

# Minutes

## Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 21 February 2024

### Venue:

Pottsville Environment Park

### Time:

1.00pm

### Present:

Cr Meredith Dennis (Deputy Mayor) (Chair), Cr Chris Cherry (Mayor), Paula Searle, Noel Hart, Yvonne Gardiner, Irene Timmins, Lila Whiting, Sandy Pimm, Helene Sheean, Rosealie Vallance (community committee members), Jane Lofthouse, Scott Benitez Hetherington, Nicole Skorupski (Minutes) (Tweed Shire Council).

### Apologies:

Caterina Barry

### Acknowledgement of Country – Chris Cherry

### Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Yvonne Gardiner

Seconded: Lila Whiting

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee meeting held Wednesday 6 December 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

### Business Arising:

#### BA1. Review action list:

##### 0821 – 1 – Assistance Animals Policy

Jane noted that Giselle Benitez Hetherington (Community Development Officer Inclusion) is leading development of an assistance animal policy in conjunction with Rangers, Sustainability and Environment Unit and other relevant areas of council.

##### 0821-2 Working Group – entry sign placement.

Still in progress ongoing, advice from council officers requested on location and type of entrance sign permissible.

##### 1021-1 Entrance Sign

Jane spoke with Ray Clarke (Traffic Engineer) for entrance signage key points include -

- If sign outside clear zone in road reserve (4.5m from edge of travel) there is less impact to design consideration. Inside 4.5m is possible with greater design consideration.
- No more than 3 lines of text on roadside signs.
- Estate name as opposed to location name (Koala Beach / Pottsville) may require support from Council.

The design and construction components are still a work in progress.

This item to be included as part of meeting with Ray Clark & Lily Morgan to discuss traffic management issues as mentioned in Agenda Item A1.

## **0322 – 1 Rosealie – communication with real estate agents**

Rosealie sourced a list of local real estate agents.

Yvonne provided information packs and discussed, left committee email address with real estates and if new residents want a pack, they contact committee.

Real estates are not all advertising the regulations around Koala Beach as part of a sale.

Proposal brought forward that a letter go out to Real Estates from Council advising it is their duty to advise Koala Beach is a Wildlife Protection Area in a positive matter.

**Action:** Nicole to obtain list of Real Estate Agents from Rosealie

**Action:** Jane to prepare letter and distribute

## **0622-2 Planting around creek bed**

No update at this point.

## **0622-5 Unauthorised dogs on the estate**

Jane provided an update on known or reported dogs. Current situation is that one dog has left the estate, another has been investigated and a third is still being considered with regard to assistance animal status, with a report to go to Council on options. Visibility and impact on neighbours, bushland and wildlife are critical considerations.

## **0923-2 Traffic Subcommittee report February 2024**

Jane to confirm dates to committee for meeting with Ray Clark and Lily Morgan possible dates being 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## **1223-1 Appropriate locations for entrance sign**

As per 1021-1 and 0923-2, meeting to be held onsite with Ray Clark and Lily Morgan on 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> March, confirmed date will be sent out to committee.

## **1223-2 Reserve fund**

Scott Benitez Hetherington presented update to committee on the reserve fund and budget projection summary.

## **BA2. Update on dogs and cats resident in estate (reports to Council) –**

Irene reported dog residing on property in Koala Beach to Council after hours on 11<sup>th</sup> December, then contacted council to confirm report was received. The report took a long time to action (2 months) before finally receiving a call from council with the report that the resident denied having a dog. It has been noted that an enclosure has been built in the yard of the property. Day to day reports of dogs in Koala Beach require a faster turnaround, how do we get a council response?

**Action** – Nicole to invite Kristian Pakula (Team Leader Rangers) to next meeting to discuss.

## **Agenda Items:**

### **A1. Social**

#### **Signage project – entry sign design elements, placement, structure**

Committee members to have a meeting with Ray Clark & Lily Morgan to discuss traffic management issues. Jane suggested that the committee prepare notes identifying the issues they wish to discuss to provide to Ray and Lily prior to the meeting. Possible meeting dates 8 or 15 March 2024.

**Action:** Committee to coordinate and collate traffic management issues for prior consideration by Council's Traffic Unit staff and provide to Jane.

## **Additional signage to protect bushland values**

The committee discussed the need for additional and replacement signage to address issues including unauthorised bike track construction in bushland and reducing the impact of vehicles on wildlife including bush stone curlews. The committee offered to identify required locations and to install the signage as supplied by council. Irene referred to a sign installed on the estate that displayed educational information, conservation significance and penalty notices as a good example for this purpose.

Scott noted that previous coreflute signs had been vandalised quickly and that permanent metal signs concreted in place have been required. Scott also noted that an issue identified by the committee in the past was the need to consider the overall approach to signage across the estate. This is to ensure that signs are as effective as possible and to avoid an unmanaged proliferation of signs.

Chris Cherry apologised and left meeting.

**Motion (Irene)** Committee nominates several areas of high conservation value areas on the fringe of residential/urban and bushland that are highly vulnerable to threatened species for bushland values signage. Refer to attached photo provided by Irene. Committee requested 3 permanent and 5 corflute signs,

**Recommendation** – Committee to nominate several locations of high conservation value areas on the fringe of urban bushland that require installation of either corflute or permanent signage, with production and installation costs to be covered through the Koala Beach budget.

**Moved** – Irene Timmins

**Second** – Helene Sheean

Sandy Prim apologised and left meeting.

**Traffic management – speed mitigation and hoon activity** – Irene shared a request from a resident to install 'local traffic only' signage at the entrances to the estate. It was noted that this can only be used in 40km/hr zones and that it may be suitable for Koala Beach. This issue can be discussed in the proposed traffic management meeting with Ray Clark and Lily Morgan.

**Communication welcome pack to real estate agents** – Completed.

**Development of an integrated communication strategy** – Goes back onto signage.

**Working group progress report** – Remove from future agenda as ongoing discussions.

## **A2. Environmental**

**Managing wildlife signs** – Irene would like some curlew signs, and have a supply of signs available to them, Jane to provide to Irene for distribution. Need both nesting curlew and slow down for curlews.

**Irene** would like to thank council for the rapid response to a curlew being reported in a drain. Shannon came and provided signage on same day, drain covers placed on drains next day – thank you to council for quick response.

**Wildlife survey update** – No questions, good news in most cases, Scott highlighted that we are continuing to try and implement more motorbike compliance patrols in bushland with NSW Police.

### **A3. Economic**

**Budget update** -. Spending is as per budget, with only one item being over budget as previously noted as it includes the costs of the bridge mural. The committee are happy with the mural and have received a lot of positive feedback. Scott discussed the 5-year foreword budget and how the amount held in reserve will lower over time.

The committee discussed the possibility of purchasing a mobile variable message sign for constant use within the estate. Scott noted that there are 4 new mobile signs being purchased by council and that Koala Beach is already noted as a priority location for their use. Scott also noted that they are likely to be more effective if they are not used constantly. The committee agreed that it would be best to evaluate the effectiveness of this program before considering purchasing more equipment.

Irene noted that the wildlife survey report advised that the curlew drain curtain protection will be removed out of breeding season, and questioned as to why? Scott said it is only for a 2-month period and Jane noted it was likely requested to ensure that the drains function without impediment for this period.

### **General Business:**

#### **GB1. Clearing for APZ on Lomandra Ave**

Yvonne discussed the APZ clearing on Melia Close / Lomandra Avenue, noting that 2 of the 5 trees retained appear to be dead or dying. Yvonne also expressed concern about the requirement to use herbicide to maintain this area and sought clarification regarding any further clearing required. Scott clarified that council is required to maintain the land in the current state to meet the NSW Rural Fires Act standards.

**Action:** Scott to check with Natural Area Team Leader about any further requirement for additional clearing and to report the health status of the trees in this area.

#### **GB2. Koala Beach banner for community/information day or events**

Irene requested a tear drop banner with the Koala Beach logo to use at community and other events. There was agreement from the committee to use Koala Beach funds to purchase a banner.

**Action** – Committee to design content for banner and provide to Council for purchase from Koala Beach levy funds as part of the communications and awareness budget.

**GB3. Tweed Growth Management Housing Strategy input** – Committee noted the importance of this draft strategy and the current opportunity to provide feedback. It was agreed that individual responses are more appropriate than a consolidated committee submission. Cr Dennis reiterated that it is very important for everyone to “Have Your Say”.

#### **GB4. Caravan Park appeal meeting in April**

It was noted that there is a conciliation conference for the Pottsville Caravan Park DA refusal appeal scheduled for early April. It was noted that community members can attend the public session and that committee members are liaising with Friends of the Koala regarding key relevant issues.

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## GB5. Forming a Landcare group in KB –

Noel shared ideas and actions that he has taken seeking to improve the condition of some areas of reserve in the estate. Areas adjoining the Sugar Glider Drive detention pond are a good example of where community members could work with council to improve habitat, demonstrate wildlife friendly gardening and contribute as volunteers. Noel has commenced investigating the formation of a Koala Beach Landcare group. He has met with Amalia Pahlow who is the local Landcare Coordinator. Amalia provided information regarding the requirements for forming a new group and suggested discussing the idea first with Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve, who are a Landcare group that also operate in some of the Koala Beach bushland reserve areas. Noel will report back for further discussion at the next meeting.

## Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee will be held on Wednesday 15 May 2024

The meeting closed at 2.55pm

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.

Date	No.	Action	Status
04/08/21	0821-1	<i>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.</i>	In progress – best addressed in the review of Companion Animals Policy. 20/09/23 -Kristian Pakula confirmed that policy is being reviewed. <b>21/02/24 - working with Giselle Benitez Hetherington (Access &amp; Inclusion Officer) who will lead development of assist animal policy in conjunction with Rangers and other units of council. In progress.</b>
04/08/21	0821-2	<i>Working group to walk around site and consider areas for different types of signage placement.</i>	In progress <b>21/02/24 - still in progress ongoing, advice from council officers requested.</b>
07/10/21	1021-1	<i>Jane to present Entrance design and construction ideas to sign writers.</i>	Traffic Unit to be involved as in road reserve. Working group to discuss artwork supplied and review message 20/09/23 – Jane to contact Fabrication department re: signs. Not yet done AAC Agenda – seeking approval for wording on Koala Beach Entry sign.

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			<p><b>21/02/24 - Spoke with Ray Clarke bought up key points about signage. The design and construction component still a work in progress.</b></p> <p><b>This item to be included as part of meeting with Ray Clark &amp; Lily Morgan</b></p>
<b>23/03/22</b>	0322-1	<i>Jane to check with ranger staff to determine process for checking addresses for animal registrations at Koala Beach Estate.</i>	<p>20/09/23: Working group to write to local real estate agents to update them on animal policy in Koala Beach. Rosealie to provide addresses.</p> <p><b>21/02/24 – Rosealie sourced a list of real estate agents. Yvonne made contact with three and provided information pack and committee email address for new residents wanting a pack. Potential of letter to go out from council to real estate highlighting importance of complying with Wildlife Protection Area.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Nicole to obtain list of Real Estate Agents from Rosealie</b></p> <p><b>Action: Jane to prepare letter and distribute</b></p>
<b>29/06/22</b>	0622-2	<i>Vertebrate pest management and monitoring. Scott to discuss with crew planting dense vegetation around creek bed (near footbridge) to prevent Cane Toad access.</i>	Not actioned to date
<b>29/06/22</b>	0622-5	<i>Jane to give update at next meeting on actions regarding unauthorised dogs on the estate.</i>	<p><b>20/09/23 Council resolved to pursue legal action if required</b></p> <p><b>21/02/24 – No further update</b></p>
<b>20/09/23</b>	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. Jane to send report to traffic engineers to submit to local traffic committee agenda.	<p>Report provided to traffic engineers.</p> <p><b>21/02/24 – Jane to confirm dates to committee for meeting with Ray Clark and Lily Morgan possible dates being 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> March.</b></p>
<b>06/12/23</b>	1223-1	Jane to speak to Traffic engineer and request two appropriate locations for entrance signs	<b>21/09/24 – as per 1021-1 and 0923-2</b>

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06/12/23	1223-2	Update committee with reserve fund amount at next meeting.	21/02/24 – Scott presented report
21/02/24	0224-1	Nicole to invite Kristian to next meeting to discuss dog and cat sighting reports made to council and turnaround time.	
21/02/24	0224-2	Nicole to obtain list of Real Estate Agents from Rosealie and provide to Jane.	
21/02/24	0224-3	Additional Signage for Bushland Values – 3 Permanent 5 Corflute. Committee to nominate signs, council to produce signage.	
21/02/24	0224-4	<b>Traffic management – speed mitigation and hoon activity –</b> Please provide Jane with any traffic issues points to present to Ray and Lilly prior to meeting.	
21/02/24	0224-6	Tear drop banner for community events - Committee agrees to the expenditure, committee to design banner and provide to council for purchase utilising Koala Beach funds.	