

# NOTICE OF MEETING



## BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

An Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting of Byron Shire Council will be held as follows:

Venue	<b>Council Chambers, Station Street, Mullumbimby</b>
Date	<b>Thursday, 20 May 2021</b>
Time	<b>11.30am</b>

Shannon Burt  
Director Sustainable Environment & Economy

*I2021/801  
Distributed 13/05/21*

---

---

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

---

---

**What is a “Conflict of Interests”** - A conflict of interests can be of two types:

**Pecuniary** - an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person or another person with whom the person is associated.

**Non-pecuniary** – a private or personal interest that a Council official has that does not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Code of Conduct for Councillors (eg. A friendship, membership of an association, society or trade union or involvement or interest in an activity and may include an interest of a financial nature).

**Remoteness** – a person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to a matter or if the interest is of a kind specified in the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

**Who has a Pecuniary Interest?** - a person has a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is the interest of the person, or another person with whom the person is associated (see below).

**Relatives, Partners** - a person is taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter if:

- The person’s spouse or de facto partner or a relative of the person has a pecuniary interest in the matter, or
- The person, or a nominee, partners or employer of the person, is a member of a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter.

N.B. “Relative”, in relation to a person means any of the following:

- (a) the parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descends or adopted child of the person or of the person’s spouse;
- (b) the spouse or de facto partners of the person or of a person referred to in paragraph (a)

**No Interest in the Matter** - however, a person is not taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter:

- If the person is unaware of the relevant pecuniary interest of the spouse, de facto partner, relative or company or other body, or
- Just because the person is a member of, or is employed by, the Council.
- Just because the person is a member of, or a delegate of the Council to, a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter provided that the person has no beneficial interest in any shares of the company or body.

### **Disclosure and participation in meetings**

- A Councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Council or Committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.
- The Councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the Council or Committee:
  - (a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or Committee, or

- (b) at any time during which the Council or Committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

**No Knowledge** - a person does not breach this Clause if the person did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

**Non-pecuniary Interests** - Must be disclosed in meetings.

There are a broad range of options available for managing conflicts & the option chosen will depend on an assessment of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the significance of the issue being dealt with. Non-pecuniary conflicts of interests must be dealt with in at least one of the following ways:

- It may be appropriate that no action be taken where the potential for conflict is minimal. However, Councillors should consider providing an explanation of why they consider a conflict does not exist.
- Limit involvement if practical (eg. Participate in discussion but not in decision making or vice-versa). Care needs to be taken when exercising this option.
- Remove the source of the conflict (eg. Relinquishing or divesting the personal interest that creates the conflict)
- Have no involvement by absenting yourself from and not taking part in any debate or voting on the issue as of the provisions in the Code of Conduct (particularly if you have a significant non-pecuniary interest)

---

---

## RECORDING OF VOTING ON PLANNING MATTERS

### Clause 375A of the Local Government Act 1993 – Recording of voting on planning matters

- (1) In this section, **planning decision** means a decision made in the exercise of a function of a council under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979:
- (a) including a decision relating to a development application, an environmental planning instrument, a development control plan or a development contribution plan under that Act, but
- (b) not including the making of an order under that Act.
- (2) The general manager is required to keep a register containing, for each planning decision made at a meeting of the council or a council committee, the names of the councillors who supported the decision and the names of any councillors who opposed (or are taken to have opposed) the decision.
- (3) For the purpose of maintaining the register, a division is required to be called whenever a motion for a planning decision is put at a meeting of the council or a council committee.
- (4) Each decision recorded in the register is to be described in the register or identified in a manner that enables the description to be obtained from another publicly available document, and is to include the information required by the regulations.
- (5) This section extends to a meeting that is closed to the public.

**BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUSINESS OF MEETING**

**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- 3.1 Adoption of minutes from 18 March 2021 meeting ..... 5

**4. STAFF REPORTS**

**Sustainable Environment and Economy**

- 4.1 Brunswick Valley Landcare Support Officer Reports to March 2021 ..... 12  
4.2 Biodiversity Projects and Operations Update ..... 16

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Report No. 3.1 Adoption of minutes from 18 March 2021 meeting**

5 **Directorate:** Sustainable Environment and Economy  
**Report Author:** Michelle Chapman, Project Support Officer  
**File No:** I2021/105

---

10

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on 18 March be confirmed.**

15

**Attachments:**

1 Minutes 18/03/2021 Biodiversity Advisory Committee, I2021/427 , page 7  

20

## Report

The attachment to this report provides the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting of 18 March 2021.

### Report to Council

- 5 The minutes will be reported to Council on 29 May 2021. **Comments**

The following Committee Recommendations are put to Council for resolution:

1. That Council notes the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2021.

2. That Council adopt the following Committee Recommendation(s):

Report No. 4.2 Wildlife Signage Update

#### Committee Recommendation 4.2.1

That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee recommends to Council that they consider an allocation of \$11,500 in the 2021/22 budget to fund the development of a Wildlife Roadkill Mitigation Strategy for Byron Shire Council.

3. That Council adopt the following Committee Recommendation(s):

Report No. 4.4 Wildlife Safe Havens - Brunswick Valley Landcare Initiative

#### Committee Recommendation 4.4.1

That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee recommend to Council that an amount of \$1000 from account 2605.127 be allocated to the Brunswick Valley Landcare Schools Wildlife Safe Havens initiative to purchase and install 2 nest boxes at two schools including monitoring training and follow-up over two nesting seasons.

**MINUTES OF MEETING**



**BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**Venue** Conference Room, Station Street, Mullumbimby  
**Date** Thursday, 18 March 2021  
**Time** 9.00am

*I2021/427  
Distributed 11/03/21*

**BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL**

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 - ATTACHMENT 1



# BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 - ATTACHMENT 1

## BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

18 MARCH 2021

**Minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 18 March 2021**

**File No:** I2021/427

**PRESENT:** Cr C Coorey, Cr J Martin, Cr S Ndiaye

Staff: Sharyn French (Manager Environmental and Economic Planning)

Liz Caddick (Biodiversity Officer)

Rachael Lee (Project Officer, Koala)

Michelle Chapman (Minute Taker)

Community: Peter Westheimer

*Cr Ndiaye (Chair) opened the meeting at 9.02 and acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Bundjalung Country.*

**APOLOGIES:**

Margaret Greenway (resigned December 2020), Greg Shanahan (BVL), Luke McConell, Shannon Burt (Director Sustainable Environment and Economy), Chloe Dowsett (Coast, Biodiversity and Sustainability Coordinator)

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY**

There were no declarations of interest.

---

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**Report No. 3.1      Adoption of minutes from 23 November 2020**  
**File No:              I2021/106**

**Committee Recommendation:**

**That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on 23 November 2020 be confirmed.**

(Coorey/Ndiaye)

*The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.*

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There was no business arising from previous minutes.

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

18 MARCH 2021

---

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

**Report No. 4.1**      **Brunswick Valley Landcare Support Officer Reports to March 2021**

**File No:**            I2021/265

**Committee Recommendation:**

**That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee note the report.**

(Ndiaye/Westheimer)

*The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.*

---

**Report No. 4.2**      **Wildlife Signage Update**

**File No:**            I2021/266

**Committee Recommendation:**

**That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee recommends to Council that they consider an allocation of \$11,500 in the 2021/22 budget to fund the development of a Wildlife Roadkill Mitigation Strategy for Byron Shire Council.**

(Coorey/Ndiaye)

*The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.*

---

**Report No. 4.3**      **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2020 Actions Audit**

**File No:**            I2021/275

**Committee Recommendation:**

**That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee notes this report.**

(Westheimer/Martin)

*The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.*

---

**Report No. 4.4**      **Wildlife Safe Havens - Brunswick Valley Landcare Initiative**

**File No:**            I2021/278

**Committee Recommendation:**

**That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee recommend to Council that an amount of \$1000 from account 2605.127 be allocated to the Brunswick Valley Landcare**

# BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 - ATTACHMENT 1

## BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

18 MARCH 2021

**Schools Wildlife Safe Havens initiative to purchase and install 2 nest boxes at two schools including monitoring training and follow-up over two nesting seasons.**

(Westheimer/Martin)

*The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.*

---

**Report No. 4.5      Environmental Levy Policy Review**  
**File No:            I2021/287**

**Committee Recommendation:**

**That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee consider and advise on any changes to the Environmental Levy Implementation Policy.**

(Ndiaye/Martin)

*The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.*

---

**Report No. 4.6      Leash-Up Pilot Communication Project - Update**  
**File No:            I2021/291**

**Committee Recommendation:**

**That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee notes this report.**

(Coorey/Martin)

*The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.*

---

*There being no further business the meeting concluded at 10.59.*

**STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY**

**Report No. 4.1 Brunswick Valley Landcare Support Officer Reports to March 2021**

5 **Directorate:** Sustainable Environment and Economy

**Report Author:** Lizabeth Caddick, Biodiversity Officer

**File No:** I2021/647

**Summary:**


10 This report tables the activities of the Landcare Support Officer quarterly report, from January to March 2021.

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

15 **That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee note the report.**

**Attachments:**

1 Landcare Support Officer report January to March 2021 from Brunswick Valley Landcare, E2021/57990 , page 14 [↓](#) 

20

## Report

Council provided an allocation of funds in the 2020/21 budget to continue to support the Brunswick Valley Landcare, Landcare Support Officer position for 1 day per week to deliver the Land for Wildlife Program and respond to customer enquiries.

- 5 Attached is the quarterly report (January to March 2021) from the Landcare Support Officer for the Committee's reference.

## Strategic Considerations

### Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan

<b>CSP Objective</b>	<b>L2</b>	<b>CSP Strategy</b>	<b>L3</b>	<b>DP Action</b>	<b>L4</b>	<b>OP Activity</b>
<b>Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment</b>	3.2	Strive to become a sustainable community	3.2.2	Support community environmental and sustainability projects	3.2.2.5	Support Brunswick Valley Landcare to deliver the Land for Wildlife Program and biodiversity enquiries

## 10 Recent Resolutions

Nil

## Legal/Statutory/Policy Considerations

Nil

## Financial Considerations

- 15 Funding allocated in 2020/21 budget.

## Consultation and Engagement

Nil



## Landcare Support Officer Report for Byron Shire Council

1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### **LFW**

**Total of 139 properties registered in Byron Shire**

77 registered by BVL, 62 registered by BSC

Site Assessments and Properties registered:

- 162 Blindmouth Road, Main Arm
- 643 Wilsons Creek Road, Wilsons Creek
- 108 Wanganui Road, Wanganui
- Lot 7 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry
- 623 Upper Wilsons Creek Road, Upper Wilsons Creek
- 538 The Pocket Road, The Pocket
- 575 Binna Burra Road, Federal
- 65 Natural Lane, Broken Head

### **LANDCARE GROUPS**

- 23 BVL locality groups – 16 working on council owned land (one has become inactive due to illness of coordinator, council regen team now manage this site)
- 3 BVL special interest groups
- 10 Incorporated Landcare groups working in Byron Shire (not under BVL's umbrella)
- Completed a Review of Environmental factors for Laurel Avenue locality group and was successful in obtaining a short term licence to work on the Crown Land behind Laurel Avenue, adjacent to Byron Council's depot.
- Liaising with Christopher Pont re a parcel of council land on Redgate Road, New Brighton and possibility of forming a locality group – site visit booked in with Dave Filipcysck.

### **PROJECTS**

- **ET Ridge to River: Mooibal Spur Corridor Restoration Stage 1** \$99,873. Working on council road reserve and private properties between Tallow wood Ridge Estate and Tristran Drive, Mullumbimby Creek. Year 1 complete with on ground work on track. Community planting day held on 13<sup>th</sup> March with 780 themeda grasses planted.
- **ET Broken Head Coastal Corridor** \$99,970 – working on 8 private properties in Broken Head. Bush Regen and planting. Year 2 reporting submitted, project on track.
- **SOS Phyllanthus** – \$7,500 received for final year of project working on 5 sites along the Brunswick River and Mullumbimby Creek in Mullumbimby
- **IRCC grant successful** "Adapting to climate variability—a planting guide for the Northern Rivers region, NSW" \$29,894 to be delivered by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. To research and audit past plantings, data presented in a report to guide future plantings, 1000 Climate resilient land scape guide distributed to community, 2 workshops education on Climate resilient landscapes, 1 Demonstration site as Heritage park with 350 plants + signs. Research on track, audits of 6 Mullum Music Festival planting sites completed and planting underway in Heritage Park.
- **WIRES and Landcare Australia post-bushfire wildlife habitat regeneration successful** "Wildlife safe havens" project to 30 properties – installing Nestboxes, doing site visits, and supplying native plants + buying motion detecting cameras and monitoring camera on a pole and developing info leaflets and social media group. \$19,978 to be delivered by the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021. 29 site visits completed with 29 nestboxes installed. Follow up visits to be done in May.

*6 April 2021 Report by Alison Ratcliffe*

- **Fish Habitat Planting** – funded through Ozfish and ZEB and 1 landholder, 464 & 466 Main Arm Road. 375 plants over 0.2 ha plus regen along the main arm of the Bruns River. Planting completed on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Maintenance for 3 years included in project.
- **Take a Walk in the Park**, Maslen Arboretum, Heritage Park. Byron Shire Council Community Initiatives Program (Section 356) \$5,000. To repair and maintain tracks and entrance, design and conduct 4 guided walks, order and install 20 new plant signs, add interpretive signage and a commemorative seat.
- **Working Together** \$2000 to have aboriginal traditional owners attend our Smart Farms and Seeds of Hope events.

**COUNCIL**

- Attended a workshop on the new wildlife corridor mapping.
- **Smart Farms workshops** revisited list of workshops and topics with Andrew Cameron and planning underway for 6 workshops to happen over next 12 months.

**BVL PROJECT OFFICER**

- Rochelle is now working from council 1 day per week on a flexible basis to fit in with desk availability. In addition to this Rochelle has also been working with council on pest animal projects. 95 Indian mynas trapped to date.

**ENQUIRY TOPICS/ ISSUES**

Phone	Email	Website	Social Media	Walk in	In Person
5 x contacts	3 x Help on private property	2 x volunteering	Plant ID		2 x help on private property
3 x volunteering	3 x Bush regen list	2 x Regen list			Ballina Landcare
Help on private property	2 x nestboxes	2 x Help on private property			Nest boxes
Nest boxes	LfW	2 x Nest boxes			
LfW	Climate resilient planting guide	Memorial seat			
CTC bufo tabs	Map	Camphors			
Bush regen advice	Singapore daisy	MLNG			
Big Scrub book	Creek erosion	traineeship			
CEN grants	Plant ID	Land for Wildlife			
	Aboriginal contacts	Morning glory event			
		Madeira vine			
<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>50</b>

*6 April 2021 Report by Alison Ratcliffe*

**Report No. 4.2 Biodiversity Projects and Operations Update**

**Directorate:** Sustainable Environment and Economy

**Report Author:** Lizabeth Caddick, Biodiversity Officer

**File No:** I2021/711

5 **Summary:**

This report provides the Biodiversity Advisory Committee with an update on current projects and programmes being undertaken by the Biodiversity team, including:

- Flying-fox Management Plan
- Pest Animal Management Plan
- 10 • Bringing Back the Bruns
- Agricultural Projects
- Development Control Plan (DCP) Biodiversity; Tree and Vegetation Management
- Leash-Up Pilot Communication Project
- Domestic Cats – Awareness Raising
- 15 • Coastal Scoping Study for the Southern Byron Shire Coastline and Belongil Creek Estuary

---

20

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee note the update on current projects and programmes being undertaken by Council staff.**

25



## Report

### *Flying-fox Management Plan*

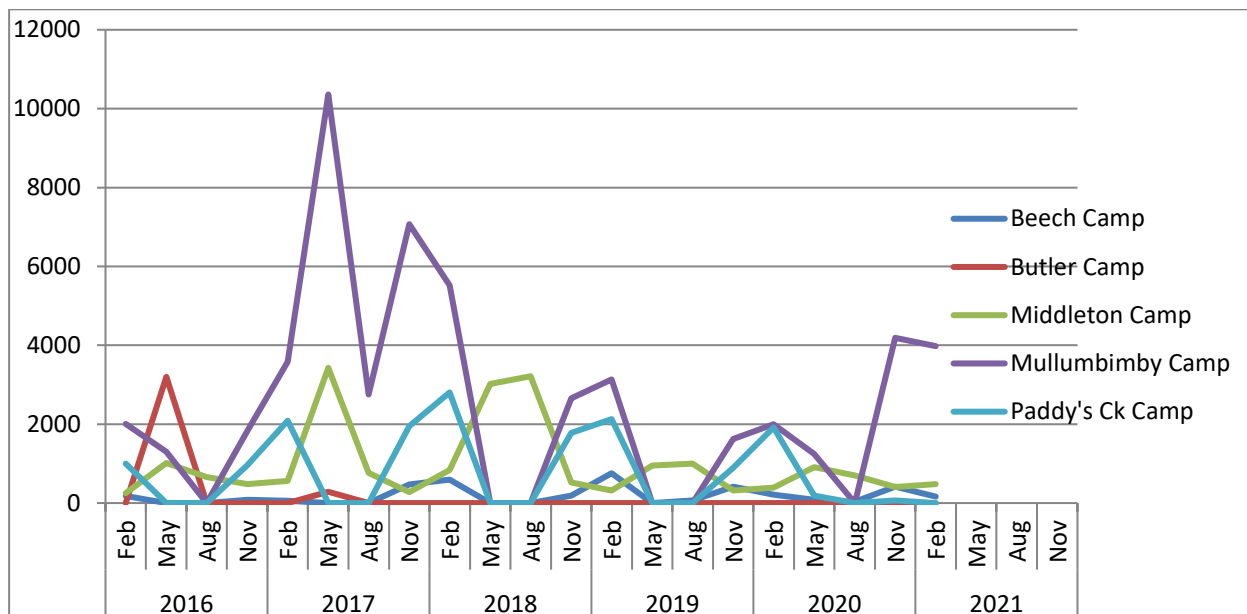
5 The second year of the NSW Environmental Trust funded *Flying-Improvement* project, is just about complete. Outputs include:

- 2.3ha of Flying-fox habitat improved by bush regeneration and maintained at Beech Camp
- 350 trees planted at Beech Camp
- 80m riparian habitat in Flying-fox camp area revegetated at Yoga Bera Ck
- 10 • 200m<sup>2</sup> of riparian land stabilised by minor earthworks and vegetation at Yoga Bera Ck
- 480 plants planted at Yoga Bera Ck Mullumbimby Camp
- Paddys Ck footbridge has a new deck

15 The CSIRO February census was undertaken. It was interesting to note that all Flying-foxes have unexpectedly left the Paddys Ck site. Typically this would happen late May each year. Correspondingly there is an increase in Flying-fox's at Byron Ck camp in Bangalow.

20 One week after the count we noted three species of Flying-fox roosting in the two camps with the arrival of Little red flying foxes: 250 at the Mullumbimby camp and approximately 150 at the Middleton St camp.

	<b>Feb 2019</b>	<b>Feb 2020</b>	<b>Feb 2021</b>
Mullumbimby	3132	1995	3980
Butler St	0	0	0
Middleton St	318	388	476
Beech	755	214	167
Paddy's Ck	2128	1919	0



**Pest Animal Management Plan**

Wild Dogs, Cats and Foxes

5 Trapping is on-going on Council lands through our contractor- JR Trapping. The contract with JR Trapping under the Australian Government Drought Pest and Weeds funded project to trap on private land in the Shire for 15 weeks has finished.

10 JR Trapping is now being contracted by North Coast Local Land Services (NCLLS) to trap wild dogs in the Nashua Booyong area of our Shire as part of the NCLLS Drought Pest and Weeds project.

Council is participating in the development of the North Coast Regional Cat Management Plan which is being developed by NCLLS.

15 Council is participating in a feral cat trapping project funded by NCLLS. Priority areas have been identified following consultation with BVL and JR Trapping and trapping should be underway soon.

Feral Deer

Two feral deer were spotted in Tweed Shire in April 2021. Community awareness, monitoring and control are funded under Tweeds Drought Pest and Weed project. Landholder Deer Control training will commence in the next few months in the Tweed.

20 Indian Myna

The program is continuing with 9 current participants and over 70 birds trapped since commencement this year. Trapping success slows now for the winter months.

***Bringing Back the Bruns***

Fish Habitat Restoration Program – successful grant

5 Contracting, sub-contracting and design discussions have commenced with partners NCLLS and Soil Conservation Service for the *Bringing Back the Bruns* project on the Brunswick River in Mullumbimby. The project has been extended by 6 months due to the delayed release of the funding agreement to NCLLS.

Fisheries Habitat Action Grant (2019) – Mullumbimby Riparian Riverbank Project

10 Primary weed control is nearly complete and this will then lead to follow-up weed control from the starting points. A community information day demonstrating the weeds of the area and community bush protection and regeneration is planned for the winter.

A report to Council's Coast and Estuary Catchment Panel 20 May meeting provides a more detailed update on the *Bringing Back the Bruns* project.

***Agriculture***

SmartFarms

15 The hand book for aspiring farmers - *Starting Out!- An introductory Guide to Farming in the Byron Shire* has been completed and printed. This book will help those thinking about farming and has a number of tips and stories as well as 10 farmer and industry case studies talking about what they do, how they do it and lessons learnt. The book promotes landholder responsibility with regard to sustainability, resource management and caring for the land.

Six SmartFarms workshops are planned for the next 12 months. The Soils workshop demonstrating Regenerative land management will be held near Mullumbimby on June 23 2021.

25 Combating Pests and Weeds Grant (Commonwealth) 2020 - Agricultural advice, weed and pest animal control in Byron Shire

Tropical Soda Apple eradication is under way. 5ha of the weed is found in the Shire and Rous County Council has the contract to eradicate it.

30 Expression of interest has been released for participants in the control of 4.5ha of environmental weeds (\$27k). It is anticipated that this target will easily be achieved. Projects will focus on riparian zones, grazing weeds and weeds impacting HEV mapped areas.

Approval has been sought for the amendment of the project to cancel broad acre weed control and allow the use of project funds to address weeds on 120ha of agricultural lands by a managed grazing incentive project.

35 Agricultural Extension Officer

## BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

### STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

4.2

The role supports all farming but promotes Regenerative Farming to ensure the sustainability of agriculture and the stewardship of the land. When Andrew is talking farming, the rest of the team has the opportunity to talk biodiversity.

5 Approval has been sought to extend the Agricultural Extension Officer role from Dec 2021 to end June 2022. This is possible due to late recruitment and a minor savings made.

Achievements so far:

- Byron Shire Farmer Network database set up and running consisting of 190+ farmers and agriculture stakeholders enabling broad and targeted dissemination of information, invitations and consultation.
  - 10       ▪ 28 information emails sent to the network so far promoting sustainable farming workshops, webinars, podcasts and grant opportunities.
- 40 on-site farm visits (addressing an area of over 1200ha) discussing productivity, farm planning, marketing and succession.
- Over 30 emails with landholders discussing the above topics.
- 15   ○ Social media campaign inviting farmers to join the Byron Shire Farmer Network
- 6 forum panels speaking about Byron Shires agriculture program and the benefits of Regenerative Farming.
  - 20       ▪ Growers Gathering App Launch at Harvest Cafe
  - Presenter at the Young Farmers Connect open day at "The Farm"
  - Panellist and speaker at the *Kiss The Ground* Screening Byron Bay
  - Northern Rivers food event at Harvest Cafe
  - Panellist and speaker at the *Worm is turning* Screening Byron Bay
  - 25       ▪ Presenter and workshop holder Seeds of Hope education day for local year 10 ag students
- 3 Newspaper articles on the role of the AEO and Councils Agriculture Program
- 3 Radio interviews on the role of the AEO and Councils Agriculture Program
- 30   The BSC Agriculture Action Plan has been adopted by Council.  
Implementation of the plan commenced June 2020.

#### ***Draft Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014 Chapters B1 Biodiversity and B2 Tree and Vegetation Management***

Delivering Action 1.1 within Council's adopted Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2020-2030:

- 35   - DCP 2014 Chapter B1 Biodiversity went on public exhibition from 19 October – 15 November 2020 (Res 20-533), and was adopted by Council on 10 December 2020 (Res 20-692).
- 40   - DCP 2014 Chapter B2 Tree and Vegetation Management was on public exhibition 23 November to 20 December 2020, and was adopted at 11 March Council Planning meeting 2021, with Bunya pine removed from Appendix 3 (Resolution 21-065).

***Koala activity monitoring program 2021***

Council has received \$20,000 from the NSW Koala Strategy to support koala activity monitoring in the coastal KPOM area in 2021. This repeats monitoring done in 2011 and 2016, and uses the Spot Assessment Technique (SAT) to assess changes in koala activity across the CKPOM area. The surveys involve repeat monitoring of 60 sites (mostly on private land) for koala scats (droppings), which are used as an indicator of koala presence/absence and activity. Fieldwork has been delayed by recent wet weather, as most of the survey sites in the CKPOM area are very low lying. The biodiversity team are now working to complete surveys by end June 2021.

A report is also going to the 27 May Council meeting seeking contribution of \$5,000 from the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Budget towards the Northern Rivers Regional Koala Activity Assessment. This is a koala activity monitoring program across the Northern Rivers council areas of Byron, Ballina, Tweed, Lismore, Kyogle and Richmond Valley. The Koala Activity Assessment will allow tracking of regional koala population trends over time, helping to guide management programs and conservation actions in a strategic way across the Northern Rivers. The assessment will build on an existing dataset created by the University of Queensland, which is already being used by the NSW Government and local councils in the region to guide koala habitat restoration projects. Tweed Shire Council is currently in discussions with WWF and DPIE for core funding for this project, and other councils are being asked to contribute what they can to make up the difference. Total project budget estimate is \$217,200.

***Koala habitat planting projects***

Council is continuing to progress a number of projects focussed on creating or restoring koala habitat on private land, including:

- *Byron Habitat Corridors Project* - This Environment Trust funded project is now complete. Project funding of \$17,025 for maintenance of plantings was extended to March 2021 due to the drought and Covid-19. The project has resulted in planting of 6.6 ha (3983 plants) and restoration of 10.9 ha koala habitat at six private properties in Mullumbimby, Bangalow, Brunswick Heads, Myocum and Skinners Shoot, in addition to 3 community workshops and 2 community planting days.
- *North East Hinterland Koala Conservation Project* - This DPIE-funded project is a partnership between Tweed, Byron, Lismore and Ballina Councils and Friends of the Koala. Byron Shire Council has a budget of \$45,000 over three years for koala habitat planting and restoration on private land. 15 sites, totalling around 15 ha have been planted and maintenance work on these sites is in progress. The final site for this project to be confirmed with Federal Landcare.
- *Koala Food for the Future Project* – the Saving our Species program has provided \$18,750 funding for koala habitat restoration on private land, with a similar methodology to the North East Hinterland project. To date 10 sites, totalling 7.5 ha have been identified and planting is in progress.
- Council has been helping Mullumbimby High School students set up their *Trees for Koalas - Connecting Communities* project. Students from the school's Special Education Learning Centre and their families will be doing a second planting at The

Pocket on 4 May. Council is also advising the school community regarding koala tree planting at other sites for which expressions of interest have been received.

***Leash-Up Pilot Communication Project***

5 Last year, Byron Shire Council received total grant funding of \$60,000 through DPIE Saving Our Species and the NSW Koala Strategy for the strategic development of an awareness and education program to help mitigate domestic dog impacts to koalas, and other wildlife.

10 Following the successful *Bow Wow! Look at me now!* dog event, the Leash-Up pilot program is developed to improve dog control, especially in areas of close proximity to koala sightings, koala habitat, and other wildlife such as endangered shorebirds. The pilot harnesses an innovative approach to strategic communications development and deployment with improved dog leashing rates providing a reliable gauge of effectiveness.

15 With an estimated 10,000+ domestic dogs living in the shire, there are approximately 100 dogs to every koala in 25% of the shire which is covered by the Byron Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management with an estimated population of 240 koalas.

Based on two stages of dog owner engagement via online research and concept development, a communications campaign was developed with the tagline '*Bow Wow! Leash me now!*'. The campaign was developed as a cross-functional initiative for Council supported by the biodiversity, enforcement, open spaces and communications teams.

20 The campaign harnesses digital media and trial signage to deliver a range of short messages conveying the most relevant and motivating benefits of dog leashing to dog owners. Online media directs dog owners to a new dog leashing page on Council's [website here](#). A suite of social media videos featuring vet interviews and stories about the risks of dog-wildlife interactions and broader benefits of improved dog management are also in production.

30 An option to air one of the videos on regional TV is currently under investigation on the proviso that video content can be adequately adapted to 30 seconds in length and is of a high enough standard for TV broadcast. The video centres on the risks of dog and koala interactions, and its airing as a TV ad is supported by Friends of the Koala, four other local councils in the broadcast area (their logos included) and the NSW Koala Strategy.

**Image: High impact, creative messaging for digital media linked to council's [dog leashing webpage](#), and adapted to on-ground, test signage, and hero campaign image and tagline call to action.**



**Domestic Cats – Awareness Raising**

Council is developing new website information to raise awareness regarding the impact of domestic cats on native wildlife and what people can do to protect their cats and wildlife.

5 We are currently collating pictures and videos celebrating local responsible cat owners, who have an enclosed cat run or walk cats on leads.

This information will also support the *RSPCA Keeping Cats Safe At Home* project, which Council is about to start participating in. This is a 4-year behaviour change project run by the RSPCA that will encourage cat owners to keep their cats safe at home through a range of project activities. The RSPCA will be developing tailored behaviour change strategies for 10 successful Councils (of which Byron Shire Council is one), which may include social marketing, school visits, community engagement events, and GPS trackers to help owners understand the impact of their cat. Council will also be eligible for up to \$90,000 funding for cat owner incentives, including advice, desexing and cat enclosures. The community consultation phase of this project will run June-November 2021, and behaviour change strategies will be implemented January 2022-Jan 2025.

10

15

**Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study for the Southern Byron Shire Coastline and the Belongil Creek estuary**

# BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

## STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

4.2

A report to the 22 April Council meeting provides an update on the status of the development of Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) for the Byron Shire coastal zone.

A report to Council's Coast and Estuary Catchment Panel 20 May meeting provides an update on the commencement of a CMP for the Richmond River estuary catchment and Council's participation.

5

## Strategic Considerations

### Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan

CSP Objective	L2	CSP Strategy	L3	DP Action	L4	OP Activity
<b>Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment</b>	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.3	Implement priority actions from the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
<b>Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment</b>	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.6	Implement the Flying Fox Camp Management Plan
<b>Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment</b>	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.7	Continue to undertake the Flying Fox National Census
<b>Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment</b>	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.8	Implement the Koala Plan of Management



# BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

## STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

4.2

<b>Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment</b>	<b>3.1</b>	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.9	Implement the Pest Animal Management Plan
<b>Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment</b>	<b>3.1</b>	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.2	Restore degraded areas and habitats that have or provide significant or high environmental and or community value	3.1.2.2	Respond to biosecurity threats in a timely and efficient manner
<b>Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment</b>	<b>3.1</b>	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.2	Restore degraded areas and habitats that have or provide significant or high environmental and or community value	3.1.2.4	Identify new high profile sites for restoration works
<b>Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment</b>	<b>3.3</b>	Partner to protect and enhance the health of the Shire's coastlines, estuaries, waterways and catchments	3.3.1	Implement Coastal Management Program	3.3.1.3	Investigate Brunswick River Project

**Recent Resolutions**

- N/A

**Legal/Statutory/Policy Considerations**

N/A

**5 Financial Considerations**

Where relevant, budgets for specific projects noted above.

**Consultation and Engagement**

N/A