

Meeting minutes

Koala Advisory Council

Details

Subject	Koala Advisory Council Meeting No. 2
Chair	Mark Townend
Meeting type	Council meeting
Date and location	12 March 2019 State Library of Qld – Meeting Room 1B
Timing	10.00 am to 12.45 pm
Distribution	External

Council attendees

Name	Organisation
Al Mucci	Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation
Andrew Rutch on behalf of Isabel Tarrago	Cultural Heritage, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Cameron Costello	Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation
Chris Aston	Planning Group, Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
Gemma Plesman	Wilderness Society
Jonathan Rhodes	University of Queensland - School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science
Julie McLellan	Healthy Land and Water
Kirstin Kenyon	Conservation and Biodiversity Operations, Department of Environment and Science
Kirsty Chessher-Brown	Urban Development Institute of Australia
Kristy Gooding	Natural Assets and NRM, Local Government Association of Queensland
Marina Vit	MOSAIC Property Group
Mark Townend	RSPCA Queensland
Mick Stephens	Timber Queensland
Ramses Zietek	Program Delivery and Operations, Department of Transport and Main Roads

Speakers

Name	Organisation
Robert Hughes	A/Executive Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy, Department of Environment and Science
Beth Clouston	Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Policy, Department of Environment and Science
Catherine George	Manager, Koala Policy and Oversight, Department of Environment and Science

Department facilitator

Name	Organisation
Laura Affleck	Senior Policy Officer, Koala Policy and Oversight, Department of Environment and Science
Lupita Green	Senior Policy Officer, Koala Policy and Oversight, Department of Environment and Science

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Isabel Tarrago	Cultural Heritage, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Items

Item #	Discussion
1.	Welcome from Chair
2.	Conflict of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none">No new conflicts of interest were declared.
3.	Koala Admissions Data <p>Rosie Booth gave a presentation on koala admission data from Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital.</p> <p>The main points of the presentation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Over the 15-year period (2004-2018) there were 8779 koala admissionsThe three suburbs contributing to the most koala admissions are Morayfield, Burpengary and NarangbaLess females are able to be released than malesCause of admission:<ul style="list-style-type: none">41.54% - Chlamydia27.33% - Other (drowning, barbed wire etc.)23.13% - Hit by car8% - Dog attack <p>113 koalas re-admitted in 5 years 2013-2017, 54 of those killed after release within 5km zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The worst suburbs for re-admission were Petrie, Tinana and Kippa-Ring <p>Mark Townend provided an overview of data from RSPCA Queensland and Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. Both datasets showed an increase in admission records.</p> <p>The Council discussed this and reached an agreement that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There is a need for consistent record keeping, so that the data can be looked at across SEQThe 5km rule for releasing rehabilitated koalas needs to be reviewed as a priorityTranslocation will be addressed in a separate review
4.	Draft South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy and Priority Areas <p>A representative from the Department of Environment and Science presented a summary of the draft SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy. The Council discussed this and the following points were made:</p> <p>Co-ordinated approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Need to have clear and realistic timeframes for the habitat and population targets. <p>Habitat protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The definition of “committed development” will be important for industry.Habitat protection needs to be supplemented with an effective threat reduction program.When undertaking development, the State should ensure that the standards placed on the State development are not less onerous than those placed on private sector proponents.Industry will be impacted on a site-by-site basis. <p>Habitat restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The importance of more data on national parks to enable an effective management response, particularly during fires. <p>Threat reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Need to make fauna crossings and the retrofitting of roads cheaper and easier.Need to address threats with practical solutions.Translocation should be a key focus area for the next meeting. <p>Community partnerships and engagement</p>

- A workshop with Traditional Owners is being organised.

Mapping, monitoring, research and reporting

- Need to make sure that the targets are something that can be achieved in both the short and long term.

Outcomes from meetings with LGAs, the Koala Threats Roundtable and progress for meeting with First Nation people

A representative from the Department of Environment and Science presented a summary of the consultation feedback received to date.

The following consultation has been undertaken so far, through a number of different Koala Advisory Council members:

- Threat abatement roundtable with participants who have expertise in the rescue and rehabilitation of koalas
- Meeting with local government
- Meeting with SEQ Catchments

Negotiations are still underway to arrange First Nation consultation.

5. The key points from the consultation were:

- Strengthen legal protection for koala habitat
- Enforcement and compliance
- Local government should have a role in identifying and protecting koala habitat
- Offsets should only be used as a last resort
- Need to map threats and work with the SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network and local community
- Develop partnerships and engagement targets
- Need a more open and transparent process
- Remove barriers and incentivise landholder participation in habitat restoration programs

The Council discussed these points and further consultation with industry and local governments was recommended.

Planning for future meetings

6.
 - A copy of the draft SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy to be circulated to the Koala Advisory Council members

Nominations of matter for future meetings

7.
 - An amended draft SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy that includes the feedback to be provided from the Koala Advisory Council
 - Reporting and evaluation mechanism (for future meetings)
 - Offsets (for future meetings)
 - Road hotspots (for future meetings)
 - Description of map methodology (FAQ sheet can be distributed, for discussion at a future meeting)

Endorse Communique

8.
 - The communique was approved by the Koala Advisory Council

Action

Item #	Action	Responsible	Status	Due Date
1.	Circulate the draft SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy to the Koala Advisory Council	DES		25 March 2019
2.	Provide feedback on the draft SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy	Koala Advisory Council		9 April 2019

3.	Provide detail to UDIA on the percentage coverage of a priority area that would result in an entire development site being ruled out	DSDMIP	12 April 2019
4.	Provide a translocation summary to the Koala Advisory Council	DES	30 April 2019
5.	Organise consultation with Traditional Owners	DES	30 April 2019
6.	Consult with DTMR on road hotspots	DES/DTMR	30 April 2019

Next meeting

Date	30 April 2018
Time	TBC
Location	TBC