

Minutes

Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 20 September 2023

Venue:

Pottsville Environment Park

Time:

1.00pm

Present:

Cr Meredith Dennis (Deputy Mayor) (Chair), Cr Chris Cherry (Mayor), Yvonne Gardiner, Irene Timmins, Noel Hart, Helene Sheean, Paula Searle, Rosealie Vallance, Caterina Barry (online), Jane Lofthouse, Scott Benitez Hetherington, Frances Smith-Wright (Minutes), Kristian Pakula (Rangers Team Leader) (Tweed Shire Council).

Apologies:

Lila Whiting, Sandy Pimm.

Observer:

Lloyd Fielding collected Committee business papers and left the meeting (1.15pm - 1.30pm).

Acknowledgement of Country

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Paula Searle

Seconded: Yvonne Gardiner

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee meeting held Wednesday 21 June 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Introduction of Kristian Pakula – Ranger Team Leader

Business Arising:

BA1.Review Action List

0623-1 Unauthorised dog on estate

Mayor Cherry provided an update on the unauthorised dog at Hovea Drive, noting Council has resolved to commence legal action in the NSW Supreme Court if the animal remains on the site.

The residents on the committee thanked Councillors for the follow up of this case and seeking clarification on assistance animals present in Koala Beach.

0221-1 Gutter guards

Jane confirmed that all gutter guards for storm water drains are in place. Location maps

distributed to committee. If any new locations are identified, send the details through for assessment by the consultant. Jane confirmed that individual pairs of birds are being monitored.

0421-5 Scott has arranged the site visit on 3 October 2023 at 8.30am. Meeting point to be advised. Please send email to Frances to advise attendance.

Action: Frances to send out invite.

0821-1 Review of Companion Animals Policy

Kristian noted that Council is reviewing Council's Companion Animals Policy. Definitions and policy position of Council regarding assistance animals will be addressed in this policy.

Rangers can react to complaints and additional patrols organised at certain times of year.

0821-2 Working group to walk around site and consider areas for signage

Irene and Kirsty Wallace have started to put together a map. An observation is that wildlife awareness is not indicated until well into the estate.

Paula advised the letter she received from Transport for NSW confirmed that all roads within the Koala Beach estate are mapped and managed as 40km/h speed zones.

0821-5 Tree replacement procedures

Complete.

1021-1 Entrance sign

Working group to discuss.

0322-1- Flagging addresses for animal registration in Koala Beach

Kristian confirmed that registration of an animal within the Koala Beach estate could be set to trigger an alert. The Rangers can then follow up as evidence is required. There isn't a process in place for refusing registration of animals in Koala Beach. Scott noted that there may be an opportunity to look at this issue on a statewide basis through the annual Local Government Ranger forum.

Moved: Paula Searle

Seconded: Yvonne Gardiner

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee requests that Council seek legal advice on its ability to refuse registration of animals in Koala Beach Estate.

The committee voted all in favour.

Kristian emphasised that when community members were reporting details about domestic animals on the estate then the more details, location, times, the better. The Rangers can then schedule appropriate times to inspect those areas.

Discussion concerning the local real estate companies and their role in renting out properties ensued.

Action: Committee to write to local real estate agents to update them on animal policy in Koala Beach. Rosealie to provide addresses.

Cr Dennis commended Kristian for being pro-active. Council would normally have 8 Rangers but currently only have half this due to a range of situations.

Kristian encouraged the committee to pass on to Koala Beach residents to use Council's 'report a problem' tab on its website. This would result in their report being directed and actioned quicker and gives a reference number for follow up.

Kristian Pakula left the meeting at 1.45pm

0622-2. Vertebrate pest management and monitoring

Jane confirmed that there has been 1080 baiting, predominantly for foxes on private properties surrounding Koala Beach. This was completed on 15 September. Yvonne requested more information for her info pack and confirmed she will send what she has already to Jane and Scott.

0623-1. Weed Control at Sugar Glider Drive storm water detention pond

Scott confirmed two different contractors used in that area. Staff have visited both areas and reported no concerns. Noel confirmed that the spraying was very erratic and requested a meeting with Scott.

Action: Scott to meet with Noel on site. Frances to organise meeting.

BA.2. Non-compliant fencing

Scott has started to compile the Koala Beach s88B covenants into a summarised format. Caterina requested full copies of all covenants.

Action: Scott to supply copies of covenants relevant to Koala Beach estate to Caterina.

Agenda Items:

A1. Social

A1.1 Bridge Mural Project

Noel confirmed that the design was completed after a few modifications last week. This was to avoid expansion joints on the bridge. The Sustainability & Environment Unit has been given the responsibility for the maintenance and graffiti removal of the bridge mural. 89 students have been involved in the production of the mural. Noel presented to the committee several slides showing the artwork in detail. The committee emphasised the timeframe was important as it needs to be completed before school finishes at the beginning of December. The committee congratulated Noel and Rosealie for the time and commitment put into the project.

Action: Jane to confirm dates. (Opening event on Thursday 30 November).

A1.2 Signage Project

Noel, Paula and Rosealie have reviewed the sign design that was previously presented. The sign does not need to be a council branded sign as it is for the estate only. Council's signage and fabrication workshops are very skilled. Scott and Jane to establish communications with them. The restrictions include no steel poles and no non-frangible signs close to the road. The location is very important. It was decided to start with the actual design and then progress from there.

Action: Noel and Jane to liaise with Stephen regarding sign design.

Wording on the sign is very important. Any wording about the Aboriginal cultural values or Acknowledgement of Country is to be forwarded to Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) for consideration. The suggested wording "Caring for Wildlife on Bundjalung land" was agreed to be submitted for consideration.

Action: Jane to contact Tim Appo and request an opportunity for consideration of the proposed wording of the Koala Beach entry sign by the AAC.

A1.3 Development of an integrated communication strategy

Ongoing.

A1.4 Communication

- **Community survey** – survey monkey subscription has been renewed for another year which gives the committee opportunity to do another survey.
- **Information pack** – work in progress - need more information on plantings, fencing compliance and dog and cat restrictions.

Action: Jane and Scott to look for Council brochures that may be included in the information pack. 50 copies required.

A1.5 Workgroup progress report

Have met twice since the last committee meeting. Four focus groups have been discussing entry sign, traffic, fencing, cats and dogs.

A2. Environmental

Environmental and economic update sent out to committee prior to meeting.

A2.1 Wildlife survey update

Irene confirmed that participation in the Glossy Black Cockatoo Count at Koala Beach went well.

A2.2 Wildlife fatalities and traffic calming

High incidence of fatalities due to increased traffic through estate. The results of the motion put forward to Roads Unit was not satisfactory. A key concern out of the community survey was the high speed of vehicles and the estate being used as a through road. The committee would like to move forward with radar plans and extra speed humps near the school. Cr Cherry informed the committee that Council was acquiring 6 additional speed indicators.

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Action: the working group submit a request to the Traffic Unit for traffic monitoring with a view to preparing a submission to the local traffic committee.

A3. Economic

A3.1 Budget update

Budget update attached. Scott confirmed that the costs of the mural are coming out of the education budget.

Action: Scott to add notes column for any items with a discrepancy in budget figures.

A3.2. Current budget and reserve funds expenditure

As per attachment.

A3.3. Input for 2023-24 budget

As per attachment.

General Business:

GB1. Area 49 Sugar Glider Drive retention pond management

As discussed earlier, Scott to meet Noel on site.

GB2. Reply from Transport NSW

40km zone for Koala Beach estate. Discussed earlier and 40km speed confirmed.

GB3. Locked gate between the top of Marsupial Drive and at the end of Bottlebrush

Helene requested access to gate keys in the event of a catastrophic fire emergency so residents could vacate area. The committee discussed that this was beyond their role and referred Helene to write directly to Council on a community safety issue.

B4. Pottsville Master Plan consultation

Locations listed as potential constructed bike tracks. The committee noted that they were concerned that the proposed potential location for a constructed bike track on Tweed Coast Road as it is a viable habitat for many different species.

Scott clarified that a full study on impacts on the proposed area of any constructed facility would be done prior to final decision.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee will be held 6 December at Pottsville Environment Park.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Decision that the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 20 September 2023 be received and the following be included in the minutes to be endorsed by Council:

0322-1- Flagging addresses for animal registration in Koala Beach

That the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee requests that Council seek legal advice on its ability to refuse registration of animals in Koala Beach Estate.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Date	No.	Action	Status
07/04/21	0421-5	Scott to arrange a site visit (2 hours) for the committee to feature the habitat restoration program, nest box program and common blossom bat monitoring and management.	Scott to organise before next committee meeting. Potential dates identified in early October – waiting on bush regen contract team leader to confirm availability. 20/09/23 Date set for 3 October 2023 at 8.30am. Meeting point TBA. Frances to send out invite.
04/08/21	0821-1	Jane and Scott to seek clarification on Council's position on assistance animals in public areas including sensitive locations and whether a policy should be developed.	In progress – best addressed in the review of Companion Animals Policy. New Team Leader Rangers commenced, will discuss this issue. Invite Kristian Pakula (Team Leader – Rangers) to next meeting. 20/09/23 -Kristian Pakula confirmed that policy is being reviewed.
04/08/21	0821-2	Working group to walk around site and consider areas for different types of signage placement.	In progress
07/10/21	1021-1	Jane to present Entrance design and construction ideas to sign writers.	No update – actions identified and agreed. Traffic Unit to be involved as in road reserve. Working group to discuss artwork supplied and review message -important details do not stand out. 20/09/23 – Jane and Scott to contact Fabrication department re: signs AAC Agenda – seeking approval for wording on Koala Beach Entry sign.
23/03/22	0322-1	Jane to check with ranger staff to determine process for checking addresses for animal registrations at Koala Beach Estate.	There is no process in place for animals registered to the NSW Companion Animals register to be 'flagged' by address. Speak to Team Leader rangers – Kristian at next meeting. 20/09/23: Committee to write to local real estate agents to update them on animal policy in Koala Beach. Rosealie to provide addresses.
29/06/22	0622-2	Vertebrate pest management and monitoring. Scott to discuss with crew planting dense vegetation around creek bed (near footbridge) to prevent Cane Toad access.	Not actioned to date
29/06/22	0622-5	Jane to give update at next meeting on actions regarding unauthorised dogs on the estate.	Latest update to be provided at next meeting. Dog to be removed, owners have been given an extension until August. 20/09/23 Council resolved to pursue legal action if required

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21/06/23	0623-1	Scott to follow up with who has done the weed control at the Sugar Glider Drive storm water detention pond.	Two different contractors involved in works as it is on the boundary of the habitat management area and the stormwater detention pond area. Staff have checked with both, visited the site, and reported no areas of concern. 20/09/23 Scott to meet with Noel on site. Frances to organise meeting.
20/09/23	0923-1	Non- compliant fencing – Koala Beach Covenants. Scott to supply copies of covenants relevant to Koala Beach estate.	In progress
20/09/23	0923-2	The working group submit a request to the traffic unit for traffic monitoring with a view to preparing a submission to the local traffic committee.	
20/09/23	0923-3	Budget update- Scott to add notes in column if discrepancy in budget figures	