.

Outcome

A total of approximately 150 people attended the two sessions; about 100 at Pottsville and 50 at Kingscliff.

Council was represented by:

- Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity
- Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity Policy

² Note: Postage of Council correspondence is not included in the communications budget

- Communications Officer.

Representatives of the focus group involved in developing the draft plan were also in attendance at various times, to assist.

At each market, community members dropped in at their leisure to discuss the plan and ask any questions they had. Copies of the draft plan, FAQs sheets, and feedback postcards were made available.

Participants were encouraged to submit their feedback in writing to Council as a formal submission.

Meetings by invitation

Meetings by invitation provide an opportunity to meet with identified key stakeholders face to face to share information and ideas.

Activity summary

Council's Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity and Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity Policy coordinated and attended the following meetings:

- Wednesday 22 October 2014, 6pm - 8pm, with Team Koala.
- Tuesday 25 November 2014, 7am - 8am, at Tweed Shire Local Consultants' Breakfast.
- Monday 1 December 2014, 6pm-7pm, with Kingscliff Ratepayers and Progress Association.

At each of the meetings, the Council officers presented an overview of the draft plan and invited questions and feedback from those present.

Cost

Nil

Outcome

A total of approximately 65 people attended these meetings.

Summary of community feedback

During the consultation period, feedback was invited and received in a variety of forms.

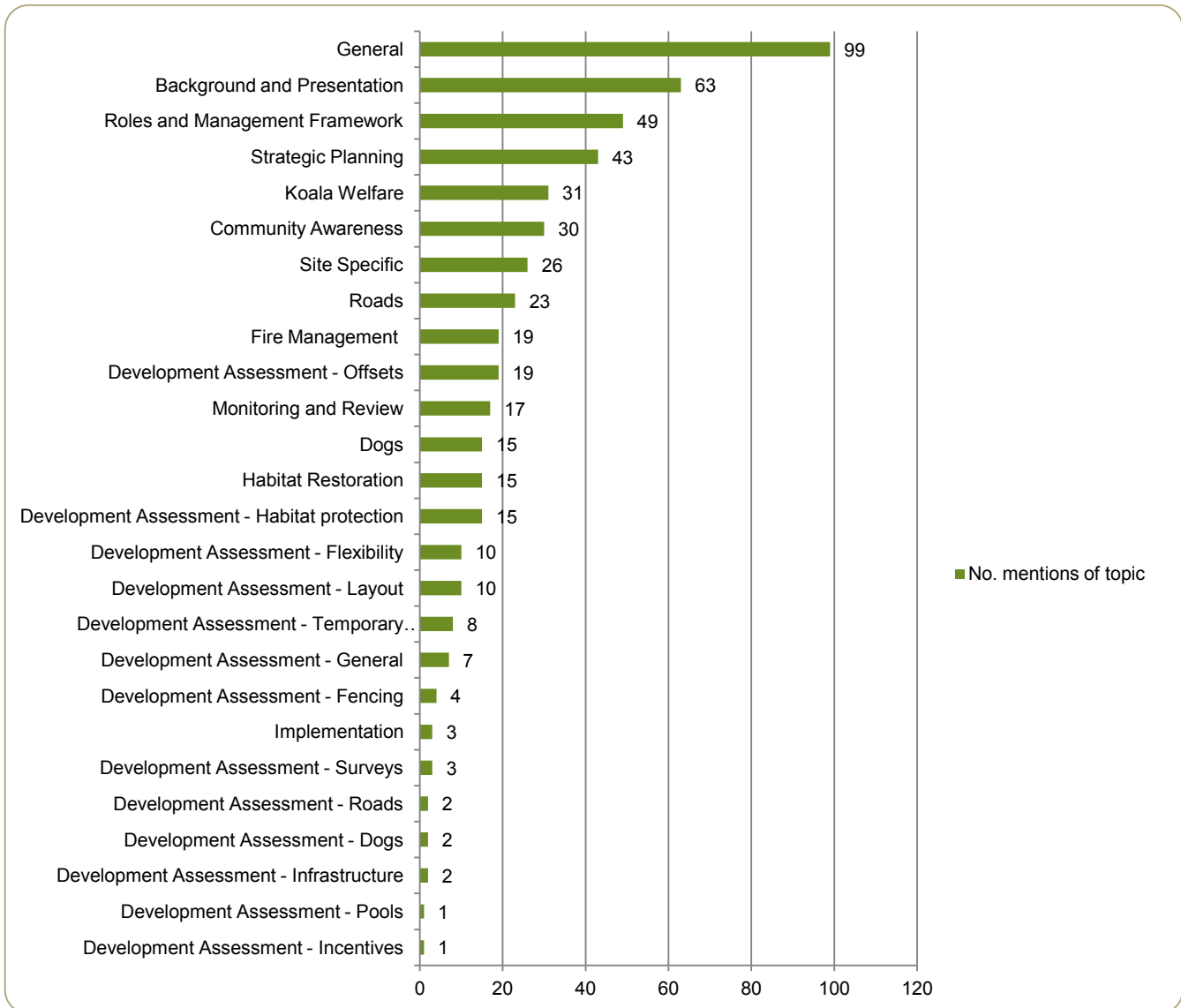
A total of **52 submissions were received**, comprising:

- 18 emails
- 14 feedback postcards
- 11 letters
- 6 online forms completed at Your Say Tweed
- 3 internal memos from Council staff

Of the submissions received, **88 per cent (46) gave qualified or unqualified support** for the draft plan.

An analysis of the feedback received highlights the following recurring topics:

Figure 2: Topics raised in submissions



Following is a breakdown of the particular issues raised in relation to the topics listed above:

Issue raised	No mentions
Qualified or unqualified support for the draft Plan	46
Review outdated IKPOMs and/or incorporate into Plan	17
Offsetting in koala habitat areas is unacceptable	15
Implement targeted traffic mitigation including signage, increase police presence and fencing at black spots ASAP	15
Support for environmental protection zoning of koala habitat	14
Support Council taking a leading role	13
Presentation is logical clear and well informed	12
Supports Core Koala Habitat definition	12
Tree preservation provisions are critical	12

Issue raised	No mentions
Support for dog controls including better compliance, not just reliance on signage	11
The Plan should note the Preliminary Determination as an Endangered Population under the TSC Act.	10
Plan should mention that koalas are an economic asset and eco-tourism potential	10
It should be made clearer what a "better ecological outcome" means in Section 5.11	10
Support for habitat restoration program	10
Website to report compliance issues and threats	10
Plan is unnecessarily complicated.	9
Strong support for Koala Management Committee	9
Plan should be adopted as DCP and be implemented by Council	9
Support better fire management	9
Support for Wildlife Care groups	9
Support vaccine research	9
Financial support for advocacy and education groups	9
People who report koala issues should not be treated as a nuisance	8
The Plan should focus on three remaining koala subpopulations and identify the threats in each area	8
The Introduction should mention the unsustainable number of koalas and the importance of community involvement in their recovery	8
Temporary developments may be problematic	8
Need a release site on the Tweed Coast	8
The Plan should explain public actions to preserve koalas and encourage participation	8
Council staff must be fully informed in koala ecology	8
RFS should liaise with wildlife rescuers who have been trained by RFS to assist after fires	7
Support for increased resources to implement plan	6
Support extension of plan to other parts of the Shire	6
Development controls well thought out	5
Revegetate Black Rocks Sportsfields and/or rezone to E2; DCP for Black Rocks and other sportsfields	5
The Plan is too reliant on voluntary participation	4
Increase compliance and/or zero tolerance to illegal clearing	4
Supports management framework	4
Difficulties implementing enclave development	4
There should be mandatory protection for preferred koala feed trees >100mm dbh	4
Keep the gate locked 24/7 at Black Rocks	4
Choice between koala friendly and enclaved development must suit the circumstances	3
Council officers should not have discretion for the removal of koala feed trees	3
Support for traffic controls	3
Need to bring forward review of the Plan	3
Does not support the proposed men's shed at Black Rocks	3
The draft Plan should provide for detailed koala monitoring in the Black Rocks/Wooyung area	3
The vision and aims are supported	2

Issue raised	No mentions
Support voluntary participation of community groups	2
Support for certainty and strict guidelines for developers	2
No new koala friendly development should be approved.	2
Provisions for land dedication and management strongly supported	2
Urban development should be prohibited in KAP and KLP areas	2
Separate koalas from threats by buffers	2
Offsetting should preference protection and enhancement strategies rather than single tree plantings as this has broader biodiversity benefits	2
Support strategic planning provisions	2
Amend LEP to give additional statutory weight to the plan	2
Need to highlight human induced stress	2
Construct a koala hospital in Tweed Shire	2
The Black Rocks Sportsfield access road should be left open	2
Additional traffic restrictions at Black Rocks	2
Non statutory aspects of the draft Plan strongly supported	1
There should be more nature reserves to link habitat	1
Support for increasing koala numbers not just protecting existing areas	1
Make use of rate notices to convey important information	1
Include IKPOMs as appendices	1
The draft Plan does not promote population recovery, is not based on the best information and is overly influenced by SEPP 44 which is fundamentally flawed	1
Preparing a plan does not affect recovery	1
The Plan does not contain enough details of works to be carried out.	1
Maps are clear and easy to understand	1
Difficult to interpret various overlays used on maps	1
The "Potential Urban Footprint" is used in the maps but "Future Urban Footprint" is used elsewhere	1
Provide additional detail about the status of each of the three main koala populations to assist community engagement	1
Include Tweed Coast Koala Habitat Study as an appendix	1
Reference to wild dogs should also include domestic dogs	1
It may be difficult to achieve the aims and expected outcomes of the Plan	1
Need more community representation on the Koala Advisory Committee	1
Recommendations of the Koala Management Committee should not be overridden by Council's Executive.	1
Dr Steve Philips should be invited to chair the Koala Management Committee	1
Council engineering department should be represented on the Koala Management Committee	1
The draft plan should identify Primary Koala Habitat	1
Boundaries of KAPs do not always align with known areas of Preferred Koala Habitat associated with significant koala activity	1
Consider providing illustrations to help visualise development layout and design provisions of Section 5.9	1

Issue raised	No mentions
In cases where development consent is required for public infrastructure there may not be sufficient flexibility to carry out emergency works	1
Deviations from the Plan for public infrastructure should not be supported	1
Suggest an additional provision to allow clearing of vegetation for emergency public infrastructure works	1
1 ha exclusion required by DP&E is unwarranted	1
It is not clear if only direct or indirect impacts such as clearing entitlement under the 10/50 bushfire code would be subject to offsetting	1
Offsetting requirements may be onerous for Council infrastructure projects	1
The koala habitat survey requirements in Section 5.7.3(ii) maybe excessive for very small public infrastructure projects	1
The precise mapping of all native vegetation stems within or within 20m of the development envelope as per Section 5.7.3(iii)(e) is too onerous especially for minor linear infrastructure	1
Suggest that a template for an audit referred to in Section 5.7.3(iii)(i) be provided in the Plan	1
Provision should be made under Section 5.9.4, Enclaved Development for off- leash dog exercise areas	1
Provision should be made under Section 5.9.3.4 for lands dedicated as public bushland should be declared as a "wildlife protection area" to allow Council to prohibit dogs	1
Floppy top fencing is problematic	1
Need to more clearly distinguish between fauna friendly and fauna exclusion fencing	1
Section 5.6.4 refers to koala-proof pool fencing but this is not covered in Appendix D	1
Fencing should be required to ensure the separation of koalas and dogs	1
Development incentives (Section 5.10.3.6) should only derive from the LEP	1
Pools should have a rope in case a gate is left open	1
Planting of koala food trees on roadsides should only occur on low use roads	1
Concerns regarding potential conflicts between planting trees on roadsides and the provision of infrastructure with priority given to maintaining infrastructure	1
Incorporation in Council's DCP may not be necessary especially if the Plan is embedded in the LEP	1
Remove section 6.5 Council Operations from Strategic Planning section	1
Include reference to Figure 1 in Section 6.2	1
Under Section 6.2.2(iv) reference is made to buffers for "nature conservation" however this should be confined to "koala habitat"	1
Support increasing koala habitat to mitigate indirect impacts	1
Habitat restoration should focus on larger areas of core habitat	1
All available areas should be afforded equal priority for habitat restoration	1
It is unclear if the Plan considers habitat protection measures such as TPOs VCAs BioBanking etc	1
Suggest that mixed species plantings should be minimum of 50% primary koala feed trees	1
Exclusion fencing along roads need to be properly maintained	1
A key criterion for new roads and upgrades should be the placement of the road to minimise any loss of koala habitat or connectivity	1
Zero road mortality under Section 8.3(i)(b) may not be realistic. What happens if there is a road death	1
Should mention RMS audit referred to in Implementation Schedule	1

Issue raised	No mentions
Resourcing and responsibilities for the maintenance of wildlife infrastructure referred to in section 8.4	1
Dog attack is not confined to the urban fringe or bushland. Reference should be made to the impact of domestic dogs in the urban landscape	1
Provision should be made for off leash dog areas in KAPs	1
It should be acknowledged that landholders are responsible for the management of domestic dogs and wild dogs on their land	1
The plan should note that it is not known whether or not wild dogs have a significant impact on koalas on the Tweed Coast	1
Fire Management should include measures to reduce ignition risks from adjacent development	1
The 6-8 year minimal use of fire should be referenced to a start date	1
The plan should consider ecological burns to restore koala habitat to promote sclerophyll regeneration	1
Consider artificial insemination	1
Support for community education	1
Consider a green awards program	1
Skilled knowledgeable people should deliver training	1
Support plan review every five years	1
Koala population should be monitored every 2 years instead of every 3 years	1
Initial reassessment of the koala population will be critical	1
Draft Plan should focus on preventing impacts on koalas rather than monitoring	1
Emergency response provisions are needed where data indicates an ongoing population decline	1
Climate change impacts	1
Unexplained acronyms used in Part 14	1
4 th action under reducing the risk of dog attack refers to KLPs which is inconsistent with Section 9.2	1
Include changes to LEP/DCP in implementation table etc	1
Support for additional management at Black Rocks	1
Moratorium on development applications at Black Rocks until the IKPoM is reviewed.	1
The draft plan should include the recommendations of the Dunloe Sands Mining Project Environmental Management Plan 2009	1
Mitigate impacts of future Dunloe Park development	1
Formalisation of Kellehers Rd is a key management issue for Pottsville KAP and surrounding koala precincts	1
Concerns regarding potential subdivision at Tanglewood	1
Replace vehicle access gate at Pottsville Environmental Park with a koala/dog-proof gate	1

Conclusion

At its meeting of 19 January 2010, Council resolved to prepare a draft Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management for the Tweed Coast.

The draft was placed on public exhibition from Tuesday 21 October until Tuesday 2 December 2014, and the community invited to provide feedback in a number of ways:

- Face to face
 - At meetings by invitation
 - At market stalls held at Kingscliff and Pottsville
- By post
 - By completing a reply-paid feedback postcard
 - By letter
- Online
 - By completing an online feedback form available at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014
 - By email to tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au

During the consultation period, Council officers met face to face with approximately 215 people and a total of 52 written submissions were received, of which, **88 per cent (46) gave qualified or unqualified support** for the draft plan.

In addition to general comments and feedback on the background and presentation of the draft plan, major areas of interest and concern, as articulated in the submissions, were the roles and management of the framework, development assessment, strategic planning, koala welfare and community awareness.

A significant number of responses also included site-specific feedback.

All relevant feedback received from the community has been taken into account in the revised draft Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management presented to Council with this report.

It is proposed that Council's resolution in relation to the draft plan be posted to the Your Say Tweed page for review by the community.

Evaluation

In preparing the communications plan for Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management, the following measures of a successful communications program were identified:

Objective	Result
Maximise community awareness of the draft plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community received relevant and timely information about the project and feedback opportunity across a range of media, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 x Tweed Link advertisements ○ 1 x Tweed Link article ○ 2 x media releases • The community received relevant and timely information about the project and feedback opportunity via direct contact from Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct mail to key stakeholder groups as identified ○ Face to face meetings by invitation with key stakeholder groups as identified ○ 2 x face to face drop in information booth at local markets • The community had access to relevant supporting information, as evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 158 visits to 'Koalas' page of the Council website ○ 307 'aware' users of the Your Say Tweed project page ○ Nearly 550 views of the draft plan and other documents in the document library on Your Say Tweed and via SlideShare
Provide opportunities for community feedback and ensure engagement plays a meaningful role in the decision-making process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meaningful number of people participated in the community engagement process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approximately 215 people met in face to face sessions (including meetings by invitation and market info sessions) ○ 52 submissions received • All community feedback received has been compiled and will be presented in the Council report for consideration by the Councillors in their decision-making process.

Attachment 1
Communications budget



Communications budget

Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management

Page 1



Medium	Budget	Publication / type	Budgeted cost	Actual cost	Run date Details
Tweed Link			\$ 445.50	\$ 445.50	21-Oct On exhibition; 15x3
<i>Subtotal</i>			\$ 445.50	\$ 445.50	
Market stalls		Pottsville Markets	\$ -	\$ -	02-Nov No charge for stall site
		Kingscliff Markets	\$ -	\$ -	08-Nov No charge for stall site
<i>Subtotal</i>			\$ -	\$ -	
Printed materials		Draft plan	\$ 990.00	\$ 990.00	N/A 50 x 102pp A4, full colour 80gsm recycled, 250gsm cover, thermal bound
		FAQ sheet - general	\$ 99.00	\$ 99.00	N/A 250 x 2pp A4, full colour, 110gsm recycled
		FAQ sheet - landholder	\$ 99.00	\$ 99.00	N/A 250 x 2pp A4, full colour, 110gsm recycled
		Feedback postcards	\$ 140.00	\$ 140.00	N/A 500 x 2pp A5, full colour, 300gsm recycled
		Corflute signs	\$ 88.00	\$ 88.00	N/A 2 x 1pp 900x600, full colour
		Graphic design services	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	N/A Layout and design of all printed materials
<i>Subtotal</i>			\$ 2,616.00	\$ 2,616.00	Balance
TOTAL	\$ 3,061.50		\$ 3,061.50	\$ 3,061.50	\$ -



Attachment 2
Printed and digital communication materials





Have your say

Draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management

Submissions close Tuesday 2 December 2014.

View the plan at Council offices or online at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014.

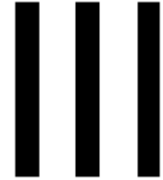
For more information, contact Scott Hetherington, Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity on (02) 6670 2561.



Delivery Address:

PO Box 816
MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484

No stamp required
if posted in Australia



Your feedback on the draft plan:

Your details: *(*This information is required so we can verify your submission)*

Full name*: _____

Street address*: _____

Email: _____

Please keep me informed about other koala conservation initiatives.



Tweed Shire Council
Reply Paid 816
MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484

Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management

Frequently asked questions - for landholders



Will my property be affected?

- The Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (KPoM) consists of regulatory and non-regulatory parts. The regulatory part of the plan is designed to ensure that future development contributes to koala recovery in priority areas on the Tweed Coast.
- Your property may be affected by the regulatory provisions of the plan if you wish to carry out development on land to which the plan applies. In certain areas, this may include the requirement for a koala habitat assessment and retention of important koala habitat.
- The non-regulatory components of the plan cover a wide range of issues including koala habitat restoration, managing threats from roads, dogs, fire and disease, community engagement, implementation, and ongoing monitoring, reporting and review. These parts of the plan rely on the voluntary participation of landholders and the community.
- Council can assist landholders wanting to participate in the non regulatory parts of the plan by providing technical advice and where possible, restoration grants or other material support.

What development does the KPoM apply to?

- The regulatory provisions of the draft plan are triggered when Council receives a development proposal. The specific provisions will depend on the scale of the development and the koala management precinct in which the proposed development is located.
- In general, small-scale developments and larger developments within an existing development envelope will not be affected by the plan. Similarly, developments proposed within an area covered by an existing individual Koala Plan of Management such as Koala Beach, Black Rocks and Kings Forest will not be affected by the plan.
- The most stringent regulatory provisions of the plan apply to larger-scale developments in areas identified as core koala habitat.

What is a Koala Management Precinct?

- Koala Management Precincts identify, at the landscape-scale, priority areas for management and planning relevant to koalas and their ecology.
- A Koala Activity Precinct (KAP) is a mapped area associated with known significant koala activity. The KAPs generally include the areas of preferred koala habitat adjacent to areas of significant koala activity.
- A Koala Linkage Precinct (KLP) is a mapped area adjacent to one or more KAPs that provide optimal opportunities for improved habitat management and connectivity. KLPs are integral to establishing a sufficiently large and connected area of land to support a localised free-ranging koala population.

What is core koala habitat and how has it been determined?

- For the purpose of the KPOM, core koala habitat includes any preferred koala habitat within a Koala Activity Precinct or Koala Linkage Precinct, or any other areas on the Tweed Coast where koalas are present.
- The vegetation communities of Tweed Shire have been mapped and classified based on the plant species that occur there. This has been combined with specific information about the tree species that are critical for koalas to create maps of primary and secondary habitat. These areas are collectively defined as preferred koala habitat.

What does it mean if my property is located within a KAP or KLP?

- The KAPs and KLPs are the most important locations for managing future development and the recovery and conservation of koalas.
- While the plan provides for strict development controls on the removal of core koala habitat in KAPs and KLPs, development in these areas can still be carried out where it is consistent with the KPOM.
- The development standards of the KPOM address issues such as habitat retention, road design, management of koala food trees, fauna exclusion fencing, control of dogs, management of construction impacts and compensation for habitat loss where unavoidable. These standards have been developed through their use over the past 20 years in similar situations on the Tweed Coast.
- The KPOM provides a high level of certainty when it comes to planning development proposals. By clearly setting out development pathways, relevant exemptions and specific planning requirements, the plan is designed to ensure that

development proposals minimise impacts on koalas, contribute to koala recovery and provide an outcome acceptable to the broader community.

- Lands within the KAPs and KLPs are a priority for improving koala habitat and you may be able to receive assistance from Council to restore or revegetate koala habitat.

How can I help?

- You may wish to access technical support or other incentives that will be made available to improve the koala habitat on your property. A habitat restoration plan will be prepared for the Tweed Coast and Council will work with interested landholders to implement this plan.
- Everyone has a role to play in helping save the Tweed Coast koalas. This includes retaining koala food trees, driving carefully (especially at night and on koala roads), keeping dogs under control and reporting koala sightings. Even planting just a few preferred koala food trees can help.

How can I have my say on the draft KPOM?

- You can access further information on the KPOM by attending an information session, market stall or making an appointment to discuss the plan with Council staff.
- Make a written submission to Council by post, email or via Council's online hub for community engagement www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplant2014. All submissions must be received by close of business on Tuesday 2 December 2014.
- All submissions will be considered by Council in the process of preparing the final KPOM before adoption by Council and approval by the Department of Planning.

Who do I contact if I want more information?

- Council's Natural Resource Management Team (02) 6670 2400.



Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management

Frequently asked questions



What is a Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management?

- A Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (KPoM) is prepared under the State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 - Koala Habitat Protection (SEPP44). Preparation of a KPoM addresses the requirement for local government to prepare plans consistent with the aims of SEPP44.
- KPoMs aim to encourage conservation and management of koala habitat, ensure a permanent free-living population of koalas over their present range and reverse the state-wide trend of population decline.
- The draft Tweed Coast KPoM contains both regulatory and non-regulatory provisions and provides an overarching strategy to be used to inform Council's response to all aspects of koala conservation and management.

Why is the Tweed Coast KPoM needed?

- Koalas are listed as a threatened species under both New South Wales and Commonwealth legislation. Further, the Tweed Coast koala population is currently under consideration for listing as endangered.

- The Tweed Coast Koala Habitat Study undertaken in 2010 revealed that the Tweed Coast koala population has declined by approximately 50% within the last decade. The remaining koala population is considered unviable without intervention.
- The Habitat Study identified five key issues, all of which must be addressed in order to reverse the trend of decline: too frequent wildfire, incidental mortalities (road strike, dog attack, disease), habitat loss, lack of standards for ecological assessment and insufficient land use planning controls.

Why only the Tweed Coast?

- The majority of expected population growth and urban expansion in Tweed Shire will take place on the Tweed Coast.
- The expected growth will occur in the vicinity of the three remaining koala sub-populations (Kings Forest/Cudgen Lake, Round Mountain/Koala Beach and Pottsville/Black Rocks) and north of the Tweed River where only very few koalas remain. In this northern area, the potential for koala recovery is highly compromised by lack of habitat and intense urbanisation.



How has the Tweed Coast KPoM been prepared?

- The KPoM has been prepared in response to the Tweed Coast Koala Habitat Study, in accordance with SEPP44 and its associated guidelines and with extensive community consultation. In particular, the plan was guided by the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Group, which was formed in 2010 for this purpose.
- The Koala Advisory Group endorsed the draft plan in July 2014 and recommended Council place the draft on public exhibition.
- Council resolved to place the draft KPoM on exhibition for a period of 30 days, commencing on 21 October 2014.

How will the Tweed Coast KPoM actually help save koalas?

- The Tweed Coast KPoM covers a wide range of issues including development control, strategic planning, koala habitat restoration, managing threats from roads, dogs, fire and disease, community engagement, implementation and ongoing monitoring, reporting and review.
- The KPoM has been prepared based on the best available information, including the outcomes of Council's current natural resource management programs. For example, the Koala Connections project has already initiated relevant actions including koala habitat restoration through planting more than 20,000 trees and regeneration of more than 60 hectares of habitat.
- The KPoM is a detailed plan to continue and expand these programs to ensure all of the key issues of concern are understood and addressed throughout the Tweed Coast community.

How can I help?

- Everyone has a role to play in helping save the Tweed Coast koalas. This includes retaining koala food trees, driving carefully (especially at night and on koala roads), keeping dogs under control and reporting koala sightings. Even planting just a few preferred koala food trees can help.
- You can also get involved in one of the local community organisations that are actively assisting with koala conservation such as Team Koala and Friends of the Koala.

How can I have my say on the draft KPoM?

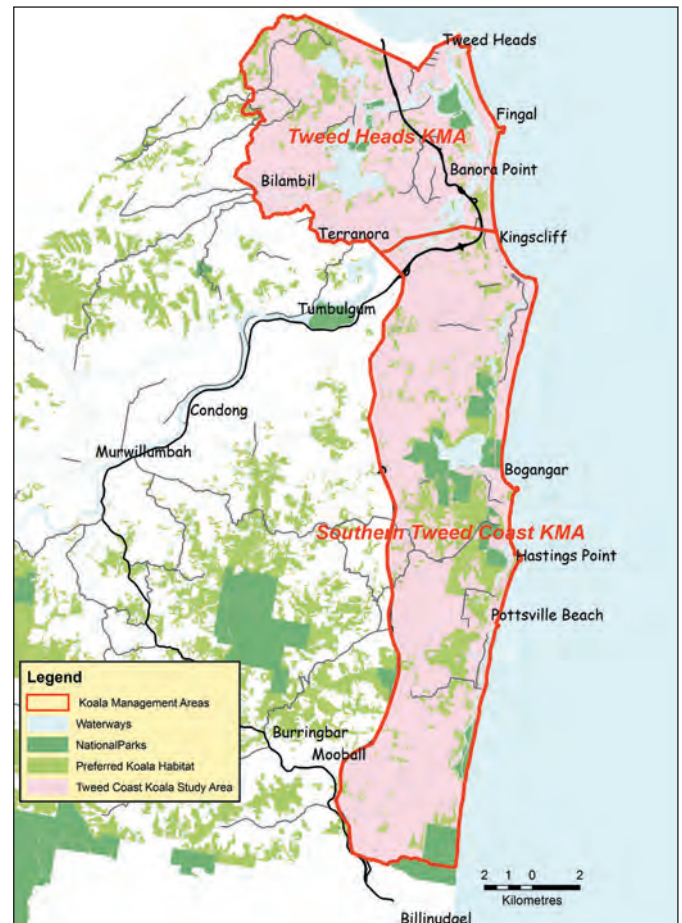
- You can access further information on the KPoM by attending an information session, market stall or making an appointment to discuss the plan with Council staff.
- Make a written submission to Council by post, email or via Council's online hub for community engagement www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014. All submissions must be received by close of business on Tuesday 2 December 2014.
- All submissions will be considered by Council in the process of preparing the final KPoM before adoption by Council and approval by the Department of Planning.

Will my property be affected?

- Your property will only be affected if you propose to carry out development in the most important areas of koala habitat.
- You may also choose to participate in voluntary koala conservation programs.
- *Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management Frequently asked questions - for landholders fact sheet* for further details.

Who do I contact if I want more information?

- Council's Natural Resource Management Team (02) 6670 2400



Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management Area



Come and talk to us about KOALAS IN THE TWEED

**Tweed Shire Council's draft
Tweed Coast Comprehensive
Koala Plan of Management
is open for public comment until
Tuesday 2 December 2014.**

**Come in and have
your say today.**



TWEED
SHIRE COUNCIL

Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management



Koala Plan

The Tweed Coast koala population has declined by approximately 50 per cent in the last decade. Have your say on a draft plan to help them recover.

[find out more...](#)



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- [Residents urged to stay clear of rare Bush Stone-curlews](#) 15/10/2014
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- [Painting a clearer picture about dementia](#) 08/10/2014
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On Exhibition

[Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management](#)
21 October 2014 - 2 December 2014

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Koala Plan

The Tweed Coast koala population has declined by approximately 50 per cent in the last decade. Have your say on a draft plan to help them recover.

[find out more...](#)

I Want To...

- Apply for a Beach Vehicle Permit
- Find Boat Ramps and Jetties
- Manage pests on my property
- Understand Tree Preservation Orders
- Find a Community Environment Group
- Hire an animal trap
- Book an educational tour
- Report illegal dumping/littering

Natural Resource Management

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Beach Vehicle Permits | - Flora and Fauna |
| - Biodiversity Program | - Pest Management |
| - Bush Fires and Permits | - State of the Environment Report |
| - Coal Seam Gas | - Sustainability Program |
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| - Environmental Projects | - Waterways Management |

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Renewable Energy

Think Tank

Home :: Environment :: Sustainability Program :: Energy

Energy



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[Energy Smart Homes Policy \(1.96mB PDF\)](#)

With the cost of energy increasing, it's not just for environmental reasons that it makes sense to improve the efficiency of our energy usage. Energy efficiency simply means using less energy to achieve the same result.

Council suggests a two-pronged approach to reducing your household energy consumption:

1. Change your behaviour - this costs you nothing, and if practised regularly will deliver immediate and ongoing benefits
2. Change your fixtures - doing so will often incur an up-front cost and any purchase decisions should be well-informed

Please click on the headings below to expand/collapse the corresponding information.

Attachment 3
Tweed Link content





**ON EXHIBITION: DRAFT TWEED COAST COMPREHENSIVE
KOALA PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

The Tweed Coast koala population has declined by approximately 50 per cent in the last decade and without action there is a very real risk that koalas could disappear from the Tweed Coast within the next 15 – 20 years. Tweed Shire Council has prepared a draft management plan to help the Tweed Coast koala population recover to more sustainable levels over the next two decades.

The draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management is now on public exhibition and Council invites community feedback on the document.

To have your say - make a written submission to:

Koala Plan of Management, The General Manager, Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816 MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484 or email tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au.
Alternatively, drop in to chat with Council officers and members of the
Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Group at:

- Pottsville Markets, Philip Street, Pottsville, Sunday 2 November 2014, 7.30am - 1pm
- Kingscliff Markets, Marine Parade, Kingscliff, Saturday 22 November 2014, 7.30am - 1pm

All submissions must be received by close of business on Tuesday 2 December 2014. For more information about the project, visit www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014 or contact Scott Hetherington, Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity, on (02) 6670 2561.

Issue 881, Tuesday 21 October 2014

On Exhibition advertisement



Market display for koala plan

Want to know more about the Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management?

Then drop down to the Kingscliff Markets at Jack Bayliss Park in Marine Parade on Saturday 22 November between 7.30am and 1pm.

The Tweed Coast koala population has declined by approximately 50 per cent in the past decade and without action there is a very real risk that koalas could disappear from the Tweed Coast within the next 15-20 years.

Council has prepared a draft management plan to help the Tweed Coast koala population recover to more sustainable levels over the next two decades.

The plan also aims to provide a level of certainty to landholders regarding the development potential of their property.

The plan is on exhibition for public comment now and submissions close on 2 December 2014.

An online feedback form is also available at Council's online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed, www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014

Issue 882, Tuesday 28 October 2014

Editorial promoting ways to have your say

Attachment 4
Media releases



Comprehensive plan to help save Tweed koalas

Have your say on draft plan of management

A draft plan to save the region's dwindling koala population has gone on public exhibition, with Council inviting community members to provide their feedback.

The draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management went on public on Tuesday, delivering a strategic and comprehensive approach to a broad range of issues affecting local koalas.

Council's Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity, Scott Hetherington, said the Tweed Coast koala population had declined by approximately 50 per cent in the past decade and an holistic approach was required to prevent the mammals' extinction on the Tweed Coast.

"This plan provides a unique opportunity to comprehensively address the critical situation facing Tweed Coast koalas by looking all the risk factors collectively, rather than in isolation," Mr Hetherington said.

"Some of the key actions include a habitat restoration program, planning and development provisions and strategies to reduce road mortality, dog attack and the impacts of wildfire. The habitat restoration program will identify the areas of most value to koalas for revegetation and weed management works and will build on the work already underway through the Koala Connections project.

Mr Hetherington said the draft plan was based on the best available science, detailed field assessment and extensive consultation with relevant organisations, community groups and individuals

"The plan also provides landholders more certainty about how their property might be affected by koala conservation measures."

Council has been working closely with the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Group to develop the plan, and we're now seeking input from the broader community," he said.

Council officers and representatives of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Group will host information stalls at upcoming market days at Pottsville on Sunday 2 November and Kingscliff on Saturday 22 November.

An online feedback form is available at Council's online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed, at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014.

Copies of the draft plan are available at Council's offices at Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads, and online at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition and www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014.

- ends -

Last chance to have your say on Tweed Coast koala plan

Submissions close Tuesday 2 December

Submissions on a draft plan to save the region's dwindling koala population close on Tuesday 2 December and the Tweed community is urged to have a say.

The draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management is currently on public exhibition and outlines a strategic and comprehensive approach to a broad range of issues affecting local koalas.

Council's Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity, Scott Hetherington, a co-author of the plan, said there had been a positive response to the plan at information booths hosted by Council at the Pottsville and Kingscliff markets in recent weeks.

"We've spoken to about 150 people at the markets and the general feedback has been very supportive of the plan," Mr Hetherington said.

"In addition to feedback gained through the markets, Council has hosted information sessions for community and industry groups to ensure they have all the information they need to have their say on the plan.

"In making a submission, some of the questions people might consider include whether the plan responds to the full range of issues facing koalas on the Tweed Coast, whether it strikes the right balance between future development and koala conservation, and whether it places any unreasonable burdens on any section of the community."

Submissions are invited until close of business on Tuesday 2 December 2014.

An online feedback form is also available on Council's online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed, at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014.

Copies of the draft plan are available from Council's offices at Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads, and online at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition and www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014.

For further information, please contact Council's Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity, Scott Hetherington, on (02) 6670 2400.

- ends -

Attachment 5
Media coverage



Koala strategy

■ A DRAFT plan to save the region's dwindling koala population has gone on public exhibition, with the council inviting community members to provide their feedback. The council's senior program leader (biodiversity), Scott Hetherington, said the Tweed Coast koala population had declined by about 50% in the past decade and a holistic approach was required to prevent the mammals' extinction on the Tweed Coast. Visit yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014.

Attachment 6
Direct mail



Council Reference: Koala Plan of Management
Your Reference:

10 October 2014

XXX
xxx
xxx

Dear Sir / Madam

Draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management

The Tweed Coast koala population has declined by approximately 50 per cent in the last decade and without action there is a very real risk that koalas could disappear from the Tweed Coast within the next 15 – 20 years.

Tweed Shire Council has prepared a draft management plan to help the Tweed Coast koala population recover to more sustainable levels over the next two decades.

The plan also aims to provide landholders with an increased level of certainty as to how their property might be affected by koala conservation measures.

The draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management is now on public exhibition and Council invites community feedback on the document.

There are many ways you can have your say:

Chat to Council officers and members of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Group at a local market stall

- Sunday 2 November 2014, 7.30am - 1pm
Pottsville Markets, Philip Street Reserve, Pottsville
- Saturday 22 November 2014, 7.30am - 1pm
Kingscliff Markets, Jack Bayliss Park, Marine Parade, Kingscliff

Make a submission

- By post to Koala Plan of Management, The General Manager, PO Box 816, MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484
- By email to tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au
- Online at Your Say Tweed, www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014.

All submissions must be received by close of business on Tuesday 2 December 2014.

A digital copy of the plan and supporting information, including maps and frequently asked questions, are available online at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014.

Hard copies of the plan are available for viewing at Council's offices at Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads.

If you have any questions, please contact me on (02) 6670 2561.

Yours sincerely

Scott Hetherington

Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity

Council Reference: Koala Plan of Management
Your Reference:

10 October 2014

XXX
xxx
xxx

Dear Sir / Madam

Draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management

The Tweed Coast koala population has declined by approximately 50 per cent in the last decade and without action there is a very real risk that koalas could disappear from the Tweed Coast within the next 15 – 20 years.

Tweed Shire Council has prepared a draft Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management in accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 - Koala Habitat Protection.

The plan has been prepared with the assistance of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Group and through detailed consultation with relevant agencies and organisations.

We are writing to advise that the draft Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management is now on public exhibition.

Submissions are invited until close of business on Tuesday 2 December 2014 and may be made to Koala Plan of Management, The General Manager, PO Box 816, MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484 or by email to tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au.

A digital copy of the plan and supporting information, including maps and frequently asked questions, are available online at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/koalaplan2014.

Hard copies of the plan are available for viewing at Council's offices at Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads.

If you have any questions, please contact me on (02) 6670 2561.

Yours sincerely

Scott Hetherington
Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity



TWEED

SHIRE COUNCIL

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