

Wildlife Protection Area Declarations
 Submissions analysis
 Exhibition period: 21 May – 17 June 2018

Sub #	Name	Issue/s	Response
1	Respondent 1	1. Supports the WPAs at Pottsville and proposes Council adoption	1. Noted and acknowledged
2	Respondent 2	1. Supports the WPAs at Pottsville, stating they are necessary and urgently required.	1. Noted and acknowledged
3	Respondent 3	1. Advocates for animal equality, both native and non-native, including “free-living cats”. 2. Fears the WPA Policy could lead to a cat cull. Advocates instead for desexing and release of cats into the wild (i.e. free-living cats attached to a fed colony). Considers this as the best way to minimise suffering.	1. Noted 2. Noted. This is beyond the scope of both the WPA Policy and WPA declarations. The WPA Policy aims to prohibit ‘owned’ domestic cats in high conservation areas, with the onus on cat owners to responsibly manage their cats providing increased animal welfare outcomes plus increased conservation outcomes. The Policy and declarations only allow a cat or dog owner to be fined if their pet is found to be within a WPA. The Policy or declarations do not enable a ‘cat cull’.
4	Respondent 4	1. Supports WPAs at Pottsville, stating it is important to protect native fauna from domestic cats and dogs and areas of high conservation and biodiversity must be protected.	1. Noted and acknowledged

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5	Respondent 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports WPAs at Pottsville, acknowledging these declarations will assist Council in protecting susceptible fauna in these areas from domestic cats and dogs. 2. Emphasises the importance of protecting all fauna in bushland, not just threatened species, from the impact of cats and dogs to stop further decline of biodiversity. 3. Exclusion of cats and dogs from bushland plus public education about the impact of domestic pets on wildlife important to protect wildlife. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and acknowledged 2. Noted and acknowledged that not just threatened fauna but all susceptible fauna need protection from the impacts of cats and dogs. Council will prioritise its bushland reserves for future WPA declaration status based on presence of susceptible species and resources to effectively implement WPA status. 3. Through its programs like “Love Cats Love Wildlife”, Backyard Habitat for Wildlife, Land for Wildlife and Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management, Council will continue to promote responsible pet ownership to benefit Tweed’s biodiversity.
6	Respondent 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Birdwatcher concerned about the decline in small birds acknowledges the impact of predation by cats. Therefore supports WPAs at Pottsville. 2. Would like to see WPAs extended to other areas of bushland beyond the Pottsville area. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and acknowledged 2. Council will prioritise its bushland reserves for future WPA declaration status based on presence of susceptible species and resources to effectively implement WPA status.
7	Respondent 7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports WPAs in the Tweed, having worked with and cared for wildlife and seen first-hand the impacts of cats and dogs. 2. Considers WPAs and safe corridors as essential for survival of our wildlife and questions that if we don’t do something to save our wildlife, who will? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and acknowledged 2. Noted and acknowledged

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8	Respondent 8	1. Supports WPAs, commending the proposal having recently moved to Tweed for the wildlife and environment, and now a wildlife carer.	1. Noted and acknowledged
9	Respondent 9	1. Supports WPAs at Pottsville, stating it is important to protect native fauna from domestic cats and dogs and Council managed bushland of high conservation and biodiversity must be protected.	1. Noted and acknowledged
10	Respondent 10	1. Supports WPAs at Pottsville, stating it is important to protect susceptible native fauna from the impacts of domestic cats and dogs in Council managed bushland of high conservation and biodiversity.	1. Noted and acknowledged
11	Respondent 11	1. Supports WPAs at Pottsville and declaring Council managed bushland with high biodiversity and conservation value as WPAs. 2. Acknowledges the importance of protecting susceptible fauna from the impact of domestic cats and dogs.	1. Noted and acknowledged 2. Noted and acknowledged
12	Respondent 12	1. Did not state whether supportive or not of WPAs but acknowledged wildlife and habitat (i.e. plants and animals) are crucial to our survival and well-being.	1. Noted and acknowledged
13	Respondent 13	1. Supports WPAs at Pottsville, stating the importance to birds and wildlife of safe natural bushland areas and recognising the importance to future generations of our diverse native birdlife in the Tweed.	1. Noted and acknowledged
14	Respondent 14	1. Requests that the Koala Beach WPA be extended to include other adjoining bushland areas on the coast and Cudgera Creek	1. Noted. Council will prioritise its bushland reserves for future WPA declaration status based on presence of susceptible species and resources to effectively implement WPA status.

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15	Respondent 15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports WPAs at Pottsville, stating the importance of protecting vulnerable wildlife in bushland from the impacts of domestic cats and dogs. 2. Following the establishment of WPAs, enforcement of dog and cat prohibition needs to be undertaken, otherwise WPAs are meaningless. 3. Tweed residents deserve the opportunity to see koalas, bush stone-curlews and other wildlife now and in the future. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and acknowledged 2. Noted. As per the WPA Policy, public education, monitoring and enforcement will be undertaken as required to ensure WPAs are an effective mechanism to protect native wildlife from the impacts of cats and dogs. 3. Noted and acknowledged
16	Respondent 16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports WPAs at Pottsville and confirms that the three proposed areas meet the criteria for declaration as Category 1 lands, as per the WPA Policy. 2. Acknowledges the over whelming evidence supporting the claim of harm to native fauna from cats and dogs, including harm to native birds from domestic cats and harm to ground dwelling and nesting birds from domestic dogs. 3. Acknowledges the diversity of birds in the three proposed WPAs and other bushland areas in the Tweed. Also acknowledges that these and other bushland areas in the Tweed attract many birdwatchers to the area, including from the broader Northern Rivers region. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and acknowledged 2. Noted and acknowledged. 3. Noted and acknowledged.
17	Caldera Environment Centre	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fully supports WPAs at Pottsville and notes that these high conservation bushlands contribute to existing high conservation protected areas (i.e. Cudgen Nature Reserve). 2. Supports the inclusion of other identified 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and acknowledged. 2. Noted. Council will prioritise its bushland

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		bushland reserves for protection under the WPA banner, particularly in light of increasing urbanisation and impacts from cats and dogs.	reserves for future WPA declaration status based on presence of susceptible species and resources to effectively implement WPA status.
18	Earth Learning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commends Council for the initiative of establishing WPAs, acknowledging increasing population pressure causing habitat loss and dog and cat attack. 2. Confirms Tweed Valley Wildlife Carer statistics of very high rate of domestic pet attacks on native wildlife resulting in death and injury. 3. Notes the high conservation values of proposed WPAs and supports the declaration of these areas as WPAs. 4. Supports WPA status be extended to other natural areas where native wildlife are seriously impacted by domestic pets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and acknowledged. 2. Noted and acknowledged. 3. Noted and acknowledged. 4. Noted. Council will prioritise its bushland reserves for future WPA declaration status based on presence of susceptible species and resources to effectively implement WPA status.
19	Team Koala	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fully supports WPAs at Pottsville, acknowledging the impacts of dogs and cats on koalas and other fauna on the Tweed Coast. 2. Acknowledges that declaration of WPAs are consistent with Council's Community Strategic Plan in protection and management of the natural environment. 3. Emphasises the; 1) importance of monitoring, evaluation and enforcement of cat and dog prohibition at these sites; and 2) importance of a strategy for dog owners who utilise wildlife areas as dog exercise areas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and acknowledged. 2. Noted and acknowledged. 3. Noted. As per the WPA Policy, public education, monitoring and enforcement will be undertaken as required to ensure WPAs are an effective mechanism to protect native wildlife from the impacts of cats and dogs.
20	Tweed Landcare Inc	1. Supports WPAs at Pottsville, acknowledging their high conservation value, proximity to other conservation reserves and representing the few	1. Noted and acknowledged.

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		<p>remaining intact natural areas on the Tweed Coast.</p> <p>2. Supports that the WPA status be extended to other natural areas where native wildlife are seriously impacted by domestic pets.</p>	<p>2. Noted. Council will prioritise its bushland reserves for future WPA declaration status based on presence of susceptible species and resources to effectively implement WPA status.</p>