

## Meeting minutes Koala Advisory Council

<b>Subject</b>	Koala Advisory Council – Meeting #13
<b>Chair</b>	Mark Townend
<b>Meeting Type</b>	Council Meeting
<b>Date and location</b>	20 July 2021 Microsoft Teams
<b>Timing</b>	10am-12pm

### Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Mark Townend</b>	Spinal Life Australia
<b>Anita Cosgrove</b>	The Wilderness Society
<b>Al Mucci</b>	University of Queensland, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences
<b>Jonathan Rhodes</b>	University of Queensland - School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science
<b>Kirsty Chessher-Brown</b>	Urban Development Institute of Australia
<b>Kristy Forwood</b>	Planning Group, Queensland Treasury (proxy for Chris Aston)
<b>Kristy Gooding</b>	Natural Assets and NRM, Local Government Association of Queensland
<b>Crystal Baker</b>	Local Government Association of Queensland
<b>Lawrence Swann</b>	A/ Executive Director, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
<b>Ramses Zietek</b>	Director, Program Delivery and Operations, Department of Transport and Main Roads
<b>Rosie Booth</b>	Australia Zoo
<b>Shannon Mooney</b>	Healthy Land and Water (proxy for Julie McLellan)
<b>Cameron Costello</b>	Costello Consultancy
<b>Mick Stephens</b>	Timber Queensland
<b>Kirstin Kenyon</b>	Executive Director, Wildlife and Threatened Species, QPWS&P, DES
<b>Liz Young</b>	Director, DES
<b>Vanessa Sandhu</b>	Communications Manager, Communication and Public Engagement, DES
<b>Gordon Guymer</b>	Director, Queensland Herbarium, DES
<b>Andrew Mullens</b>	A\Director, Wildlife and Threatened Species, QPWS&P, DES
<b>Rob Hughes</b>	Director, Conservation Policy and Planning, DES
<b>Catherine George</b>	Manager, Koala Policy and Oversight, DES

<b>Mark Simpson</b>	Principal Policy Officer, Koala Policy and Oversight, DES (Minutes)
<b>Jessica Pinder</b>	Senior Policy Officer, Koala Policy and Oversight, DES (Minutes)

## Speakers

Name	Organisation
Catherine George	Department of Environment and Science
Liz Young	Department of Environment and Science
Vanessa Sidhu	Department of Environment and Science
Cameron Costello	Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation
Shannon Mooney	Healthy Land and Waters
Wade Arthur	Department of Transport and Main Roads

## Apologies

Name	Organisation
<b>Marina Vit</b>	MOSAIC Property Group
<b>Bill Ellis</b>	University of Queensland, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences
<b>Chris Aston</b>	Planning Group, Queensland Treasury
<b>Julie McLellan</b>	Healthy Land and Water
<b>Alex Graham</b>	Executive Director, Environmental Policy and Planning, DES

## Items

Item #	Discussion
	<p><b>Welcome from Chair and other business</b></p> <p><i>Mark Townend</i></p> <p><b>Conflict of interest</b></p> <p>1. Members acknowledged that Al Mucci and Ramses Zietek from the Department of Transport and Main Roads had involvement in developing the koala management plan for the Coomera Connect project discussed in Agenda Item 7.</p> <p><b>Minutes from previous meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes endorsed.</p>
	<p><b>Acknowledgement of Country</b></p> <p>2. <i>Lawrence Swann</i> acknowledged Country.</p>

---

**Meeting Purpose**

*Catherine George*

3. Catherine introduced the main purpose of the meeting to present to council the department's progress on rolling out key actions under the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy. This includes providing an update on three key work programs. Catherine noted that significant work had taken place with stakeholders, including an initial First Nations engagement, planning for the next Koala Collab on threat mitigation programs, and working with the DTMR on the SI Policy.
- 

**Koala habitat mapping projects**

*Liz Young*

- Update on 2 Projects.
- Project 1: DES has been working with Logan City Council (LCC) over the last 12 months to resolve issues with proposed additions to koala habitat mapping over areas under infrastructure plans. The agreed resolution process has involved DES undertaking detailed map truthing to inform a Delegates Report provided to LCC. Approximately half of the area that was under contention has now included in the koala habitat mapping, and DES and LCC are working together to resolve remaining issues.
- Project 2: Working to establish a small team in DES responsible for reviewing definitions and criteria for mapping MSES and MLES. The aim of this project will be to achieve a higher level of consistency between these frameworks, and give greater consideration to planning issues.
- LGAQ stated that they have to date received positive feedback from LCC in relation to the level of engagement provided by DES on Project 1.
- Healthy Land and Water expressed willingness to work with DES in support of Project 2.

4.

The Council
1. Noted the status of the two projects.
2. Noted that Liz Young is changing roles within DES.
3. Recommended that Liz provide the Council with methodology paper on criteria for resolving issues with Locally Refined Koala Habitat Area (LRKHA).

---

**Communications Plan**

*Vanessa Sidhu*

- Update on 2 Projects.
  - Project 1: A newsletter mock up was presented, featuring content based around themes of the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy. DES's intention is to 'slice and dice' newsletter content for social media and other outlets and is considering the possibility of working with Local Governments to release Council-specific newsletter. Distribution of the newsletter will occur through established channels, distribution lists and Queensland Government social media/ webpages.
  - Project 2: Promotion plan for release of the MERI and Implementation Plan as major initiative launches of the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy.
  - Council members complimented the Communications and Promotion Plan and noted the importance of being authentic and transparent about the actual progress being made toward delivery of the strategy targets in both the Newsletter and Annual Report.
-

- The Council discussed the potential for Traditional Owners to play a role as ambassadors for the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy, and the opportunity to embed a First Nations element within the Communications Plan.
- DES confirmed that a member of staff would be engaged to explore this opportunity further.
- DES recommended that Council members support the Communications Plan by distributing the Newsletter and other relevant content through their networks.

The Council
1. Noted the status of the two projects.

## Post Implementation Review (PIR) detailed scope and method

*Catherine George*

- Presentation on the detailed draft PIR Scope and Methodology.
- DES has been working closely with relevant Government stakeholders and will be continuously engaging with KAC throughout the development of the Consultation PIR.
- Next steps for the PIR project include starting data collection and analysis process, including aligning this to the MERI and annual reporting processes.
- To assess the extent of SEQ koala habitat clearing and application of exemptions, DES is proposing to work closely with Local Governments to develop case studies that utilise on-ground knowledge.
- The Council expressed interest in the PIR project as a valuable exercise. It was suggested that further thinking around how DES will capture the rate and pattern of clearing, cumulative impacts of exemptions and legislative interpretation challenges will be required.
- One Council member suggested touching base with NSW to discuss learnings from recent reviews of three environmental policies. DES agreed that a member of staff would initiate these discussions. Members noted that there would be some limitations in comparing the NSW approach with QLD.
- UDIA requested a meeting with DES to discuss the potential for a member-based survey to pick up opportunity costs associated with amendment regulation.
- The Council discussed the challenges of attributing dwelling supply and housing market related impacts to the koala habitat protections in the context of significant impacts of COVID-19. It was suggested that the KHA/ KPA impact sites be compared to control sites outside of mapped KHA to detangle these effects.
- The Council cautioned that the willingness to pay survey would need to be carefully developed. DES responded that they are intending to work closely with the Office of Best Practice Regulation on the questionnaire and other non-market valuation techniques for assessing environmental benefits of legislative change.
- Healthy Land and Waters suggested they may have relevant datasets to assist with capturing the broader environmental benefits of the new regulation. The Wilderness Society expressed interest in meeting with DES to discuss in further detail opportunities for the wildlife conservation sector to contribute to the data collection phase of the PIR project.
- DES suggested that Council members provide DES with detailed feedback on the project scope, method and data sources over the coming weeks.

The Council
4.1 Noted the proposed PIR Scope and Methodology.
4.2 Recommended that Council members provide DES with individual feedback on the draft PIR Scope and Methodology papers.
4.3 Recommended that Council members provide DES with individual feedback on proposed data sources for PIR impact assessment and regulatory performance evaluation.
4.4 Recommended that DES arrange follow-up meetings as required.

### **First Nations engagement**

*Cameron Costello*

5.
  - Presentation on the recent First Nations engagement at Daisy Hill Koala Centre.
  - Workshop discussions centred around Traditional Owner aspirations in relation to implementation of the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy, and gauging interest in the opportunity to co-design a First Nations Action Plan.
  - Council members provided strong support for the work to date on First Nations engagement and highlighted the importance of ongoing work and relationship building with Traditional Owners.

### **Healthy Land and Water projects**

*Shannon Mooney*

6.
  - Presentation on HLW's methodological approach to identify koala habitat restoration sites on private land parcels >1 hectare across SEQ.
  - Council members complemented HLW's approach and discussed opportunities relating to this body of work.

### **Coomera Connector**

*Wade Arthur*

7.
  - Presentation on DTMR's Coomera Connector project including overview of the business case, community engagement process and Koala Management Plan.
  - One council member asked about the potential koala conservation challenges that could arise in phase 2 of the project, and how improved fauna crossing infrastructure may have potential to mitigate those impacts.
  - The Council heard that experts in fauna crossing design have been engaged to assist with the project, and about the environmental stakeholder engagement that has occurred to date.
  - The Council highlighted the importance of maintaining strong engagement with koala groups in relation to this project – there will be significant public focus since the release of the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy.

### **8. Closing remarks**

*Mark Townend*

## Action

Reference	Action	Responsible	Status	Due Date
13.1	DES to provide the Council with paper on criteria for resolving local koala habitat mapping.	DES		Next meeting of the Council
13.2	DES to provide finalised versions of both the MERI Framework and Implementation Plan prior to release for noting.	DES		October
13.3	Council members may provide DES with individual feedback on PIR Scope and Methodology.	The Council		Mid-August
13.4	Council members may provide DES with data to be considered for PIR analysis.	The Council		Mid-August
13.5	Council members to identify elements of the MERI Framework that are considered lower priority, in case the delivery of the framework needs to be downsized.	The Council		Next meeting of the Council
13.6	DES to prepare presentation on current approach to koala conservation outside of SEQ	DES		Future meeting of the Council - TBD