

# Minutes

## **Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 6 December 2023**

### **Venue:**

Pottsville Environment Park

### **Time:**

1.00pm

### **Present:**

Cr Meredith Dennis (Deputy Mayor) (Chair), Cr Chris Cherry (Mayor) (online), Yvonne Gardiner, Irene Timmins, Paula Searle, Sandy Pimm, Lila Whiting, Jane Lofthouse, Frances Smith-Wright (Minutes).

### **Apologies:**

Helene Sheean, Caterina Barry, Noel Hart, Rosealie Vallance, Scott Benitez Hetherington.

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

**Moved:** Irene Timmins

**Seconded:** Sandy Pimm

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee meeting held Wednesday 20 September 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

### **Business Arising:**

#### **BA1. Review Action List**

#### **0421-5 Site Visit**

Successful site visit.

#### **0821-1 Assistance animals**

Council is working on the new policy. In the policy each specific type of public area will be looked at and referred to individually. Koala Beach Estate will be referenced in the Wildlife Protection Areas. The definition and type of accreditation will be indicated in the policy.

#### **0821-2 Working Group – Signage placement**

In progress.

#### **1021-1 Entrance sign**

Jane to contact fabrication department re the entrance sign. If not suitable, there are other options externally that can be used.

Jane to organise with council representative for sign wording to go on AAC agenda for approval.

The committee discussed the design of the sign (logo and colours). It was decided to allocate the areas where the 2 signs would be erected first and then work on an appropriate sign to suit the location.

**Action:** Jane to speak to Traffic engineer and request two appropriate locations for entrance signs.

**0322-1 Rosealie to develop list of local real estate addresses to committee so they can send an update on animal policy in Koala Beach**

Not actioned to date.

**0622-2 Plantings around creek bed**

Not actioned to date.

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

Rangers attended Lomandra Avenue property but no evidence of dogs. Hovea Drive may have left and rented property.

**0923-1 Non-compliant fencing – Koala Beach Covenants**

Scott sent copies to Caterina. Committee to also look at short term solutions, such as encouraging adaptation of fences, community involvement and promotion of a wildlife corridor on the Estate.

**0923-2 Traffic Subcommittee report December 2023**

Tabled at the meeting. This included 3 requests:

1. Traffic numbers and speed counts requested.
2. Installation of a mobile Advisory Radar.
3. Road speed treatments installed or improved.

**Action:** *Jane to send report to traffic engineers to submit to Local Traffic Committee agenda.*

**Agenda Items:**

**A1. Social**

- **Bridge Mural Project** – congratulations to all involved. A successful launch day. Large prints also placed in school hall. Maintenance and cleaning requests to go to Sustainability & Environment Unit.
- **Signage Project** – as discussed earlier. Priority given to location of entrance signs.
- **Development of an integrated communication strategy** – ongoing.
- **Communication** – remove information pack from agenda.
- **Workgroup progress report** – no meeting held since last committee meeting. Subgroups are working well.

**A2. Environmental**

- **Koala Beach newsletter** - has been sent out.
- **APZ** - clearing starting on 7 December. Letters distributed to those close to area.
- **Wildlife survey update** – report distributed to committee.
- **Wildlife fatalities and traffic calming** – traffic sub- committee report tabled including 2023 wildlife fatalities.

**A3. Economic**

- Budget update distributed to committee. Allocate more time first meeting next year to prioritise actions and relevant costs. Overspend will come out of reserve funds. Report on reserve funds status at next meeting.

**General Business:**

**GB1. Feedback re: ABC radio interview and potential story regarding interest in the operation of Koala Beach Covenants.**

Irene gave an overview of a preliminary interview with the ABC. Initially thought the interview was to be about dogs on the Estate but questions focussing on non-compliant fencing and the Council's actions. No advice on when interview would air.

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## GB2. Koala and Bush-stone curlew activity update given by Irene

Irene gave the committee an on-ground report of fauna activity on the Koala Beach Estate.

- **Glossy Black Cockatoos** – a lot of activity. New feed trees adopted by them.
- **Koalas** – large increase in sightings on the Estate. One seen in the Aboriginal gardens at the school causing a lot of excitement and interest from the pupils. Koala scats picked up from three different sites.
- **Curlews** – a lot of activity seen. Unfortunately, also a lot of deaths as well.
- **Wallabies** – an increase in numbers in Cudgen Nature Reserve. This may be as a result of success of wild dog baiting.

## GB3. Budget reserve

Request for reserve fund amount.

**Action:** *Jane to update committee with reserve fund amount at next meeting.*

## GB4. Pottsville Environment Centre

Request for access to Pottsville Environment Centre for sub-working group meetings. No system in place at present to book centre for public use. Will advise when this is set up.

### Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Minutes of the Koala Beach Wildlife and Habitat Management Committee will be held on Wednesday 21 February 2023.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm

## 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. <b>20/09/23 -Kristian Pakula confirmed that policy is being reviewed.</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
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 <b>20/09/23 – Jane to contact Fabrication department re: signs. Not yet done</b> <b>AAC Agenda – seeking approval for wording on Koala Beach Entry sign.</b>

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<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>	<b>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.</b>
<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>	<b>20/09/23 Council resolved to pursue legal action if required</b>
<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.	Report provided to traffic engineers.
<b>06/12/23</b>	1223-1	Jane to speak to Traffic engineer and request two appropriate locations for entrance signs	
<b>06/12/23</b>	1223-2	Update committee with reserve fund amount at next meeting.	