

Minutes

Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee Meeting held Tuesday 20 June 2023

Venue:

Canvas & Kettle Meeting Room

Time:

1:30pm

Present:

Cr Meredith Dennis, Jenny Hayes, Rhonda James, Lorraine Vass, Irene Timmins, Scott Benitez Hetherington, Jo Green, Marama Hopkins.

Apologies:

Naomi Searle.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Rhonda James

Seconded: Lorraine Vass

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee meeting held Tuesday 7 March 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

BA1. Donations

Scott to request an update from finance unit on the donations made to date and the process for making donations – outstanding.

Agenda Items:

A1. Acknowledgement of Country

Marama opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

A2. Habitat restoration status update

Jo provided an update on current and upcoming habitat restoration work under the Koala Plan of Management (KPOM) program.

- Budget expended for 2022-23 financial year, works complete and invoiced.
- Prioritising for next year's works well underway, site visits being completed, mix of new planting sites and maintenance of previously funded work.
- Recent work includes Warwick Park Road, Sleepy Hollow (CVA-funded) and Pottsville Road (400 trees).
- Last round of flood assessments complete – most sites in good condition, some loss of old trees including *E.dunnii* and *E.robusta* at Kanes Road.
- Regional koala habitat restoration prioritisation meeting at Lismore – discussion identified some map scale issues to clarify and resolve. Further discussion to be held next week.

A3. Regional Koala Conservation update

- Regional Koala Conservation Strategy finalised, mapping published.

- Regional koala activity assessment finalised and report published – identifies other areas of significance in Tweed, especially beyond Tweed Coast. First useful baseline work for western area of Shire and useful points of focus for future data collection and monitoring.
- Discussion raised potential sites for consideration in future regional koala funding projects (west of current KPOM area) including earlier ET project Mooball-Burringbar and TLI Filling the Gaps.

A4. Update on Clothiers Creek Road resolution

- Council report this week integrating input from KPOM team summarises actions to date and next steps required
- Progress dependent on finding traffic engineer to conduct analysis of implications of reducing speed limit

A5. Koala Plan of Management review

A draft “Review by Chapter” template was circulated and proposed as a structured approach to collecting committee members’ feedback on plan actions. Committee members agreed that this was a good approach. Lorraine noted that Lismore City Council is using a similar process.

Team to prepare 1 or 2 chapters for next meeting – distribute prior to meeting, discuss and clarify at meeting, committee to provide feedback following meeting.

Key outcomes shared from last meeting:

- Irene shared published items from regional koala activity assessment and strategy.
- Team Koala receiving incidental sighting information at market stalls etc. Marama to work with Jenny on “on the spot” collection of these sightings.
- Team Koala has been gauging community support for traffic calming at Clothiers Creek Road.

Discussion regarding sharing koala information within the community – potential symposium/koala forum/event.

- Involve guest speakers / researchers
- Potential to plan/coordinate regionally and move around the councils
- Potential for community organisations (Friends of Koala or Tweed Koala) to plan and implement with support from councils
- May be good timing for gathering feedback for or sharing the newly revised KPOM
- Focus / include new residents and western parts of the shire
- Include ‘fun’ and ‘free’
- Activities – scat searching, face painting
- All to consider and bring ideas and opportunities to next meeting for discussion

A6. Key outcomes of this meeting

- Structure for review agreed upon and supported.

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- Regional koala strategy mapping published and useful.
- Work together to organise a community event.

General Business:

GB1. Terranora Road / NSW Government Koala Strategy funding

NSW Koala Strategy Koala Vehicle Strike (KVS) mitigation funding received for package of 4 projects (trailer mounted signage, koala habitat mapping for Terranora-Bilambil to inform Terranora Road mitigation actions, upgrading signage on Terranora Road (size and messaging), extending the Pottsville Road koala zone (to Pottsville-Mooball Road intersection)).

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday 5 September 2023 at 1:30pm.

The meeting closed at 3:00pm.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.