

Minutes

Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 4 November 2020

Venue:

Reef Room, Pottsville Neighbourhood Centre

Time:

1.40pm

Present:

Mayor Chris Cherry (Chair), Lloyd Fielding, Irene Timmins, Patricia Hale, Yvonne Gardiner, Rosealie Vallance, Jane Lofthouse, Scott Hetherington, Gabby Arthur (Minutes) (Tweed Shire Council).

Apologies:

Nil.

Cr Cherry opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Yvonne Gardiner

Seconded: Lloyd Fielding

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat Management Committee meeting held Tuesday 29 September 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

BA1. Resignation of Committee member

Cr Cherry advised that she has received a letter from Alexandra Jones resigning from the Committee. Alexandra's resignation is effective immediately.

Action: *Senior Program Leader Biodiversity to send a letter to Alexandra Jones thanking her for her contribution to the Committee.*

BA2. Draft Terms of Reference

Following discussion it was agreed that version 1.3 of the Terms of Reference be adopted with the inclusion of amendments tabled by Irene. The Committee's current status is that it is continued in perpetuity. Council's Governance Unit has confirmed the Code of Meeting Practice is not applicable to the Committee.

Moved: Lloyd Fielding

Seconded: Irene Timmins

RECOMMENDATION:

That following the agreed amendments being made, the Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat Management Committee Terms of Reference be adopted by Council.

BA3. Code of Conduct

Scott advised that it is anticipated the Code of Conduct will be adopted by Council at its meeting on 19 November 2020. A briefing will be arranged following its adoption.

Action: *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.*

Agenda Items:

A1. Levy Expenditure

(a) Current Status

Scott provided a general update and advised that the updated summary and expenditure report will be distributed with the draft Minutes. The levy is allocated to a works program to meet the habitat management, education and engagement, compliance, monitoring and reporting requirements and the funds have been committed for the 2020-21 financial year

Action: *Senior Program Leader Biodiversity to distribute updated summary and expenditure report with the draft Minutes.*

(b) Future Program

Discussion regarding expenditure for monitoring and reporting of blossom bats and planigale. Lloyd commented that he considered \$500 per blossom bat for the monitoring activity to be excessive. Scott advised the monitoring and reporting are a key part of the management plan as set out in the DA consent for the Koala Beach Estate. The revision of the management plan may consider whether the monitoring and reporting continues as regularly as three yearly. The blossom bat and planigale reports will be available in January 2021. There will be the opportunity for the Committee to discuss community engagement and to provide input to the yearly budget allocation at the next meeting.

Action: *Senior Program Leader Biodiversity to prepare budget planning information of monitoring for the next financial year for distribution and discussion at next meeting.*

General Business:

GB1. Traffic Calming

Concerns raised regarding the high volume of traffic through the Koala Beach Estate and that the 40km speed limit is not being observed. The Local Traffic Committee has delegations to consider and make recommendations to Council regarding traffic issues.

Moved: Patricia Hale

Seconded: Lloyd Fielding

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council undertakes an internal review of existing traffic calming and traffic calming options for the Koala Beach Estate.

GB2. Koala warning road signage

Concern at number of road fatalities of fauna within the Koala Beach Estate. As an interim measure, the residents could request to borrow one of Council's mobile speed activated signs. A longer term measure could be to purchase a speed activated sign with a smile/frown however this would need to be funded and specifically ordered. Request to be

made to Traffic Unit that Koala Beach Estate be included in a future grant funding application for a speed activated wildlife sign.

Action: *Irene Timmins to contact Council's Traffic Unit to request one of Council's mobile speed activated signs be placed in the Koala Beach Estate.*

Action: *Senior Program Leader Biodiversity to request Traffic Unit to include Koala Beach Estate in a future grant funding application for a speed activated wildlife sign.*

GB3.Estate entry conservation status signage

There is no signage at the entry to the Koala Beach Estate to proudly show that it is a special conservation estate. Discussion regarding the development of an integrated communication strategy for the Koala Beach Estate with a holistic approach to include estate entry and traffic warning signs, to be funded through the levy. The committee members were encouraged to meet separately prior to the next meeting to develop ideas for the communications strategy and to refer to the Community Engagement and Participation Plan 2019-2024 which is available on its website:

<https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/Engagement>.

Scott advised that Council is currently preparing the Koala Beach Estate e-newsletter for distribution. The committee requested that hard copies of the newsletter be provided which they will deliver as an opportunity to meet residents and raise awareness in the Estate.

Action: *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. Responsibility: Senior Program Leader Biodiversity*

Action: *Committee members encouraged to form a working group to meet outside of the committee meetings to develop ideas for the communications strategy. Responsibility: Committee.*

Action: *Senior Program Leader Biodiversity to provide hard copies of Koala Beach e-newsletter to committee for distribution in the estate. Responsibility for distribution: Committee.*

GB4.Work Requests

Scott clarified that any work requests relating to operational matters can be directed to Council's Contact Centre rather than waiting to raise them at a meeting.

GB5.Bush Stone Curlew gutter covers

Jane advised that Council is trialling stormwater gutter covers to prevent access by Bush Stone Curlews and is trying to acquire some for the Koala Beach Estate.

GB6.Watergum Cane Toad Challenge

Jane advised that *Watergum community for environment* is teaming with Tweed to host the Cane Toad Challenge. Further information regarding Watergum is available at:

<https://watergum.org/cane-toad-challenge> or to enrol for the information session, email: canetoads@watergum.com.

GB7. Council caretaker period

The Coordinator Governance & Information has advised that whilst Council is reviewing the commencement date of the caretaker period, the caretaker period does not apply to advisory committees of Council.

Incoming Correspondence

IC1. Resignation of Anneliese Simke

Anneliese has advised that she is not eligible to be a committee member as she is not currently residing at Koala Beach Estate.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat Management Committee will be held on Wednesday 3 February 2021 at 1.30pm.

The meeting closed at 3.10pm.

Executive Leadership Team Comments:

BA2. Draft Terms of Reference

Nil

GB1. Traffic Calming

Nil

Executive Leadership Team Recommendations:

BA2. Draft Terms of Reference

That following the agreed amendments being made, the Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat Management Committee Terms of Reference be adopted by Council.

GB1. Traffic Calming

That Council undertakes an internal review of existing traffic calming and traffic calming options for the Koala Beach Estate.