

Meeting minutes

Koala Advisory Council

Details

Subject	Koala Advisory Council Meeting No. 1
Chair	Mark Townend
Meeting type	Council meeting
Date and location	13 December 2018 Level 31, 400 George Street, Brisbane
Timing	9.00 am to 12.30 pm
Distribution	External

Council attendees

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

Speakers

Name	Organisation
The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP	Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts
Nick Weinert	A/Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services, Department of Environment and Science
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
Megan Surawski	Director, Project Management Office – Land Restoration Fund, Department of Environment and Science
Catherine George	Manger, 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

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Kristen Kenyon	Conservation and Biodiversity Operations, Department of Environment and Science
Kristy Gooding	Natural Assets and NRM, Local Government Association of Queensland

Items

Item #	Discussion
1.	<p>Minister's Welcome</p> <p>The Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts welcomed members of the Koala Advisory Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledged the Yuggera and Turrabul people, the traditional owners of the lands on which we met, and paid respect to the elders, past present and emerging.• Thanked the work of the Koala Expert Panel.• Thanked Mr Mark Townend for accepting the role of Chair of the Koala Advisory Council (the Council).• The role of the Council will be to help us implement the Koala Conservation Strategy (the Strategy) in a pragmatic way and hold the Queensland Government to account with it.• The Council members are to be representatives of their particular stakeholders and open up communication channels between the Council and these different sectors.
2.	<p>Welcome from Chair</p> <p>The Chair of the Koala Advisory Council welcomed members and highlighted key principles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looking for honest and robust discussion in the Council meetings, but has an expectation that the Council will leave the room in agreement.• Encouraged the Council members to be bold and represent their stakeholders, just do it in a respectful way.
3.	<p>Roundtable introductions</p> <p>The Council members and DES speakers introduced themselves and identified the stakeholders that they will be representing in these meetings.</p>
4.	<p>Endorsement of key documents</p> <p>Endorsement of Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Council discussed the Terms of Reference and decided on the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule two Council meetings before the release of the Strategy in May 2019.• Amendment to the TOR to clarify that the Council will help to develop the Strategy.• Circulation of Council meeting documentation to occur at least one week before the meetings.• TOR accepted by Rosie Booth and seconded by Jonathan Rhodes, pending the above changes. <p>Code of Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Code of Conduct accepted by Marina Vit and seconded by Jonathan Rhodes. <p>Conflicts of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina Vit declared that MOSAIC is a property group and has land interests across Queensland.• Julie McLellan declared that Healthy Land and Water have a fee for service for implementing the Strategy through the NRM body.• Kristy Chessher-Brown requested clarity as to whether the Council will be talking about specific sites.• It was explained that conflicts of interest can be raised and addressed throughout the Council process. <p>Public release of documents</p> <p>The Council discussed the public release of documents and decided on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only the Chair will speak to the media about the work of the Council.• The main messaging will be decided by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) and the Council as a whole.

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- The Council members are expected to talk to their stakeholders about the work of the Council, but care must be taken to ensure that misinformation is not disseminated.
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Department of Environment and Science updates

Yurol Ringtail pilot

Rob Hughes provided a presentation on the pilot to transition Yurol and Ringtail State Forests into National Park.

The Council discussed this and reached a general agreement that:

- partnering with community and industry is critical
- timber production is important for the economy, and that these types of decisions need to ensure long-term supply for the future
- innovative thinking of trade-offs is required to strategically restore and protect land, while retaining other areas for industry production
- requires appropriate messaging and education to ensure that it is understood that this kind of outcome may not be suitable everywhere
- these kind of discussions need to involve Traditional Owner groups.

Koala habitat restoration

Catherine George provided an overview of DES's intended approach to koala habitat restoration.

The Council discussed this and reached a general agreement that:

- multi-use landscapes need to be explored
- substantial work has already been done to understand how to do land restoration. We need to address the current barriers and promote the potential opportunities early into the process
- more coordination with local government is required in order to share knowledge and mapping, and best support existing programs being run. DES will coordinate with LGAQ to arrange a meeting to exchange information with key local governments.
- there is a need for more strategic leadership in order for better investment.

5.

Land Restoration Fund

Megan Surawski provided an overview of the Queensland Government's Land Restoration Fund that aims to expand carbon farming in the state by supporting land-sector projects that deliver clear environmental, social and economic co-benefits.

The Council discussed this and reached a general agreement that:

- the projects can provide a clear benefit to koalas
- it supports multi-functional landscapes
- it supports the co-beneficial outcomes that had previously been discussed as being necessary for success.

Julie McLellan declared that Healthy Land and Water have put a bid in to develop a decision support tool for the Land Restoration Fund.

Approach to identifying priority areas

Catherine George provided an overview of the Queensland Government's intended approach to identifying priority areas.

The Council discussed this and reached a general agreement that:

- collaboration with the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) was important to ensure that due consideration is given to human population growth and dwelling targets
- the mapping methodology should be transparent
- collaboration with local councils is important to utilise their knowledge and data
- there is community support in SEQ to urgently address habitat loss.

Koala Conservation Strategy

Objective 1: A Strategic and Coordinated Approach to Koala Conservation

The Council discussed this objective and reached a general agreement that:

- targets for achieving management need to be identified. This is done by defining the end goal and then determining how we measure it
 - some targets rely on the identification of the priority areas, which will then focus other programs such as habitat restoration.
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Objective 2: Koala Habitat is Protected

The Council discussed this objective and reached a general agreement that:

- more collaboration and communication with local government is necessary.
- a clear process is required for when it is appropriate to contest the new koala habitat mapping
- DES are working with DSDMIP to ensure that dwelling supply targets and areas identified for growth in the South East Queensland Regional Plan, known as *ShapingSEQ* are given appropriate consideration during the process
- DES will provide a link to the Essential Habitat update which used the new koala habitat mapping
- Chris Aston will provide to DES key local government, traditional owner and industry contacts assisting with the implementation of *ShapingSEQ* to allow coordinated consultation with these stakeholder groups.

Objective 3: Strategic and Landscape-scale restoration

The Council discussed this objective and reached a general agreement that:

- the offsets framework needs to be reviewed
- priority should go to building on existing programs
- Julie McLellan to provide a contact to DES to discuss alignment with the Healthy Land and Water NRM plan.

Objective 4: Coordinated Threat Reduction and Koala Population Management

The Council discussed this objective and reached a general agreement that:

- we need to address threats from legacy development
- a roundtable with conservation groups and the Wilderness Society to define hot spots and treatments for koala death and injury was endorsed
- this will be undertaken in partnership and consultation with Traditional Owner groups, DTMR and the koala hospital network
- discussions should be continued with NSW partners to link up threat abatement programs across borders
- DES will work with LGAQ to help facilitate regional coordination between local governments
- collaboration with Griffith University will be explored
- a suite of education and communication tools will need to be introduced
- Council representation should be at each sub-meeting.

Objective 5: Strong Community Partnerships and Engagement

The Council discussed this objective and reached a general agreement that:

- the community want koalas to persist in coastal, urban environments.

Objective 6: Targeted Mapping, Monitoring, Research and Reporting

The Council discussed this objective and reached a general agreement that:

- the koala hospital network data needs to be better communicated
- trend data is more important to determine than an actual population count.

General discussion

- When the Strategy is released in May 2019, this will introduce both policy and programs approaches which can be implemented immediately, and a recognition that some approaches will require additional time or funding in order to be delivered.
- The focus of the Strategy is on SEQ, but ultimately this will be rolled out to the rest of Queensland.

Planning for future meetings

Development of reporting and evaluation and the nomination of matters for future meetings

7.
 - Produce a 'traffic light report'. The red items will be listed at the top of the meeting agendas so that they can be addressed as a priority.
 - Communique to be drafted by DES at COB after each meeting. This will be agreed upon by the Council and can then be circulated to stakeholders.
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Nomination of date and location for next meeting

- DES will circulate a poll to identify a potential date for the next Council meeting.
 - The meetings will be held on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday with a 9am start time.
 - Four meetings will be held in the next 12 months, with two being held before the release of the Strategy in May 2019.
 - Other locations can be nominated to host the Council meetings.
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Action

Item #	Action	Responsible	Status	Due Date
1.	Endorse a roundtable	Koala Advisory Council	Complete	13.12.2018
2.	Draft a Koala Advisory Council Communique	DES	Complete	13.12.2018
3.	Provide feedback on the Koala Advisory Council Communique	Koala Advisory Council	Complete	14.12.2018
4.	Draft the minutes of the first Koala Advisory Council meeting	DES	Complete	20.12.2018
5.	Circulate a poll to decide on the next meeting date	DES	Complete	21.12.2018
6.	Endorse the minutes of the first Koala Advisory Council meeting	Koala Advisory Council	In progress	01.02.2019
7.	Send a link to the Essential Habitat mapping update	DES	Linked on page 7	01.02.2019
8.	Amend the TOR to clarify that the Council will help to develop the Strategy	DES	In progress	01.02.2019
9.	Provide feedback on the inputs into the Koala Conservation Strategy	Koala Advisory Council	In progress	01.02.2019
10.	Healthy Land and Water to provide a contact for coordination with the NRM plan	Julie McLellan	Complete	01.02.2019
11.	Coordinate the next Koala Advisory Council meeting	DES	In progress	01.02.2019
12.	Coordinate to decide on Traditional Owner contacts to be used for future meetings on threat abatement and habitat protection	Cameron Costello and Isabel Tarrago	In progress	01.02.2019
13.	Coordinate a meeting to exchange information with key local governments. This meeting will address current koala programs addressing habitat restoration, population monitoring, threat reduction and habitat protection.	DES	In progress	01.02.2019
14.	Coordinate a roundtable with conservation groups to use local knowledge to identify threat hot spots in the landscape	DES	In progress	01.02.2019
15.	DSDMIP to provide DES key local government, traditional owner and industry contacts for consultation in developing options	(DSDMIP)	Complete	20.12.2019

Next meeting

Date	12 March 2019
Time	TBC
Location	TBC

Essential Habitat

The new mapping is available through vegetation mapping:

www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/management/vegetation/maps/map-request

Or the Queensland Globe:

www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/support-assistance/mapping-data-imagery/queensland-globe