

Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee Meeting held Tuesday 4 June 2024

Venue:

Pottsville Environment Park, Centennial Drive, Pottsville

Time:

1.30pm

Present:

Cr Meredith Dennis, Cr Nola Firth, Jenny Hayes, Rhonda James, Scott Benitez Hetherington, Marama Hopkins, Jo Green.

Apologies:

Lorraine Vass, Naomi Searle, Brooke O'Dea

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Rhonda James

Seconded: Jenny Hayes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee meeting held Tuesday 27 February 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

BA1. Actions update

Marama to send regional communication images / tiles to committee members via email for use and distribution – complete. Next message to be determined and shared.

Agenda Items:

A1. Acknowledgement of Country

Marama acknowledged the Ngandowal and Minyungbul speaking people of the Bundjalung Country, and particularly the Goodjinburra Elders past and present of the land where the meeting was held.

A2. Koala Conversations event update

- Wrapped up on Saturday with successful forum in Lismore.
- Good attendance (100+), valuable presentations and amazing work being done through the region.
- Pottsville celebration was a significant highlight. Good to be amongst people generally with interest in koala conservation.
- Recognition of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee's role in suggesting the need for the event.
- Cudgen Nature Reserve habitat restoration workshop was very well attended and successful based on feedback from participants.
- Overall event was excellent and inspiring. 4 events in Tweed Shire commendable.
- Recommend committee review presentations for access to information on the regional context and remarkable works underway.

Action: Marama to provide presentations to committee members when available.

- Thanks to Marama and Rhonda for their work on the organising committee.
- Consider options to capture, present and celebrate outcomes.

Action: Marama to prepare and distribute media articles to promote Tweed events, contributions and outcomes. Media release, Tweed Link and social media as appropriate.

A3. Council updates

A3.1 Habitat restoration

- Big year (2023-24) for habitat restoration. Tree growth amazing, also major need for maintenance.
- Focus for next year (2024-25) to be on maintenance of existing sites.
- Some new sites adjoining other sites in southern Pottsville area.
- Jo moving to Byron Shire Council at the start of July. Marama and Scott recognised Jo's major contributions to securing new sites and achieving habitat restoration outcomes in highly significant locations.
- Jo requested any further information from committee members on sites that need maintenance.

A3.2 Tweed Coast koala survey

- Marama is currently planning field work for 2024 Tweed Coast koala survey.
- Will be the 5th round of survey work since 2010 and the longest running Koala Plan of Management (KPoM) monitoring program in the region.
- Surveys will revisit previous sites and integrate some new sites, particularly in restoration areas.
- Marama shared the map of survey work across the region that was developed for the presentation delivered at the forum on Saturday.

A3. KPoM review – habitat restoration chapter

- Previous request for feedback followed up.
- Noted that Council's Conservation team feedback is being included to the chapter review.

A4. Kings Forest update

- Scott noted Council's Conservation team's involvement in post consent compliance, and the nature of the issues that they have been involved in to date.

A6. Key outcomes from the meeting

- Koala Conversations event highly successful and demonstrated how well individuals, groups and organisations are working together.
- Acknowledge the people involved in habitat restoration and the great outcomes from the KPoM habitat restoration program.

General Business:

GB1. Tree planting – Koala Beach

- Proposed tree planting in the Arthraxon management area along Lomandra Avenue.
- Marama and Rhonda (BRS) to confirm that the proposal is suitable for the site and is consistent with management intent for the habitat restoration zone.

GB2. Emergency koala signage

- Irene seeking clarification on how to access and place emergency koala signage.
- 'Koala near road' swing signs – Irene to email Marama to request.
- Irene has 2 corflute signs to place when required.
- If more signs are placed out, they need to be taken in again as soon as the koala moves on.
- Additional signs may be useful for Terranora Road also.

GB3. QLD TMR fauna sensitive design manual update

- To be carried over to next meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday 3 September 2024.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.