

DRAFT Minutes

Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Management Committee Meeting held Tuesday 17 September 2019

Venue:

Canvas & Kettle meeting room, Murwillumbah Civic Centre

Time:

1.30 pm

Present: Rhonda James, Scott Hetherington, Cr Chris Cherry (part, until 3.30pm), Bill Hoskins, Lorraine Vass, David Norris (part, arrived 2.00pm), Jenny Hayes, Mark Kingston.

Apologies: Marama Hopkins, Tracey Stinson, Katie Milne

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Lorraine Vass

Seconded: Rhonda James

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Management Committee meeting held Tuesday 4 June 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

1. Marama to follow up on Uki plantation site maintenance progress – not commenced, defer to December meeting
2. Scott to invite Director Engineering to next meeting to assist in progressing food tree plantation action – defer to December meeting
3. Marama to recheck tree planting conditions on Men's Shed development approval – complete (addressed in agenda at item 5)
4. Marama to forward link for nominating speed camera locations to committee members – complete
 - Mark noted that there remains a need to perform a viability analysis of the use of average speed cameras at Clothiers Creek Road and other similar locations.
 - Scott noted that there may be some capacity for the project officer to commence investigation, including preliminary consultation with NSW RMS and council's Roads & Stormwater unit once appointed. This action also likely to be incorporated to the KPOM 5 year review, due to be completed in 2020.
5. Marama to request sharing of koala road sightings through Council's social media when opportunity arises – complete

6. Scott to prepare and distribute a media release sharing the successful KPOM outcomes (including the 2018 koala study and habitat restoration progress), together with acknowledgment of the awards received by committee members – not commenced.
7. Scott to request that Tanya undertake an analysis of opportunities and constraints for additional habitat restoration between Pottsville Wetland and Wooyung Nature Reserve, for discussion with committee at next meeting – not commenced (hold over for appointment of new project officer).

Agenda Items:

1. *OEH SOS regional koala conservation and recovery project update (Scott)*

- Project Officer (Envite Environment) appointed after open tender process. Georgina Jones commenced on 28 August 2019.
- 2-3 days per week for 3 years throughout the project area.
- Primary role to negotiate voluntary conservation agreements with landowners in the areas of highest regional priority for koala conservation.

2. *Lot 919 Pottsville – koala holding facility construction update (Scott)*

- Food tree plantation (1800 food trees) complete
- Subdivision plans registered
- NSW NPWS processing acquisition to finalise land transfer with estimated completion by December.
- Development application for holding facility construction to be lodged this month
- Rhonda noted the need to have rubbish removed from this site and to consider removal of any redundant fencing before it becomes difficult to do so due to vegetation regeneration.
- Rhonda noted that with regard to the recently announced successful grant to Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve (see general business item 1) that arrangements for the group to work within the relevant volunteer and work, health and safety policies and procedures of council will need to be confirmed and implemented.

Action: Scott to request project officer, once appointed, to confirm arrangements for Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve to operate as volunteers on council land

3. *NSW Research Plan – ‘Maximising outcomes for koalas on private land’ project update (Scott)*

- Project funded through the NSW Koala Strategy Research Plan
- University of Queensland, RMIT, Sydney University, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Tweed Shire Council, Lismore City Council and Friends of the Koala.
- 2 year project, commenced September 2019
- Project aims:
 1. Quantify how landholder adoption behaviour and climate change interact to drive the benefits of private land conservation initiatives for koalas across northern NSW,

2. Identify investment strategies in private land conservation that maximise long-term outcomes for koalas per dollar spent and how these vary under different future climate change scenarios, and
3. Attract Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage co-funding to expand the approach to the whole of NSW.

4. Year 4 annual report (Scott)

- A draft summary report for Year 4 KPOM implementation actions has been prepared for consideration by the committee.
- The committee agreed that a version formatted for online (and hard copy as required) publication be prepared as an important record of the Year 4 outcomes of the plan.
- It was noted that the 300 ha target for additional koala habitat is unable to be met within existing available budget and that it is identified as subject to securing sufficient external funding support in the plan.

Action: Scott to finalise the year 4 annual summary report, including the addition of an issues and challenges section as per previous years and arrange design and publication of a version for publication.

Action: Rhonda and David to inspect the area west of the Black Rocks Sports Field to identify any areas suitable for planting.

5. Black Rocks sports field precinct master plan and Men's Shed licence extension – update (Scott)

- Men's Shed DA (DA15/0160) requirement to plant 15 preferred koala food trees has been confirmed and will be actioned, including confirmation of most suitable location as part of the master plan process.
- The planting of these trees is noted as being additional to any plantings undertaken as part of the proposal to establish buffer areas on the perimeter of the sports field.
- Master plan preparation actions to date include contacting stakeholder groups seeking nominations for the working group and a survey questionnaire distributed to establish potential use and facility requirements. A draft plan for consideration of the working group is anticipated to be available for review before December.
- The Men's Shed licence extension is to be considered at the September council meeting. A report on the submissions received and responses to objections has been prepared. The issues raised by OEH (now DPIE) for consideration have also been addressed in the report.

General business:

1. Habitat restoration update

- Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve have been successful in securing a 3 year restoration and rehabilitation grant for "*Friends improving koala habitat and connectivity on the Tweed Coast*". Site is Lot 919 at Koala Beach and the 3 year project will result in 3000 koala habitat trees planted over 1.2 ha and additional 6.7 ha of koala habitat restored. The first community planting will be on 26 October.

- The Environmental Trust funded “*Investing in the future of Pottsville’s Koalas*” project is close to completion. This project has resulted in 2000 koala habitat trees being planted and up to 20 ha of restoration works in koala habitat. Koala habitat planted under this and previous projects are being used by koalas. Koala revegetation works at this site has been well supported by Team Koala and Mount St Patricks College.
- The Improving Your Local Parks and Environment “*Koala Habitat Restoration in Richmond*” grant will finish up in December 2019. Under this project 8000 koala habitat trees have been planted and restoration works have been undertaken across 15 ha of koala habitat. Koala food trees planted only 15 months ago in Cudgen Nature Reserve under this project are now being used by koalas.

2. Kings Forest update

- Mark provided an overview of the updated conditions relating to offsets and connectivity measures subsequent to the planning commission determination of the recent Modification 4 to the Kings Forest Koala Plan of Management.
- Mark also noted current work on connectivity measures planned for the Tweed Coast / Depot Road intersection.

3. Tweed Coast E-zone review

- Workshop with council was held in August.
- The current implementation status was discussed including: all mapping and clauses complete; consultant engaged to handle pre-gateway public exhibition (November 2019); notification of several thousand landholders required; online mapping tools in development with follow up support to be provided. Key intent to identify and evaluate any issues from landholders prior to gateway exhibition. Exhibition will include round table workshops with key stakeholder group in early stages.

4. Dunloe Sand Quarry Mod 2 – DPIE consent conditions regarding koala management plan

- As per consent conditions, the proponent is required to consult with council on the development of the landscape plan and koala management plan.
- The draft plans have been reviewed and comments provided in August 2019.
- A range of issues have been identified for attention including in relation to hours of operation, seasonal koala activity, accountability for actions and the need to suitably recognise the endangered population status.

5. Recent koala deaths

- Four koalas brought into care from the Pottsville Wetland area in late July.
- Autopsy results on dead animal and health status update of 2 in rehabilitation not received to date from Currumbin Wildlife Hospital.

6. Potential koala water stations

- The committee discussed the need to consider education actions regarding provision of supplementary water for wildlife, including koalas
- Noted the need to ensure that water is provided appropriately, including with regard to hygiene and safe placement to avoid injury or predation from domestic animals.

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Action: Scott to discuss preparation of a Tweed Link article promoting the value of putting out water for wildlife, including koalas during the current dry conditions.

7. Team Koala community fun day

- Team Koala community fun day scheduled for Sunday 22 September 2019
- Schools workshops throughout Tweed have been completed
- Talks, walks, activities and workshops scheduled.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 3 December 2019, 2.00pm (Canvas and Kettle meeting room, Murwillumbah Civic Centre)

The meeting closed at 3.55pm

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE MANAGEENT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

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