

Minutes

Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 12 April 2023

Venue: Pottsville Environment Park

Time: 10am

Present:

Cr Chris Cherry (Mayor) (Chair), Jane Lofthouse, Scott Benitez Heatherington, Yvonne Gardiner, Irene Timmins, Rosealie Vallance, Frances Smith-Wright (Minutes)

Informal:

Noel Hart, Helene Sheean, Chris Farnell; Alan Whiting

Apologies:

Nil

Acknowledgement of Country

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Irene Timmins

Seconded: Yvonne Gardiner

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat Management Committee meeting held on 29 June 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting with an amendment to:

GB2. Road safety petition update – note that the initial response issued by Council's Traffic Committee in response to the petition did not indicate the committee supported the listed actions (Traffic Committee Minutes 19 May 2022). See extract from letter dated 14 July 2022 below (received after this meeting).

Business Arising:

BA1. Action List

Refer to Action List below.

BA2. Crossing Banner

Spotty's crossing banner has been removed. It is not able to be replaced in that location as it was tied to trees.

Agenda Items:

A1. Committee

Expressions of Interest close 19 April 2023; report to Executive Leadership Team (ELT) on 17 May. Nine applications submitted so far. First meeting to be held in June. Meeting schedule 2023-2024 to be determined at first meeting of new committee.

Status of Management Committee – all Council committees were reviewed and the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee (KBW&HMC) fits the criteria for a management committee of Council as it provides advice directly to Council officers on operational matters. The Council report of February 2022 outlining these criteria was circulated to the committee with the agenda.

The minutes of the meetings are reported to ELT. The minutes can be reported to Council if required when there is a 'Recommendation' that requires action by Council (rather than Council

officers). Noted that minutes provided as a Council report does not necessarily highlight issues due to the volume of papers presented to Councillors each meeting.

Moved: Irene Timmins

Seconded: Rosealie Vallance

RESOLVED: That the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee requests to be advised with adequate notice of any proposed changes to its status and operation and be given the opportunity to engage in discussion prior to any decisions being made. This should also include giving notice of changes to the size, management and land use of protected bushland and Council managed areas.

A2. Social

A2.1 Signage project

Discussion on progressing entrance signage looking at design elements, placement, and type of structure. A signage strategy would consider all types of signage, key messages and priorities, entry signs as well as regulatory, advisory, and educational signs.

Rosealie mentioned that the sign at Cudgera Avenue Park which shows the endangered flora and fauna on the Estate needed cleaning. Rosealie to send Jane a photo. Jane to check if sign writers have original file if replacement sign is required.

A2.2 Communication

More residents need to be encouraged to sign up to the newsletter, circulation is currently only 99. Rosealie reported on the community survey responses:

- 68 responses - > 10% of residents – good result
- 60%- resident in Koala Beach for more than 5 years
- 92% - reside at Koala Beach because of natural features.

Rosealie to send out survey results to committee and provide a briefing to the new committee.

A2.3 Fencing Compliance

Discussion on the best way to communicate with residents on their responsibility to ensure that all fencing was wildlife friendly.

Moved: Irene Timmins

Seconded: Rosealie Vallance

RESOLVED that Council officers be requested to send a letter to each ratepayer advising them of the need to ensure that their fencing is compliant with the covenant requirement.

A2.4 Community Day November 2022

Well done to the organisers of the community day. It was well attended and a great success.

A2.5 Welcome pack

To be progressed through Council's Communications Unit.

A2.6 Workgroup progress report

School art project update from Rosealie and Noel.

Pottsville Primary school very interested in project with a presentation to Year 6 (approx. 90 students) well received. Project to start in term 2. Jane to book signage construction and installation with relevant staff for August / September. Bridge to be cleaned prior.

A3. Environmental

A3.1 Wildlife survey update

Scott went through the management status report and gave an update on the wildlife surveys and priority actions being taken. Committee requested a copy of the Rabbit and Hare monitoring and control Plan.

A3.2 Wildlife fatalities

Discussion on amount of wildlife still being hit by vehicles.

The response from Council (July 2022) regarding the traffic calming options reproduced below.

We apologise for misleading you in recent correspondence referencing traffic calming devices in Koala Beach.

The comment was intended to convey that to be effective in maintaining the desired speed, traffic calming devices should be spaced at minimal intervals, and the Koala Beach precinct has over 5kms of road network. To implement a Local Area Traffic Management scheme to maintain a consistent speed requires the allocation of significant resources including police enforcement and engineering devices. Traffic calming can take a number of forms including, speed humps, roundabouts, slow points and modified intersections.

Koala Beach, when developed over 20 years ago, was designated with a 40km/h area speed limit and entry treatments and signage define the roads covered by this speed limit. Additional pavement numerals will be installed within the next week. The access to and through the precinct is along Macadamia Dr, Sassafras St and Cudgera Ave. This road length has 4 roundabouts (including at Tweed Coast Rd and Tom Merchant Dr), four raised platforms and four internal intersections with contrasting pavement treatments.

Previous speed surveys on Sassafras St at No.62 indicated that the majority of vehicles are not travelling at excessive speeds through the area.

A3.3 Damage to bushland by Water Unit contractors

Scott following up with the Water Unit contractors as further detail has been requested. Noted that amended procedures have been put in place. There is another location in Koala Beach estate that has been highlighted as sensitive for any future works.

A4 Economic

Budget update was provided with agenda. Scott presented an update of the budget figures.

Input for 2023-2024 budget: Irene put forward a case for allocation of funds from the Koala Beach Estate budget to purchase radar signs. Introducing more speed humps would also assist in the control of speed but are considerably more expensive. Irene to send radar quotes through to the committee. There would need to be ongoing allocations for maintenance and replacement costs.

Moved: Irene Timmins

Seconded: Rosealie Vallance

RESOLVED that relevant Council officers be requested to investigate an option of increasing the number of speed humps on key roads experiencing high wildlife road fatalities. Also investigate installation of permanent speed radar signs which could include seasonal messaging on the main through-roads of Cudgera Avenue and Sassafras Street. Noting that funding may be able to come from Koala Beach Estate levies and possible grant funding due to the impacts on wildlife safety from the high number of motorists that use Koala Beach as a through road and village bypass.

General Business:

GB1. Council Staff Induction to Koala Beach Estate

Limited discussion due to time constraints on staff inductions to values of Koala Beach Estate. Note that this is very resource intensive and requires further consideration on how it could be implemented.

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Moved: Irene Timmins

Seconded: Rosealie Vallance

RESOLVED that key council staff, community contact points, contractors and operational staff should receive an induction and tick-box checklist of guidelines that will alert them to the unique management requirements of the Koala Beach Estate.

Next Meeting: June 2023

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.

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Meeting date	No.	Action	Status	Action by:
4 Nov 2020	1120-2	<i>'Code of Conduct for Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisors' briefing at the next Committee meeting.</i>	Deferred to new committee.	Scott
7 April	0421-5	<i>Scott to arrange a site visit (2 hours) for the committee to feature the habitat restoration program, nest box program and common blossom bat monitoring and management.</i>	Postponed to new committee.	Scott
4 August	0821-1	<i>Jane and Scott to seek clarification on Council's position on assistance animals in public areas including sensitive locations and whether a policy should be developed.</i>	In progress. Scott to request Team Leader Rangers consider a council policy on assistance animals in Council managed public areas.	Scott
4 August	0821-2	<i>Working group to walk around site and consider areas for different types of signage placement.</i>	In progress Wildlife entry signs now ready for installation.	Scott
4 August	0821-4	<i>Council to assist with design of folder for Welcome pack.</i>	Yvonne to resend brochure through to Jane for comms to design and print	Jane
7 October	1021-1	<i>Jane to present Entrance design and construction ideas to sign writers.</i>	Involve new committee in design. Revisit suggested designs from working group. Possible inclusion of "Acknowledgment of Country".	Jane / Working Group
29 June	0622-2	<i>Vertebrate pest management and monitoring- Scott to discuss with crew planting dense vegetation around creek bed (near footbridge) to prevent Cane Toad access.</i>	In progress	Scott
29 June	0622-5	<i>Jane to give update at next meeting on actions regarding unauthorised dogs on the estate.</i>	Council has engaged a solicitor and a barrister to advance action in NSW Supreme Court.	Jane
12 April 2023	0423-1	<i>JL to check Koala Beach to have gutter covers installed prior to next breeding season.</i>	In progress	Jane
12 April	0423-2	<i>Tree replacement procedure</i>	Send final copy to Committee	Scott
12 April	0423-3	<i>Develop an integrated communication and signage strategy. Working group to consider key messages for strategy.</i>	Jane to liaise with Comms unit.	Jane / Working group
12 April	0423-4	<i>Bridge Mural project. Jane to book in project with council staff for construction and installation August – September</i>		Jane
12 April	0423-5	<i>Committee requested a copy of the Rabbit and Hare monitoring and control Plan. Scott to send out plan to committee</i>		Scott
12 April	0423-6	<i>Council letter to residents advising them of the need to ensure that their fencing is compliant with the covenant requirement.</i>		Jane
12 April	0423-7	<i>Investigate an option of increasing the number of speed humps on key</i>		Scott

Meeting date	No.	Action	Status	Action by:
		<i>roads experiencing high wildlife road fatalities. Also investigate installation of permanent speed radar signs which could include seasonal messaging on the main through-roads of Cudgera Avenue and Sassafrass Street.</i>		
12 April	0423-8	<i>key council staff, community contact points, contractors and operational staff should receive an induction and tick-box checklist of guidelines that will alert them to the unique management requirements of the Koala Beach Estate</i>	Requires significant resourcing to develop and comms strategy to implement	Jane

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

A1. Committee

That the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee requests to be advised with adequate notice of any proposed changes to its status and operation and be given the opportunity to engage in discussion prior to any decisions being made. This should also include giving notice of changes to the size, management and land use of protected bushland and Council managed areas.

ELT recommends: That the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee be placed on the Councillor portal.

A2.3 Fencing Compliance

That Council officers be requested to send a letter to each ratepayer advising them of the need to ensure that their fencing is compliant with the covenant requirement.

ELT recommends: That the issue of fencing compliance in Koala Beach is to be further considered by the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee.

A4. Economic

That relevant Council officers be requested to investigate an option of increasing the number of speed humps on key roads experiencing high wildlife road fatalities. Also investigate installation of permanent speed radar signs which could include seasonal messaging on the main through-roads of Cudgera Avenue and Sassafrass Street. Noting that funding may be able to come from Koala Beach estate levies and possible grant funding due to the impacts on wildlife safety from the high number of motorists that use Koala Beach as a through road and village bypass.

ELT recommends: That the committee develop a proposal for further consideration by the traffic unit and Local Traffic Committee which includes identifying objectives, proposed strategies and measures, funding and management options.

GB1. Council Staff Induction to Koala Beach Estate

That key council staff, community contact points, contractors and operational staff should receive an induction and tick-box checklist of guidelines that will alert them to the unique management requirements of the Koala Beach Estate.

ELT recommends: That the committee be advised that this action is not able to be implemented.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Decision that the Executive Leadership Team:

1. Endorses the minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee held Wednesday 12 April 2023 and
2. Notes the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee's recommendations and officer comments and recommends as follows:

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