

Minutes

Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 4 August 2021

Venue: Virtual

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).

Residents: Noel Hart, Helen Hart, Chris Farnell, Shane Griffiths, Kirsty Wallis

Apologies: None

Mayor Cherry opened the meeting with an 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 Wednesday 2 June 2021 as tabled be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

BA1. Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve Community Day.

Chris confirmed the tree planting day on Saturday 31 July was a great success. Approximately 150 people, 1100 trees planted in 1 hour. A good cross section of people helping including the younger members of "Nature Explorers".

A special thank you to Tanya Fountain, Council's Bushland Officer, for her assistance.

Discussion held about an assistance dog which was brought on site and legislative rights around these animals under NSW *Companion Animals Act 1998* and *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

Action: 0821-1: *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.*

Agenda Items:

A1. Social

A1.1 Logo and Signage Project

Jane noted that use of the logo and colour palette would assist in giving Koala Beach Estate signage and communications a cohesive identity.

The working group to discuss options for signage with input from Council's graphic designer and sign shop. Wherever relevant the Wildlife Protection Area logo would also be used. Discussion on the purpose of signs in relation to where they were and message intended i.e. minimal wording if on road side and intended for people driving past.

All signage to be manufactured to be graffiti proof.

Action 0821-2: Working group to walk around site and consider areas for different types of signage placement.

A1.2 Communication – resident survey.

Discussion on using Survey Monkey although the free version does not have as much functionality as the licensed version. Jane to discuss options with the Communications Unit and liaise with Rosealie.

A1.3 Working Group report on progress

Welcome Pack – Yvonne mentioned that the new brochure will be a great addition to the welcome pack for new residents. The next steps, to produce a folder design and flyers. Priority subjects to be looked at:

- dog and cat restrictions for Koala Beach residents
- fencing rules to allow for free movement of wildlife– no existing council brochure at the moment so it was suggested a new brochure be created relevant to Koala Beach's unique situation.

Irene noted that there were areas on the estate that were 80% non-compliant with fencing regulation. Suggestions were made to have a survey done of the estate noting those areas which were not conforming and target those priority areas.

Chris reiterated that if complaints were made to Council then action can be taken. Scott reminded everyone that swimming pools fences were exempt from the fencing policy. Chris suggested a mail out to residents containing information on why there are regulations, who they apply to and options for alternative fencing. Chris Farnell noted he had received a letter about fence compliance in 2013.

Action: 0821-3: *Scott and Jane to draft letter re: fencing regulations for Koala Beach residents.*

Action: 0821-4: *Council to assist with design of folder for Welcome pack.*

A2. Environmental

A2.1 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. Commence implementation of revised management plan including establishment of trial plots and banksia planting.
- Coastal Planigale monitoring and reporting has been completed and the management plan is under final review. Finalise, publish and commence implementation of revised management plan.

- Glossy black-cockatoo activity and artificial hollow monitoring is underway. Replacement of tree guards at nest boxes to be completed. Survey reports can be found on Council website under Koala Beach estate /fauna.
- Koala activity monitoring is underway.
- Internal review of street tree management procedures underway.
- Other wildlife actions
 - Monitoring scheduled for winter 2021
 - Installation of 5 replacement boxes
 - Vertebrate pest management – 2020-2022 work program underway including cat trapping and fox detector dog searches

Discussion on the fox trapping. Working with the neighbouring sugar cane farms has enabled trapping to be done away from residential areas but the flow on effect can be seen in the camera monitoring results across the landscape.

Irene commented on the increased number of trail bike riders coming through Koala Beach and the National Parks. Discussion on the use of cameras and the recent Police operation but noted offenders hard to monitor as bikes are unregistered. Irene suggested posting on KB Facebook page encouraging people to report to Crime Stoppers.

A2.2 Road Toll on Wildlife Report

Chris thanked Irene for her comprehensive report on the road toll of wildlife. Discussion about how to identify “Wildlife Black Spots” on the estate. Ideas for a reporting App and additional chicanes were discussed.

The report has been given to the road safety section and the committee will wait on their report in October before proceeding.

A2.3 Significant tree register

Scott confirmed the council is in the process of updating its significant tree register.

Tweed Development Control Plan (DCP) Section A16 – Preservation of Vegetation is reviewing a process to manage the tree register in the future.

Irene discussed the issue of street trees being removed on the estate and requested a moratorium on planting of tuckeroos as street trees.

Tree removal is a concern - each lot should, by consent, have a Koala food tree on it. However certain eucalyptus trees are not suitable for planting on streets and the issue of planting koala feed trees close to roads. It was suggested a record is kept of those trees removed and replaced.

Action: 0821-5 Scott to provide further information about tree replacement procedures in Koala Beach estate.

A2.4 More Nest boxes

Discussion of increasing numbers of nest boxes in the bushland. Scott noted that this would involve more resourcing for monitoring and active management and it would be better to encourage residents to install them in their own yards.

A3. Economic

A3.1 2021/22 Budget update and finance report

Scott discussed the budget and finance report as distributed to the committee prior to the meeting. It was reiterated that any surplus from previous years will be rolled over to the present budget.

General Business:

GB1. Spotty's Crossing sign

After much discussion it was decided to leave the sign as it was and take it down only when a replacement was finalised. Noting that signage could not be replaced by lashing it to trees.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held Wednesday 6 October 2021.

The meeting closed at 3.15 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.
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 Report provided to road safety officer
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>	9.00am Monday 16th August 2021. POSTPONED
2 June	0621-1	<i>Jane to organise a meeting with comms and Rosealie to discuss Survey Monkey.</i>	For discussion
2 June	0621-3	<i>Scott to look at camera costings – heavy duty but low cost.</i>	In progress
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 – may sit in the review of Companion Animals Policy
4 August	0821-2	<i>Working group to walk around site and consider areas for different types of signage placement.</i>	
4 August	0821-3	<i>Scott and Jane to draft letter re: fencing regulations for Koala Beach residents.</i>	
4 August	0821-4	<i>Council to assist with design of folder for Welcome pack.</i>	
4 August	0821-5	<i>Scott to provide further information about tree replacement procedures in Koala Beach estate.</i>	