

Review of the Tweed Coastal Estuaries Management Plan



Cudgera Creek Estuary, Hastings Point.

Tweed Shire Council is seeking community input into a review of management practices for the shires three coastal catchments - Cudgen, Cudgera and Mooball Creeks.

Council holds primary responsibility for managing these systems and works with stakeholders through the Tweed Coastal Committee to identify and implement management actions. However, Council is seeking broader community input as part of a review of the existing Tweed Coastal Estuaries Management Plan (2004).

The aim of this project is to update knowledge and management recommendations and highlight the connection between activities in the upper catchments and the health of the coastal estuaries.

The new management plan will focus strongly on upper catchment issues, taking into account the effects that expanding urban development and existing agricultural have on the more visible and highly valued coastal estuaries.

Council wants the community to understand and support action and investment in the long term management of the coastal creek catchments. For more information, please contact Councils Waterways Program Leader, Tom Alletson, on 6670 2577, or talletson@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Contacts

TSC Rangers

02 6670 2400 (a.h. 1800 818 326)

TSC KBWHMC contacts

Tanya Fountain Pamela Gray
02 6670 2787 02 6670 2778

Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers

24 hour wildlife hotline
02 6672 4789

Koala Beach website

[http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/
KoalaBeach](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/KoalaBeach)

Cover illustration courtesy of
Ray Molony. Inside image of
Glossy Black Cockatoos courtesy
of Cris Mugeridge.

The next meeting for the
Koala Beach Wildlife & Habitat
Management Committee will be
at 4:00pm, 5 October 2011 at
Koala Beach Sportsfields.
ALL WELCOME.



Male (back) Female (front) Glossy Black
Cockatoo. A photo courtesy of R. Sargeant



OCTOBER 2011
**KOALA BEACH
WILDLIFE & HABITAT
NEWSLETTER**

Wildlife Profile

SHORT-EARED POSSUM (*Trichosurus caninus*)

Former name: Mountain Brushtail Possum

Common name: Bobuck

Description

Short-eared Possums live mostly in trees and are only active at night. An average sized, fully grown, Short-eared Possum is 500 mm long with a tail length of 400 mm. They can weigh up to 4.5 kg.

They can vary greatly in colour, with some individuals being a slaty grey with a cream belly, to others that are a deep rich chocolate brown or pure black. Some have a russet colour belly.

Distribution

Occurs along coastal eastern Australia from Miriam Vale, Qld, to just south of Sydney.

Habitat requirements

Short-eared Possums occur in wet sclerophyll forest, rainforest, and thick vegetation bordering watercourses.

They have settled territories that are established upon reaching sexual maturity (at around two years of age) and are retained for life. If you take a Short-eared Possum out of its territory, it is quite likely that it will not survive.

During the day, Short-eared Possums den in natural tree hollows, nest-boxes or extremely dense ground cover. Where no other den site is available, Short-eared Possums may also sleep in roof cavities or under building eaves.

Diet

Short-eared Possums feed both in the trees and on the ground. They are quite specialised feeders, eating a selection of native leaf, flowers and fruit, as well as fungi and lichens.

Reproduction

Mating occurs during autumn and the female will give birth to one young. The young spends 5-6 months in pouch, and then rides on the mother's back after it becomes too large for the pouch. At 8-10 months they begin to accompany their mothers on foot.

Female Short-eared Possums invest a lot of energy into raising and caring for their young, and their babies will stay with them for up to two years.



Short-eared Possum (*Trichosurus caninus*)

What Possums occur at Koala Beach Estate?

Short-eared Possums and Ring-tailed Possums.

Threats to Short-eared Possums in Tweed Shire

Many Short-eared Possums are killed in Tweed Shire each year. The main causes are outlined below:

- Car strikes;
- Dog attack;
- Ingestion of rat poison, snail bait and other household poisons; and
- Clearing of hollow-bearing trees and feed trees.

What can I do?

- Drive carefully between dawn and dusk. If you hit a Possum by accident, please stop and go and check it. If it is not dead, or if it has a baby, please contact Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers on their 24 hour Hotline (02 6672 4789) and they will help you to rescue it.
- Use secure bait stations that Possums cannot access, or use non-lethal methods of control for pest management.
- Put up a Possum nest-box in your garden and plant native trees.

Glossy Black Cockatoo Identification

Glossy Black-Cockatoos feed on the Forest Oak and sometimes the Swamp Oak at Koala Beach, with important feeding habitat found near the water reservoir, to the north of Bottlebrush Drive.

You may be lucky to see 'Glossies' on occasions, but do you know how to tell a male Glossy from a female? The best way to tell male and female Glossy Blacks apart is to look at the distinctive feather colours and patterns.

Only adult males have distinctive solid bright red panels in their tail feathers, and their head is dusky brown in colour.

Females have irregular yellow patches on the head and neck which develop from an early age and are retained into adulthood. These yellow feathers are replaced during the moult. Each female will have her own distinctive pattern in her yellow feathers, and this is a way to distinguish individual females from one another.

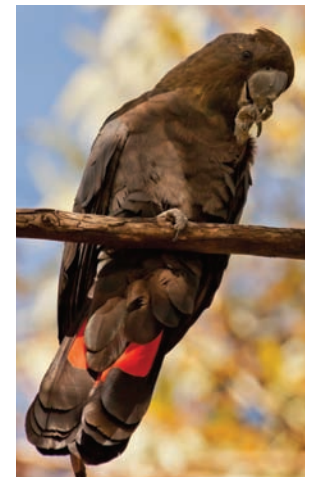
Younger birds of both sexes have orange/yellow panels in the tail with the additional horizontal black barring across these coloured panels.

Juveniles also have pale yellow spots on the wings and head as well as pale yellow barring across the chest.

As individuals mature they lose these pale spots and barring before finally displaying adult body plumage.



Female Glossy Black Cockatoo



Male Glossy Black Cockatoo

Only adult males have distinctive solid bright red panels in the tail feathers.