

## DRAFT Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Management Committee Meeting held Tuesday 19 March 2019

### Venue:

Mt Warning Room, Murwillumbah Civic Centre

### Time:

2:00 pm

**Present:** Jenny Hayes, Rhonda James, Marama Hopkins, Scott Hetherington, Cr Katie Milne, Bill Hoskins, Mark Kingston, Tracey Stinson

**Apologies:** Lorraine Vass, David Norris, Tanya Fountain

### Minutes of Previous Meeting:

**Moved:** Cr Katie Milne

**Seconded:** Jenny Hayes

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Management Committee meeting held Tuesday 23 October be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

### Business Arising:

Nil

### Agenda Items:

#### 1. *Recognition of committee member's recent awards.*

Mark Kingston noted that Lorraine Vass and Jenny Hayes have both recently been publicly recognised for their service to koala conservation. The committee offered congratulations to Lorraine on receiving the Australian Wildlife Society's 2018 Serventy Conservation Award and to Jenny for receiving an Australia Day Volunteer of the Year Award.

**RESOLVED** that Lorraine Vass and Jenny Hayes be acknowledged and congratulated for receiving the Australian Wildlife Society's 2018 Serventy Conservation Award and Australia Day Volunteer of the Year Award.

**Moved:** Cr Katie Milne

**Seconded:** Rhonda James

#### 2. *OEH SOS funding and projects update*

Funding has been received from NSW OEH but still waiting on clearance regarding an official announcement. Council staff will meet with Biodiversity Conservation Trust in April to finalise training and arrangements and are currently finalising tender documents for appointment of a Project Officer. Start date is likely to be May 2019.

### 3. *Lot 919, Pottsville – land tenure and funding update*

Memorandum of Understanding signed by Minister in February 2019. This includes landholder consent to undertake detailed planning and commence construction. Surveying for subdivision, development application including flora and fauna assessments and utilities planning all underway. Tender for detailed plans and construction is to be commenced shortly and the anticipated construction start date is October 2019.

### 4. *Kings Forest KPOM update*

Mark and Jenny attended the public meeting with the Independent Planning Commission on the modification application relating to the Kings Forest Koala Plan of Management. 26 public presentations were made. Mark congratulated members of the public on well-presented submissions. Jenny acknowledged Mark for assistance with interpreting documents and issues.

Main points of council submission – a number of issues require addressing, including: timing of securing offsets needs to occur prior to construction certificate, fencing issues in golf course area and consistency with SEPP Kings Forest, provision of off leash dog areas, fencing and underpasses through environmental areas, rehabilitation performance criteria. Further information provided to IPC, which will also be reported to Council.

### 5. *2018 Tweed Coast koala study update*

Marama gave an overview of the 2018 Tweed Coast koala study outcomes to support previous presentations to Councillor workshop, Dunecare groups and Tweed Coastal and Waterways Committee.

**Action:** Marama to publish presentation as pdf slides on Council website and provide a copy of the presentation to the committee

### 6. *Koala habitat restoration update*

Scott provided an update on key habitat restoration outcomes and status on behalf of Tanya. The key highlights and issues included nearly 10 hectares (10,750 trees) of new koala habitat planted in 2018; only 1200 trees so far for 2019 due to hot and dry conditions; all plantings now mapped and publicly displayed via Council website; follow up inspections of planting sites have identified many plantings continuing to be used by koalas, community plantings undertaken or planned with Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve and Team Koala; and a targeted campaign to secure additional private land for inclusion in the program is currently in development.

**Action:** 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.

## 7. *ARC Linkage project update*

All field work complete and field data analysis is underway. Spatial prioritisation across the region being modelled and region-wide habitat map being prepared. 2<sup>nd</sup> paper published (Transactions in GIS); 3<sup>rd</sup> paper in press; others in preparation. Expression of Interest in preparation for research project under NSW Koala Strategy.

### **General business:**

#### 1. *North-south linkage between Tweed and Byron shires*

Cr Milne raised the issue of planning and implementing north-south connectivity for koalas between Tweed and Byron Shires. Some of the relevant issues discussed in relation to this issue included: that koala habitat is being established in this area as a condition of the Dunloe Sands quarry development approval; that there has been an increase in koala activity reported for the North Byron Parklands; and that there has been koala activity in Billinudgel Nature Reserve in 2018. Some of the constraints including land managed for sugar cane production and the relative priority of this area against the remainder of the Tweed Coast were noted and discussed.

**Action:** 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.

#### 2. *Use of Black Rocks sports field*

The committee discussed a reported plan to increase the use of Black Rocks sports field. No certain information was available as to the nature, scope or timing of any proposed increase. It was noted that any additional organised events are required to be referred to the NRM Unit for assessment.

**Action:** Scott to discuss with Parks and Recreation Services and bring information to the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 4 June 2019, 1.30pm (Mt Warning Room, Murwillumbah Civic Centre)

The meeting closed at 4:20pm

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S COMMENTS:**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**