

Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 2 June 2021

Venue: Reef Room

Time: 1:00pm

Present: Mayor Chris Cherry (Chair), Irene Timmins, Yvonne Gardiner, Rosealie Vallance (Community Representatives), Jane Lofthouse, Scott Benitez Hetherington, Frances Smith-Wright (Minutes) (Tweed Shire Council).

Apologies:

Cr Cherry opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and a mention of the importance of reconciliation week.

Cr Cherry welcomed residents of the Koala Beach Estate (7 pax)

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Irene Timmins

Seconded: Yvonne Gardiner

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat Management Committee meeting held Wednesday 7 April 2021 as tabled be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

BA1. Fence Approval Process and Compliance

Jane reiterated the information from last meeting that Section 88B instruments under the *Conveyancing Act 1919* are restrictions on the title with the lots either/both benefitted and burdened with the restriction. The restriction is attached to the land. This means that it is the landowners' responsibility to comply with the intention of the instrument. Council staff will investigate if there has been a breach of consent conditions for an individual house or the original subdivision of the land. Any breach to conditions of consent may be formally lodged with Council and investigated in accordance with Council's Compliance Policy.

It was suggested that if there was a collective interest, then a submission could be made to the committee and Council approached through the committee to take action. The scale of the issue needs to be determined by encouraging people to report non-compliant fences.

BA2. Site Visits

Scott is in the process of organising the agreed site visit to provide increased information and understanding of the habitat restoration program, nest box program and common blossom bat monitoring and management.

BA3. Traffic Calming

Jane reported that Council had resolved for staff to undertake an internal review of existing traffic calming and traffic calming options for the Koala Beach Estate. Analysis of Traffic data to be reported on in 6 months. To contribute to this assessment, data collated from the community on wildlife injury and death would be useful to assist in determining hotspots. Keep on agenda.

Agenda Items:

A1. Social

(A) Logo and Signage Project

Irene gave an update and explanation of the logo which was created by Christine Slabb. The committee members expressed that they were very happy with the logo. The next step is to complete the brochure and entry signage. It was discussed that a comprehensive plan for signage throughout the estate would assist to avoid ad-hoc sign installation and reduce the likelihood of having too many signs. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service signage that was removed from the estate entry some time ago, and other signs that need consideration for removal or replacement, were discussed.

(B) Communication – resident survey.

Survey questions for Koala Beach residents are in development.

The objectives for the survey are:

1. To determine a baseline of resident's knowledge of the environmental values of the estate.
2. To gauge the community's willingness to participate in maintaining and enhancing environmental values.
3. To let residents know a committee has formed and the role of the committee.

It was discussed that using Survey Monkey would be a good platform for the resident survey. This would then be linked in with the Newsletter. Discussion on using a text message to contact participants so they can fill it in from their phones.

Action: Jane to organise a meeting with Rosealie to discuss Survey Monkey and the roll out of the survey.

(C) Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve Community Day.

Scott gave a brief description of the day to be held on Saturday 31 July (8.30am -12.30pm), which involves tree planting and community information.

Location: Bushland reserve at the end of Lomandra Avenue.

(D) Working Group report on progress

Rosealie referred to the working group activity report that she had sent out prior to the meeting.

Educational signage – looking at having an educational walking trail with tree identification signs located along the trail. Also having a wildlife friendly plaque for display at homes that have wildlife friendly gardens. It was noted that the council *Backyard Habitat for Wildlife* program provided this service and could be promoted through the newsletter.

Koala Beach brochure - Yvonne awaiting feedback on the draft brochure and for Jane to arrange to meet with communications section to finalise the brochure. Design and layout of brochure to incorporate logo and colour palate created by Christine Slabb.

Action: Jane to coordinate with Yvonne to finalise brochure content and submit to communications unit for design and layout

A2. Environmental

Wildlife Surveys

Scott gave a brief summary on current wildlife survey actions in accordance with the development consent and management guidelines:

- Blossom bat management and monitoring. The management plan has been reviewed, finalised and published. Implementation of revised plan includes banksia plantings to supplement habitat resources.
- Coastal Planigale monitoring and reporting has been completed and the management plan is under final review. Completed reports can be found on the Koala Beach website.
- Glossy black-cockatoo activity and artificial hollow monitoring is underway. Replacement of tree guards at nest boxes to be completed.
- Koala activity monitoring is completed every three years across the Tweed Coast, with the next monitoring event to commence in July 2021. Koala Beach is integrated with 70 + sites for the Tweed Coast.
- Other wildlife actions – nest boxes installed in parks are well used by both sugar gliders and nightjars.
- Vertebrate pest management – council is currently delivering a regional grant funded project for feral deer management. The 2020-2022 work program is also underway including fox trapping and shooting. Cat traps are available to residents if needed.

Habitat enhancement

- The occurrence of weeds in street plantings was noted by residents and the committee. It was suggested that they are noted, mapped and reported to the committee for collation and then provision to the relevant council unit to address as a single body of work.
- A draft protocol for managing street trees in Koala Beach has been prepared and submitted to relevant staff for review. This protocol aims to reconcile the commitment to having a koala food tree per lot within the streetscape with the safe location of habitat trees and the occasional impacts on public and private infrastructure such as footpaths and driveways.

Habitat assessment

- Remote camera monitoring is currently used as part of the overall Tweed Coast vertebrate pest monitoring program with on average two cameras at Koala Beach. The working group requested if it was possible to increase the use of cameras. The ability to do this would depend on what species are being monitored and the identification of suitable locations. The risk and cost of vandalism to cameras in public places was noted and the potential opportunity to recommend residents purchase their own cameras was discussed. An article providing guidance on how to purchase and operate cameras was recommended for the next newsletter.

Action: Scott to report back on the cost of purchasing a remote camera and associated equipment for consideration as an education and monitoring initiative to be managed by the committee.

A3. Economic

2021/22 Budget update and finance report

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Scott discussed the budget and finance report as distributed to the committee prior to the meeting.

It was suggested that a flora and fauna survey be completed of Koala Beach to determine the current status and levels of improvement.

Scott also noted that council had received funding through the national bushfire resilience and recovery program to audit Asset Protection Zones throughout the Shire against current bushfire planning standards. Koala Beach has been generally designed well for bushfire protection with perimeter road and asset protection zones. The outcomes of the audit and any required actions will be shared with the committee at a future meeting.

General Business:

GB1. It was confirmed that Patricia Hayes has resigned as a committee member as of the last committee meeting.

GB2. Spotty's Crossing sign. This sign was discussed and confirmed as an informal sign that had been installed by a private resident. Discussion on the dilapidated condition of the sign, noting it is popular with residents. As it is tied to trees Council would not be able to replace the sign. For discussion and a decision at the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held Wednesday 4 August 2021.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Minutes

Meeting date	No.	Action	Status
4 Nov 2020	1120-2	<i>Senior Program Leader Biodiversity to arrange for a 'Code of Conduct for Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisors' briefing at the next Committee meeting.</i>	Deferred to new committee.
4 Nov 2020	1120-7	<i>Development of an integrated communication strategy to include estate entry and traffic warning signs to be included in next 2021/22 budget and to be included as an Agenda item for next meeting.</i>	JL to organise meeting with Communications & Engagement Unit- complete Maintain on agenda
4 Nov 2020	1120-8	<i>Committee members encouraged to form a working group to meet outside of the committee meetings to develop ideas for the communications strategy. Responsibility: Committee.</i>	Ongoing
3 Feb 2021	0221-1	<i>JL to check and provide feedback on gutter cover trials.</i>	Trial not successful due to materials, to be trialled again next breeding season.
3 Feb 2021	0221-3	<i>Committee members will start working on wording and content for a DL sized brochure to be submitted to Council for graphic design and printing to provide for delivery to each household in Koala Beach and provision to new residents.</i>	In progress
7 April	0421-1	<i>Terms of Reference document to be placed on Council's website with a link on the Koala Beach page.</i>	Note that there is a current freeze on website content until late June, this will be actioned after access is permitted again.
7 April	0421-2	<i>Jane to report on status of traffic calming investigations and forward Irene's email with hotspot map to relevant staff.</i>	On Going – report due Oct/Nov
7 April	0421-4	<i>Jane to report back on fence approval process (is development consent required) and compliance process.</i>	Working group to encourage reporting of non-compliant fences to determine extent of issue
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>	In progress
2 June	0621-1	<i>Jane to organise a meeting with comms and Rosealie to discuss Survey Monkey.</i>	
2 June	0621-2	<i>Yvonne to meet with Communications officer to finalise brochure.</i>	
2 June	0621-3	<i>Scott to look at camera costings – heavy duty but low cost.</i>	