

Minutes

Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 21 June 2023

Venue:

Pottsville Environment Park

Time:

1.00pm

Present:

Cr Meredith Dennis (Deputy Mayor) (Chair); Cr Chris Cherry (Mayor), Yvonne Gardiner, Irene Timmins, Noel Hart, Helene Sheean, Paula Searle, Sandy Pimm, Caterina Barry (online), Jane Lofthouse, Scott Benitez Hetherington, Frances Smith-Wright (Minutes).

Apologies:

Rosealie Vallance, Lila Whiting.

Acknowledgement of Country

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Irene Timmins

Seconded: Noel Hart

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee meeting held Wednesday 12 April 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Preliminaries:

Member Introductions – Cr Dennis welcomed all continuing and new members to the meeting. Opportunity was provided for all members to introduce themselves and their particular interest in the committee.

Election of Chair:

Cr Dennis proceeded to ask for nominations for the position of Chairperson to the new committee. Cr Meredith Dennis was nominated by Irene Timmins and Yvonne Gardiner. Cr Dennis accepted the nomination. There were no more nominations put forward. Cr Dennis was elected Chairperson of the committee and unanimously voted in by all members present.

Cr Dennis thanked everyone and with the agreement of the committee assumed the role of Chairperson.

Business Arising:

BA1. Review Action List

Refer to Action List

BA2. Update on legal action on resident dog

The owners of the dog have been given an extension until August to resolve this matter.

BA3. Non-compliant fencing correspondence.

A discussion was had as to the noncompliant fencing in the estate and the considerable resources needed to follow up with compliance. The estate has numerous different covenants covering the 500 plus lots since it was established. Each Covenant would have to be reviewed as restrictions are on each. The capacity for Council to follow up is determined by the adopted compliance strategy. It was suggested that we ask planning to provide copies of the different covenants used on the estate. Irene reiterated that Koala Beach Estate has national and international recognition and is widely referenced as being a successful model of koala friendly residential development. Caterina suggested we look at it as a long-term project as opposed to trying to enforce an imperfect system.

Several suggestions included:

- Bringing together the community to discuss the issue and how to rectify it.
- Creating wildlife corridors throughout the estate in areas recognised as being highways for the local fauna – Bush Stone-curlew corridor, and Koala Highways.
- Working with fencing contractors as to how they could modify fences. Adding holes to already established non-compliant fences – a cheaper alternative!

It was decided that the working group would investigate alternatives available before presenting them to the community.

Agenda Items:

A1. Committee

Meeting schedule 2023-24

The following meeting dates were determined:

- Wednesday 20 September 2023 - Pottsville Environment Park 1pm – 3pm
- Wednesday 6 December 2023 - Pottsville Environment Park 1pm – 3 pm

Dates in 2024 (third Wednesday of the month)

- Wednesday 21 February 2024
- Wednesday 15 May 2024
- Wednesday 21 August 2024
- Fourth meeting date will be determined after local government elections in September 2024

Code of Conduct

Each committee member was sent a copy of the Code of Conduct from the Governance Unit prior to the meeting. Jane gave a summary of its contents.

Acknowledgement of Code of Conduct and Terms of Reference to be signed by each committee member.

A2. Social

A2.1 Bridge Mural Project

Noel provided an update on the bridge mural project. He rolled out a draft setup of how the mural would look showing 30 images painted by the school pertaining to the biological

diversity of the estate. Each image will go onto panels which will be glued onto the bridge down either side. The panels will include the names of all artists. The school will also be doing an art exhibition of all images.

It was suggested that maybe a small booklet of the images could be produced with reference to the school and young artists inside.

The committee thanked Noel for his work with the mural and looked forward to the finished product.

A2.2 Signage project – entry sign design elements, placement, structure

Work in progress. Working group to discuss artwork supplied and review message – important details of the current version do not stand out.

A2.3 Communication

- Community survey responses – emailed out.
- Information pack – Yvonne would like suggestions as to what goes in the pack. Helene to write a draft vision statement and present to working group.

A2.4 Workgroup progress report

As per Action List

A3. Environmental

A3.1. Wildlife survey

Planigale:

- 18 weeks of weekly monitoring completed Feb 2023 (combined Koala Beach levy and NSW government funded). Low occupancy rates, but juveniles continue to be captured.
- Monthly monitoring continuing until February 2024.

Glossy Black Cockatoo:

- 3 new artificial hollows installed and to be monitored monthly during breeding season (no cost to Koala Beach levy).
- Activity monitoring to occur when food resource is available.
- Propose to engage Wild BnB (specialist contractor) to undertake monitoring of feeding activity and nest box maintenance / monitoring.

Blossom Bat:

- Weed control in habitat area ongoing (funded through habitat restoration contract).
- Site inspection / meeting with contractor completed to finalise plans for banksia planting.

Koala management & monitoring:

No update

Artificial hollow maintenance and monitoring:

No update

Vertebrate pest management and monitoring:

High fox activity Koala Beach and adjoining property. Baiting commenced 31 May 2023 (17 sites cross tenure).

- Medium hare activity – shooting using thermal cameras conducted.
- Cat activity – Pottsville Environment Park.
- Results from recent control works being collated.

A3.2. Habitat restoration

- Contractors are completing weekly restoration works.
- Recent focus areas – Zone 11 (Macadamia west) and Zone 12 (Tongue).
- Garden waste dumping has been an issue in these areas. A letter is being prepared to go out to residents.
- Noel enquired as to storm water retention pond and the spraying that has removed some good vegetation. Pond has good potential. Noel to follow up with Steve Paff (Roads & Stormwater).

Action 0623-1: Scott to follow up with who has done the weed control in the vicinity of the Sugar Glider Drive stormwater detention pond.

A3.3 Compliance

- Motorbikes - NSW National Parks & Wildlife staff resources impacting coordination of operations with NSW Police.
- Mountain bike tracks.
- Latest activity and fire pit near water tank – ranger inspection and clean up works requested.

A3.4. Wildlife fatalities and traffic calming

Irene reiterated that there were considerable fatalities happening due to the estate being used as a through road / short cut. More speed humps and permanent speed activated traffic signs are needed. Suggestions to go through Council's Traffic Committee to approach Police to set up radar checks in vulnerable areas. Scott mentioned that if you go onto the Transport for NSW website you can nominate a site for radar checks.

A4. Economic

- Budget update (attached).
- Current budget and reserve funds expenditure - Scott presented an update of the budget figures.
- Input for 2023-24 budget – Scott confirmed that he would add the balance of reserve funds to the table in future meetings.

General Business:

GB1. Minutes of 12 April 2023

Jane confirmed the Minutes of the previous meeting will go to Council's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and will then be uploaded to the Councillors portal to allow Councillors to access the Minutes.

Minutes

Once minutes are presented to ELT will be uploaded to Council's website. Jane went through the draft minutes and gave an update on resolutions.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee will be held on Wednesday 20 September 2023

The meeting closed at 3.20pm

Date	No.	Action	Status
04/11/20	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>	Maintain on agenda – this will be removed from action list and added as Agenda item.
04/11/20	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>	This will be removed from action list and added as Agenda item (under social)
03/02/21	0221-1	<i>JL to check and provide feedback on gutter cover trials.</i>	Will be expanded next year. Numbers dependant on cost and monitoring. Jane to see how many gutter guards need to be manufactured.
07/04/21	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>	Scott to organise before next committee meeting.
04/08/21	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 – best addressed in the review of Companion Animals Policy New Team Leader Rangers commenced, will discuss this issue. Invite Kristian Pakula (Team Leader – Rangers) to next meeting.
04/08/21	0821-2	<i>Working group to walk around site and consider areas for different types of signage placement.</i>	In progress
04/08/21	0821-5	<i>Scott to provide further information about tree replacement procedures in Koala Beach estate.</i>	Draft protocol included in 29 June meeting. Use customer service request to identify non-native street trees to council. Scott to send copy to Sandy.

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07/10/21	1021-1	<i>Jane to present Entrance design and construction ideas to sign writers.</i>	No update – actions identified and agreed. Traffic Unit to be involved as in road reserve. Working group to discuss artwork supplied and review message -important details do not stand out.
23/03/22	0322-1	<i>Jane to check with ranger staff to determine process for checking addresses for animal registrations at Koala Beach Estate.</i>	There is no process in place for animals registered to the NSW Companion Animals register to be 'flagged' by address. Speak to Team Leader rangers – Kristian at next meeting.
29/06/22	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>	Not actioned to date
29/06/22	0622- 5	<i>Jane to give update at next meeting on actions regarding unauthorised dogs on the estate.</i>	Latest update to be provided at next meeting. Dog to be removed, owners have been given an extension until August.
21/06/23	0623-1	<i>Scott to follow up with who has done the weed control at the Sugar Glider Drive storm water detention pond.</i>	

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

DECISION that the Executive Leadership Team endorses the minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee held Wednesday 21 June 2023.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

DECISION that the Executive Leadership Team endorses the minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee held Wednesday 21 June 2023.