

Minutes

Confirmed Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee Meeting held Tuesday 3 September 2024

Venue:

Oxley Room

Time:

1.30pm

Present:

Cr Meredith Dennis, Cr Nola Firth, Jenny Hayes, Lorraine Vass, Irene Timmins, Marama Hopkins, Brooke O'Dea.

Apologies:

Naomi Searle, Scott Benitez Hetherington, Rhonda James.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Cr Meredith Dennis

Seconded: Cr Nola Firth

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4 June 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

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 completed the Acknowledgement of Country.

A2. Thank you to current committee members

- Marama formally thanked all current members of the committee for their contribution over the past term.
- Jenny thanked the current Councillors for their attendance.
- Members shared key values of the group, including:
 - Staying informed on Council initiatives
 - Collaboration on programs/initiatives such as social media campaigns
 - Strengthening partnerships for koala conservation
 - Keeping the community informed
 - Opportunity to present community ideas/issues to Council
 - Keeping Councillors updated on internal workings.

A3. Council updates

Terranora and surrounds eucalypt mapping

Mapping to identify koala habitat has been completed at Terranora covering approximately 8,000ha of land. The project was funded by NSW Koala Strategy and will inform future projects in the north Tweed area.

Tweed Coast koala surveys

- Surveys are now underway; approximately 80 sites to survey. Surveys are programmed to run until Christmas 2024.
- Includes private land, public land, restoration & revegetation sites, and Nature Reserve.

A4. KPoM review – Tweed Heads Koala Management Area (KMA) management approach

- Current management approach in the KPoM for Tweed Heads KMA is harm minimisation, and impact in the KMA must positively contribute to recovery in the South.
- Current KPoM assumes population has limited recovery potential.
- Current data indicates that numbers/viability are greater than previously thought in the Tweed Heads KMA.
- There is now a need to generally review the approach to management.
- Members were supportive of a shift in management approach to place greater emphasis on the Tweed Heads KMA.

A5. Regional communications material – breeding season & vehicle strike

- Northern Rivers Regional Koala Network has commenced a regional communications program; resources include social media, email, poster format etc. to promote koala breeding season.
- Materials developed by Griffith University.
- Marama to share final media release with Committee. All members are encouraged to share social media posts within their own networks.

A6. Key outcomes from the meeting

- Terranora koala habitat mapping.
- Positive results of koala surveys in revegetation areas at Cudgen Nature Reserve.

General Business:

GB1. Review and Report into the NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector and associated Veterinary Sector

Lorraine raised the Statewide review of Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector and associated Veterinary Sector and encouraged all to provide feedback.

GB2. Expressions of interest for new committee

Council will notify successful applicants for the new committee in due course.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tweed Coast Koala Advisory Committee will be confirmed.
The meeting closed at 3.05pm.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.