

NOTICE OF MEETING



BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Venue	Conference Room, Station Street, Mullumbimby
Date	Thursday, 9 September 2021
Time	9.00am

Shannon Burt
Director Sustainable Environment & Economy

*I2021/1432
Distributed 02/09/21*

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 of meeting held 20 May 2021 5

4. STAFF REPORTS

Sustainable Environment and Economy

- 4.1 Biodiversity Projects and Operations Update 11
4.2 Council maintenance works adjacent to areas of High Environmental Value ... 38
4.3 Brunswick Valley Landcare Support Officer report April to June 2021 40

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Report No. 3.1 Adoption of Minutes of meeting held 20 May 2021

5 **Directorate:** Sustainable Environment and Economy
Report Author: Michelle Chapman, Project Support Officer
File No: I2021/1183

10

RECOMMENDATION:

That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2021 be confirmed.

15 **Attachments:**

1 Minutes 20/05/2021 Biodiversity Advisory Committee, I2021/814 , page 7 [↓](#)

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1

Report

The attachment to this report provides the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting of 20 May 2021 .

Report to Council

- 5 The minutes were reported to Council on 24 June 2021 **Comments**

In accordance with the Committee Recommendations, Council resolved the following:

21-216 Resolved that Council notes the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting held 20 May 2021.

21-217 Resolved that Council adopt the following Committee Recommendations:

- 10 Report No. 4.2 Biodiversity Projects and Operations Update

File No: I2021/711

Committee Recommendation 4.2.1

1. That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee note the update on current projects and programmes being undertaken by Council staff.
- 15 2. That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee recognises the positive impact of having an Agricultural Extension Officer who is heavily involved in regenerative agriculture and biodiversity outcomes and recommends to Council that the Agricultural Extension Officer position be considered as a fulltime, permanent council position.

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MINUTES OF MEETING



**BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Venue **Council Chambers, Station Street, Mullumbimby**
Date **Thursday, 20 May 2021**
Time **11.30am**

*12021/814
Distributed 13/05/21*

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 - ATTACHMENT 1

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

20 MAY 2021

Minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 20 May 2021

File No: I2021/814

PRESENT: , Cr J Martin, Cr S Ndiaye

Staff: Sharyn French (Manager Environmental and Economic Planning)
Liz Caddick (Biodiversity Team Leader)
Peter Boyd (Biodiversity & Agricultural Project Officer)
Andrew Cameron (Agricultural Extension Officer)
Rachael Lee (Koala Projects Officer)

Community: Peter Westheimer
Greg Shanahan (Brunswick Valley Landcare)

Cr Ndiaye (Chair) opened the meeting at 11.34am and acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Bundjalung Country.

APOLOGIES:

Luke McConell; Shannon Burt (Director Sustainable Environment and Economy); Cr C Coorey; Dave Rawlins (Brunswick Valley Landcare)

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 18 March 2021 meeting
File No: I2021/105

Moved:

BAC Biodiversity Advisory Committee Meeting

page 3

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

20 MAY 2021

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

(Martin/Westheimer)

The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no business arising from previous minutes.

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

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

File No: I2021/647

Moved:

That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee note the report.

(Westheimer/Ndiaye)

The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.

Report No. 4.2 Biodiversity Projects and Operations Update

File No: I2021/711

Committee Recommendation:

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

That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee recognises the positive impact of having an Agricultural Extension Officer who is heavily involved in regenerative agriculture and biodiversity outcomes and recommends to Council that the Agricultural Extension Officer position be considered as a fulltime, permanent council position.

(Ndiaye/Shanahan)

The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 - ATTACHMENT 1

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

20 MAY 2021

LATE REPORTS

Report No. 0.0 **Council maintenance works adjacent to areas of High
Environmental Value**
File No: I2021/762

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee note this report.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1.53pm.

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

Report No. 4.1 Biodiversity Projects and Operations Update

Directorate: Sustainable Environment and Economy

5 **Report Author:** Lizabeth Caddick, Biodiversity Officer
Caitlin Weatherstone, Project Officer - Koala

File No: I2021/1320

Summary:

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

- 2021-22 FY biodiversity conservation strategy projects
- Koala activity surveys
- New road signs
- Koala habitat planting projects
- 15 • Leash-Up Pilot Communication Project
- Sustainable Agriculture Projects
- Coastal Scoping Study for the Southern Byron Shire Coastline and Belongil Creek Estuary.
- 20 • Flying-fox Management Plan
- Pest Animal Management Plan
- Bringing Back the Bruns
- Wildlife corridor mapping
- Feral Cat trapping program – BSC and LLS partnership
- *Keeping Cats Safe at Home* Project - RSPCA NSW

25

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Attachments:

35 1 Leash-Up Project Final Report, E2021/86409 , page 27 [↓](#)

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

4.1

Report

2021-22 Financial Year Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Projects

5 Council's 2021-22 Operational Plan has provided funding for the following new projects, which are Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Actions. Staff are currently preparing requests for quotes for these projects.

Project	OP number	Biodiversity Strategy Action number	Budget
Develop a Strategic Action Plan for Wildlife Road Strike Mitigation in Byron Shire.	3.1.1.15	4.25 - Work with RMS, local wildlife groups and Regional Koala Communications Group to identify road strike hotspots in Byron Shire., 4.26 - Seek funding for road strike mitigation trials at priority road strike hotspots. 4.27 - Consider roadkill mitigation measures and opportunities to improve wildlife connectivity into design work for new roads and road asset upgrades.	\$11,500
Finalise shire-wide restoration map	3.1.1.17	1.20 Map areas that have been revegetated: a) using public funds, and b) for conservation purposes	\$8,850
Map potential habitat areas for Mitchell's Rainforest Snail	3.1.1.18	1.25 Map potential habitat areas for Mitchell's Rainforest Snail.	\$8,000
Update 2017 vegetation and HEV mapping to reflect ground truthing done as part of EZone review (approx 250 sites).	3.1.1.19	1.14 Update and maintain Council's vegetation and HEV mapping with revised Plant Community Types (PCTs) and current aerial photography.	\$6,000

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

4.1

Update flora and fauna lists for the shire, including status of threatened flora and fauna	3.1.1.20	1.11 Conduct a review of Byron Shire's biodiversity values as a baseline for ongoing biodiversity monitoring. Include: • Updated Byron Shire flora and fauna lists, • Status of threatened flora and fauna, • Status of weed species, • Extent of native vegetation, • Extent of protected vegetation (public and private land) • Fire frequency status	\$5,600
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Coastal koala activity monitoring program 2021

5 Council's coastal koala activity monitoring program is nearly complete, funded with a \$20,000 grant from the NSW 2018-2021 Koala Strategy. The field work has been delayed by wet weather, Covid-19 and difficulties accessing some sites that are on private property. To date 49 out of 58 sites have been surveyed. A small number of survey site locations have been changed (within 250 metres) where we were unable to access private land.

10 This monitoring repeats surveys done in the coastal KPOM area in 2011 and 2016, and uses the Spot Assessment Technique (SAT) to assess changes in koala activity. The surveys involve repeat monitoring of 58 sites (mostly on private land) for koala scats (droppings), which are used as an indicator of koala presence/absence and activity.

15 As well as providing us with updated information on koala activity in the shire, the project has been a great opportunity to talk with landowners in the CKPOM areas about koala conservation on their land and what they can do to help. Once all surveys are complete, full results will be reported to BAC.

New road signs

20 At the end of the 2020-21 financial year, Council received a grant of \$12,000 from the NSW Koala Strategy for installation of a koala zone on Mafeking Rd, Goonengerry, either side of Byrangery Grass Reserve and in a known breeding koala habitat area. The koala zone includes two 6m x 7m road markings, as well as signs picturing a mother koala with a joey on her back (Figures 1 and 2).

25 As part of Council's road infrastructure upgrades, a koala zone and wildlife zone are also being installed on Bangalow Rd and on Gray's Lane. Koala signs have also been installed as part of the Skinners Shoot Road upgrade (Figure 3). Speed limits will also be reduced on Gray's Lane and Skinners Shoot Rd.



Figure 1 – Mafeking Rd Koala Zone



Figure 2 – Mafeking Rd Koala Sign



Figure 3 – Skinners Shoot Rd koala sign

Koala habitat planting projects

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

- 10 • *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 and over 2000 trees have been planted and maintenance work on these sites is in progress.
- 15 • *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.
- 20 • 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 joined in a second planting at The Pocket on 4 May. More trees will be delivered to the school in August for planting on private properties.

Leash-Up Pilot Communication Project

The Leash-Up project ran from June 2020 – June 2021, funded by a \$84,890 grant under the NSW Koala Strategy’s ‘Conservation through Community Action’ pillar. The project

developed a social behaviour change communications campaign and findings were reported to regional partners via the Northern Rivers Regional Koala Group. The final project report is attached (Attachment 1).

5 Leash-Up was an innovative community engagement project, aimed at increasing dog-leashing compliance in public spaces, to reduce the risk of dog-koala attacks. Rather than going straight to an education campaign, the project adopted a social marketing approach, guided by the theory of behaviour change, to engage with dog owners and understand attitudes and social norms. This understanding enabled development of a targeted and engaging campaign, which was tested on the target audience before being deployed via television, social media and signage.

Use of dog-leashing as a measure of behaviour change enabled simple monitoring of the effectiveness of the campaign at a pilot study site, and digitisation of the campaign via Facebook, Google and a website enabled us to measure the reach and influence of the campaign.

15 Key findings were:

- An incremental change in leashing of +11% hides more substantial behavioural changes:
 - Large dogs are now being leashed more frequently with a leashing increase of +27%
 - 20 ○ More dogs are being leashed on the street and at the park with a leashing increase of +20%
- 35% of dog owners associate dog leashing with koala protection messages
- 29% of dog owners have seen the Bow Wow TV ad
- 25 • Disagreement that most people walk dogs on-leash has risen by +23% suggesting dog owners may be more attuned to non-leashing behaviour than prior to the campaign
- Owners of large dog may be more amenable to making changes to dog management and land management to benefit koalas and other wildlife.

30 Implementing behaviour change requires a long-term approach. To ensure project benefits are ongoing, the engagement tools developed (artwork, videos) can be reused in future by both Byron and other councils, to reinforce messages and stimulate community conversation. Results were communicated to other regional LGAs via the Northern Rivers Regional Koala Communications Group. As a pilot study, the intention was to share learnings and outputs with other councils working to conserve koalas. All artwork is available to the other regional Councils and the TV ad campaign was deployed regionally, with the support of other local Councils.

5 Local Councils have a regulatory role over many issues (littering, parking, environmental health), and Council's frequently use awareness-raising campaigns to help manage regulatory issues. The methodology used in this campaign, including social marketing, behaviour change theory and testing of concepts on the target audience are applicable to community engagement campaigns across a range of issues.

Additionally, the project created a significant database of local dog owners, their demographics, views and attitudes, which provides a starting point for development of additional communications materials relating to numerous dog-owner compliance issues.

Sustainable Agriculture

10 SmartFarms

The hand book for aspiring farmers - *Starting Out!- An introductory Guide to Farming in the Byron Shire* has been reprinted to allow for broader distribution. Promotion of the book is via the farmer network as well as through the organisations and individuals contributing to the book and facebook.

15 SmartFarms workshops have commenced with a soils workshop co-hosted by BVL and well attended. Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, an extension of time to deliver the workshops has been granted by the Federal Government.

Smart Farms workshops completed so far:

- You and your land – planning what to do.
- 20 - Soils as part of Soils our national capital with BVL and Casino Food Co Op.
- Organic vegetable and flower Field Day hosted by Liz and Bob in Goonengerry which was filmed for a vid to get out on Social media and beyond.
- Rotational grazing with an aim pasture weed reduction.

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

Tropical Soda Apple eradication is nearly complete. Over 5ha of the weed in the Shire has been controlled by Rous County Council which includes a number of follow-up controls over the last 12 months.

30 5 primary producing landholders are participating in the control of 5.5ha of environmental weeds (\$27k). The project is addressing a variety of weeds including pasture and riparian weeds for the benefit of both productivity and the environment.

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

35 12 primary producers will be participating in a Regenerative Agriculture based property planning workshop, pencilled in for 27/28 Sept 2021. 453ha of farmland in the Shire will be planned for managed/cell grazing. Regenerative grazing of this type promotes pasture

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STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

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5 development and condition which competes well with many weeds, as well as providing many other soil, moisture and nutrient retention benefits over the long term. Of these 12 participants, 6 farmers have been selected to receive grants up to \$4,500 to assist them to implement their plans, for purchases such as electric fences, posts, energisers and water systems on their farms (over 140ha).

Additional agricultural extension activities

Update on achievements since Nov 2020:

- Byron Shire Farmer Network database set up and running consisting of 245 (last report was 195).
- 10 • 11 on site Farm Visits.
- 11 Real estate agents/buyers sent details and pdf of the new “Starting out” and “Farmers farm and cows DO moo” guides.
- 10 “Newsletter” emails gone out to the BFN for workshops, events, and grant info.
- 15 • 200 email introductions of extension role and service to landholders with properties over 30 acres.
- Agriculture extension role and service with contact numbers put in the latest Rates notice distributed to all rate payers in the Shire.

Community events:

BSC Ag Extension Officer to be:

- 20 • Presenter/Speaker at Fields of Hope to local ag students.
- Speaker at Turning Point Talks in Mullumbimby

25 Mentor Program collaboration in development with the Farming together program/Regenerative agricultural alliance. Potential to have 12 farmers as part of the program meeting with or having contact with a regenerative farming mentor monthly over a 12 month period.

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

30 This Coastal Management Program (CMP) focuses on key management issues and threats to the coastal areas from Broken Head in the south to Cape Byron in the north. The project will also include the coastal creeks and lakes including Belongil Creek estuary, Tallow Creek estuary, Ti Tree (Taylor’s) Lake and their wider catchments.

The CMP will be a long-term strategy to guide Council and other stakeholders in the management of these popular but environmentally sensitive areas.

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Council adopted the Stage 1 Scoping Study for the southern Byron Shire coastline and the Belongil Creek estuary at its 5 August 2021 meeting.

5 The Scoping Study considers the feedback from a community undertaken in late 2020/2021 and details engagement and information from other agencies involved in managing the coastal zone such as the Department of Primary Industry (DPI) Fisheries and Marine Parks, DPIE Crown Lands, and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

An outcome of Stage 1 was the identification of studies and activities required to fill key data gaps and to answer questions relating to priority management issues. These include:

- Coastal hazard assessment (funded and in progress).
- 10 • Mapping of an erosion escarpment, a coastal vulnerability area and verification of existing mapping of coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests.
- Identification of water pollution sources.
- An audit of the coastal planning framework for Byron Shire.
- Preliminary mapping of Aboriginal cultural heritage and values in the coastal zone.
- 15 • Ongoing implementation of the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.
- Activities involving engagement of Aboriginal cultural knowledge holders.

Council is currently seeking State Government grant funding to assist in proceeding with Stage 2 studies. These will ensure the development of more effective management strategies and actions which will occur in Stage 3.

20 ***Flying-fox Management Plan***

The CSIRO August census has been cancelled. Flying-foxes are typically only found in the Middleton St camp this time of year. Staff will count this camp for its own records later in August 2021.

The results of the May 2021 National Census are tabled below.

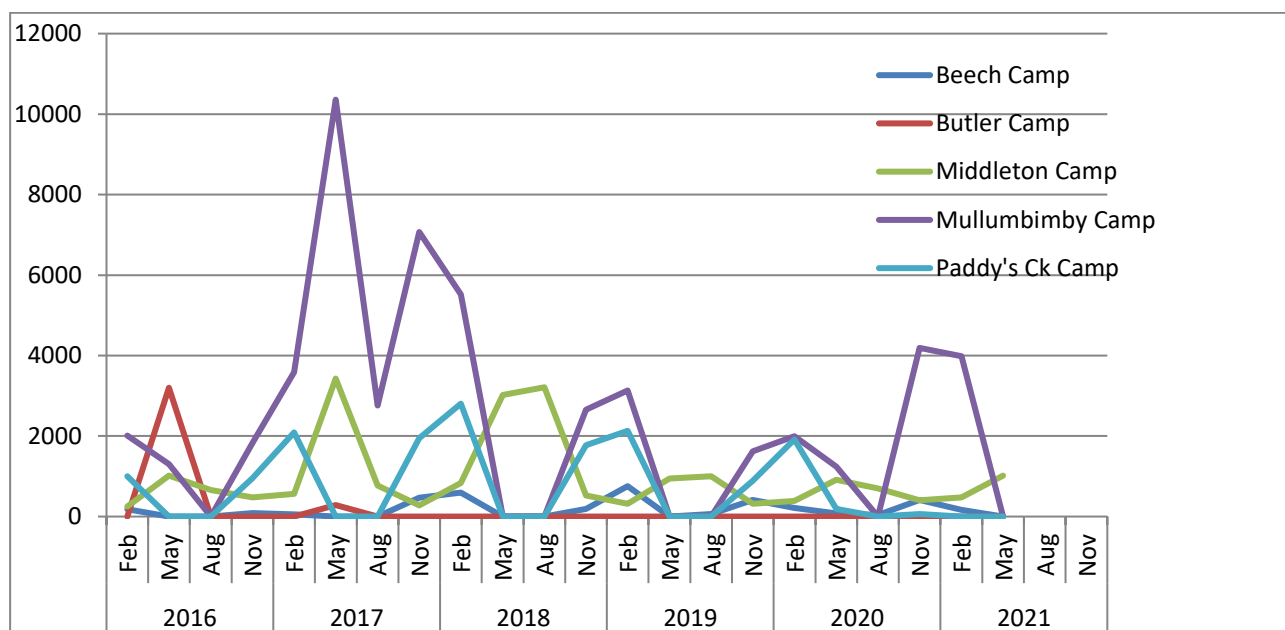
	May 2019	May 2020	May 2021
Mullumbimby	0	0	0
Butler St	0	0	0
Middleton St	947	914	1017

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Beech	0	0	0
Paddy's Ck	0	0	0



Total number of Flying-foxes counted at the 5 managed camps in Byron Shire

Pest Animal Management Plan

5 Wild Dogs, Cats and Foxes

Trapping is on-going on Council lands through our contractor- JR Trapping. JR Trapping was also engaged by Council to trap on private land in the Shire for 15 weeks under the Australian Government Drought Pest and Weeds project.

10 In the 2020-21 year, 20 dogs, 16 foxes and 4 cats were trapped in the Shire by Council by JR Trapping.

A contract for a further 8 trapping weeks on private land until the end of June 2021 will commence shortly, funded by Australian Government Drought Pest and Weeds project.

15 Council participated in a feral cat trapping project funded by NCLLS. Priority areas were identified following consultation with Council staff, BVL and JR Trapping. 8 cats were trapped in an 8 week period.

Feral Deer

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A young male Rusa deer was found in the north of the Shire on Tuesday 3 August. This was the first record of a deer in the Shire. The deer was dispatched that day by a local hunter.

- 5 A media report was sent to all outlets and was picked up by newspapers and radio. The main messages for the community included:
- to report all sightings on *Feralscan* (www.feralscan.com.au). A recording alerts the NCLLS, DPI and Council.
 - landholders have a biosecurity obligation to control all pest weeds and animals on their land

- 10 No other sightings have been recorded in the Shire since.

Council is participating in an awareness campaign with neighbouring Councils to make sure people know what to do if they do spot a deer in the Shire. For more information about deer and the campaign in the Northern Rivers go to www.feraldeeralert.com.au

Indian Myna

- 15 Myna trapping has been a success so far with great results for the 20/21 year.
- 10 community members are involved in the Shire
 - 7 members received 1:1 training and follow-up with dispatching of trapped birds
 - 95 Indian Mynas trapped so far.
- 20 Council has received another 6 cages and looks forward to expanding the trapping program in the spring.

Bringing Back the Bruns

Fish Habitat Restoration Program – successful grant

- 25 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

- 30 1.8km of primary weed control has been completed and follow-up weed control is continuing until the project finishes at the end of September. A community information day is planned Saturday 4 September 2021, identifying the weeds of the area, community bush protection and regeneration.

Keeping Cats Safe at Home' Project - RSPCA NSW

- 35 Keeping Cats Safe at Home is a 4-year behaviour change project aiming to reduce the impacts of pet cats on wildlife. The project encourages cat owners to keep their cats safe

at home either exclusively indoors or indoors and outdoors using cat enclosures or modified fencing.

5 The project develops tailored behaviour change strategies for subgroups of cat owners within Byron Shire based on extensive consultation with all stakeholder groups, especially cat owners. The RSPCA NSW project team will deliver the project with support from Council compliance staff to engage their local communities, disseminate project messaging and assist with local project activities.

This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

10 The overall vision is to normalise containment of pet cats to their owner's property while ensuring optimal cat welfare, to protect wildlife, keep cats safe and help councils improve cat management in their Local Government Area.

Wildlife Corridor Mapping

15 Landmark Ecological have developed draft wildlife corridor mapping for the shire. We are currently consulting with other Council stakeholders (planners, agriculture) regarding the corridors and their role in Council business. We are also working closely with Landmark to refine the mapping methodology and alignment of the corridors.

20 The draft wildlife corridor maps were developed with the objective of protecting core habitat and dispersal opportunities for key threatened species in the shire – i.e. those species that have core habitat in the shire, and that have the most limited dispersal capability. The methodology is similar to that used in development of Lismore Council's wildlife corridor maps (Landmark 2012) and the regional wildlife corridor mapping developed by NSW National Parks (Scotts 2003). However, for this project, Landmark have included threatened plants as well as threatened animals for the first time. The methodology takes into consideration current and historic species records, existing land use constraints and connections (e.g. highway underpasses), mapped corridors in adjacent shires, and the likely impacts of climate change (through consideration of flood prone land, south facing slopes, riparian habitats etc.).

The intent of the wildlife corridor mapping is to:

- 30 • Support Council, environmental groups and landholders to strategically focus their restoration activities to where they can have the greatest biodiversity benefit.
- To support Council and environmental groups in seeking grant funding for key strategic biodiversity conservation projects.
- 35 • To support the implementation of Council's Biodiversity DCP (Chapter B1) during the development assessment process, by supporting planning decisions that best protect and enhance our biodiversity, while continuing to facilitate permitted land uses, e.g. on rural or residential zoned land.
- To incentivise the community, in both rural and suburban corridors, to take steps to help create and maintain wildlife connectivity in their backyards, through showing

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people a bigger picture view of the importance of their backyard habitat in the overall landscape.

Next Steps

Some amendments will be required to the Biodiversity DCP to:

- 5
 - Ensure that the definition of a wildlife corridor in the DCP reflects the new mapping,
 - Ensure that management intent is clear for both corridors in rural and built-up areas.
 - Ensure that management intent is clear for both vegetated and cleared parts of corridors.

10 We intend to discuss this in depth with Councillors at the October Strategic Planning Workshop and with our farming community at the November Agricultural Cluster Group meeting, prior to reporting to the new Council in early 2022, followed by community engagement.

Strategic Considerations

15 Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan

CSP Objective	L2	CSP Strategy	L3	DP Action	L4	OP Activity
Community Objective 2: We cultivate and celebrate our diverse cultures, lifestyle and sense of community	2.4	Enhance community safety and amenity while respecting our shared values	2.4.3	Enhance public safety, health and liveability through the use of council's regulatory controls and services	2.4.3.6	Facilitate companion animals education
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.1	Implement the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.2	Revise Wildlife Corridor Mapping (Biodiversity Conservation Strategy action)

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

4.1

Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	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	Investigate opportunities for Council to provide incentives for landholders to conduct restoration works on their properties that will assist with long term biodiversity conservation.(Biodiversity Conservation Strategy action)
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.9	Implement the Flying Fox Camp Management Plan
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.10	Continue to undertake the Flying Fox National Census
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.11	Implement the Koala Plan of Management
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.12	Partner with key stakeholders on koala research and management projects, including - NE Hinterland Koala Conservation Project - North Coast Koala Linkage and - Maximising outcomes for koalas on private land project. (Koala Plan of Management action)
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.13	Deliver and report on feral animal projects (Action in Pest Animal Management Plan)
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.1	Partner to protect and enhance our biodiversity, ecosystems and ecology	3.1.1	Protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity	3.1.1.14	Deliver the pests and weeds grant funded project

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

4.1

Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.2	Strive to become a sustainable community	3.2.2	Support community environmental and sustainability projects	3.2.2.1	Provide coastal, environmental and sustainability information and encourage and support community activities and groups
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.2	Strive to become a sustainable community	3.2.2	Support community environmental and sustainability projects	3.2.2.2	Participate in regional sustainability and environmental working groups and initiatives.
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.2	Strive to become a sustainable community	3.2.2	Support community environmental and sustainability projects	3.2.2.4	Support Friends of the Koala, Bangalow Koalas and Wires through the Regional Koala Communications Group.
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	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
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.3	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	Continue Bringing Back the Brunswick River Project
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.3	Partner to protect and enhance the health of the Shire's coastlines, estuaries, waterways and catchments	3.3.1	Implement Coastal Management Program	3.3.1.1	Continue preparing a Coastal Management Program (CMP) in accordance with the staged process for Cape Byron to South Golden Beach

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

4.1

Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.3	Partner to protect and enhance the health of the Shire's coastlines, estuaries, waterways and catchments	3.3.1	Implement Coastal Management Program	3.3.1.4	Continue preparing a Coastal Management Program (CMP) in accordance with the staged process for Cape Byron Southern Coastline (including Tallow and Belongil Creek Catchment)
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.4	Support and secure our farming future	3.4.1	Develop and implement strategies to support agriculture, agri-business and farmers	3.4.1.1	Finalise and commence implementation of the Agriculture Action Plan
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.4	Support and secure our farming future	3.4.1	Develop and implement strategies to support agriculture, agri-business and farmers	3.4.1.2	Continue to deliver Smart Farms –Small Grants project
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	3.4	Support and secure our farming future	3.4.1	Develop and implement strategies to support agriculture, agri-business and farmers	3.4.1.3	Continue to convene Agricultural Cluster Group Meetings

Recent Resolutions

- N/A

Legal/Statutory/Policy Considerations

5 N/A

Financial Considerations

Where relevant, budgets for specific projects noted above.

Consultation and Engagement

N/A



Leash-Up Pilot Communications Project

Post-program Results Report

Byron Shire Council. 29 June, 2020.



1. Background

Funded by the NSW Koala Strategy's *Conservation through Community Action* pillar, Byron Shire Council's *Leash-up Pilot Communications Project* aims to reduce dog-koala/wildlife interactions and attacks. The Leash-Up project tests the efficacy of social behaviour change communications (SBCC) using TV, social, digital and signage media.

Domestic dog attack is a recognised threat to vulnerable koalas, and other wildlife. In the last decade, 230 koalas were rescued from dog attack in the Northern Rivers including up to five in Byron Shire annually¹. Recorded dog attacks in the shire have tripled in three years to 59 in 2020 and 70% involve animals². Identifying domestic dog attack as an issue for management, the [Byron Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management](#) (BC-CKPOM) covers 25% of the shire along urbanised coast with a population of 240 koalas.

Changing human behaviour is difficult, and dog control is a complex and sensitive issue. Dog-koala interactions and attacks are more likely to occur on private versus public land, but dog owner behaviour change on private land is unable to be reliably gauged. Alternatively, dog leashing rates are often used to gauge dog owner behaviour change. Off-leash dogs are common in public, natural and no-dog areas across Byron Shire and neighbouring LGAs. According to the *Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)* dogs must be leashed in public spaces not designated off lead. Thus, the initial pilot project uses dog leashing rates as an indicator of public behaviour change where a legal obligation exists.

Estimates suggest 50% of Byron Shire's 15,646 households own 1.3 dogs on average³. Around 14,000 residents or nearly 40% of the shire's population (35,081) are attributed with primary or secondary responsibility for managing one or more dogs³. With an estimated 10,000+ domestic dogs in the shire, dogs outnumber koalas by approximately 100 to one in the BC-KPOM area.

In the West Mullumbimby Koala Management Precinct of the BC-KPOM is a pilot site bordered by koala habitat with koala sightings occurring within 100 - 900 metres of high density, peri urban development where housing will grow by 40%. The site has restored riparian habitat, park/field, playground, sports courts, oval and sealed paths throughout. Dog ownership is high and on-leash dogs are allowed in public spaces, except the playground and oval where regulatory signs include no-dog icons. Despite a designated off-leash area being 1 km away, off-leash dogs are exercised at the sports oval where a dedicated no-dog sign was installed but removed by council due to community outrage.

Over June/July 2020, pre-program statistical field data collected from the pilot site showed 69.2% of dogs off-leash on average in public spaces and no-dog areas (n = 15, 118 obs.)⁴. Since then, no enforcement activity has been undertaken and the Leash-Up pilot project's *Bow Wow! Leash-me now!* campaign ran for eight weeks in April to June, 2021. The campaign was developed via two stages of online dog owner engagement research, development of an SBCC strategy and creative concepts, followed by the production and deployment of campaign media (Appendix 1). This report outlines the results of a Post-campaign Awareness Survey and dog leashing field data from June, 2021 to gauge behaviour change arising from communications only, prior to enforcement activity.

¹ Friends of the Koala Inc., 2010 - 2019. Annual Reports - Regional koala care records by LGA and cause for rescue.

² Byron Shire Council, 2018 - 2020. Annual Reports - Compliance with the Animals Act 1998 section.

³ Byron Shire Council, December 2020. Bow Wow Dog Owner Survey Results: Updated Final Report.

⁴ Byron Shire Council, July 2020. Pre-program Benchmarking Results - Draft Report.

2. Campaign Survey Results

A five-minute, online survey was conducted to benchmark awareness of the campaign, key messaging, any change in attitudes and social norms compared to prior measures. The survey was emailed to 146 dog owners who opted-in during prior council surveys.

Sixty-two respondents completed the survey representing a participation rate of 42%. The sample (n = 62) could vary within +/- 12% of the true value of the primary and secondary dog owner population estimate of 14,000 (95% CI).

Participant ages skewed older with 96% aged 35+ and 52% aged 55+. Gender skewed strongly to 69% female with 26% male and 5% non-identified. Sixty-five percent advised they always leash their dog, while 35% do not.

Key measures of awareness

Participants were asked if they could 'recall the main message/s of any communication they had recently seen or heard about leashing dogs' with 68% recalling one or more of the message options.

The top messages recalled are ranked as follows:

- 44% - Protect wildlife
- 35% - Protect koalas
- 29% - Control of the dog
- 24% - Safety for dogs
- 17% - Safety for people
- 17% - It's on-leash unless off-leash
- 16% - Avoid the unexpected
- 14% - Reduce stress

Non-campaign communications may have contributed to this result. However, given 'recent dog leashing communication' was specified and 'protecting koalas' performed strongly, it would be fair to assume the result is likely due to the Leash-Up campaign, and the same for 'protecting wildlife' to some extent.

Among dog owners, the prompted campaign awareness is indicated:

- 29% awareness of the 'If koalas could talk' dog-leashing TV ad
- 17% awareness of the 'If dogs could talk' dog-leashing video
- 13% awareness of the digital ads

Differences in attitudes and social norms

A few attitudes and social norms were remeasured with the greatest changes being:

- 60% (+23%) disagree that most community members walk their dogs on leash
- 68% (+16%) disagree the choice to leash is entirely up to them
- 58% (+21%) disagree leashing is a hassle
- 56% (+10%) agree that leashing reduces their dog's ability to exercise
- 77% (+9%) agreement that dog leashing helps to protect wildlife

These results may suggest that participants may feel more strongly about dog leashing now, compared to the before the Leash-Up campaign.

3. Post-campaign Leashing Results

Data

Statistical field data was gathered based on '[A simple method for monitoring dog leash compliance behaviour in parks and natural areas](#)' by Leung, Walden-Schreiner, Conlon and Miller (2015). Data were gathered for one-hour periods across three weeks. Day and time of collection was matched to pre-campaign data collection as much as practically possible. The data variables collected include location, exercise surface, leash compliance and dog size. The percentage of observations at each location were matched to within 4% (Table 1).

Table 1: Percentage of locations contributing to dog leashing observations

Location	Pre-campaign (n = 15, 118 obs.)	Post-Campaign (n = 15, 149 obs.)
Sports oval	36%	40%
Park	21%	17%
Street	38%	40%
Other	5%	3%
Total	100%	100%

No enforcement activity was performed by Council over the study period to ensure that naturally occurring behaviour was observed. Data were collated, summarised and analysed using Excel. The percentage of on-leash and off-leash dogs was calculated for each sample and the average of sample percentages.

Results

Fifteen one-hour data collection sessions (n = 15) gathered 149 observations with an average of 9.9 dogs per hour. This represents an increase of 2.0 dogs per hour compared to pre-program benchmarking. Increased dog ownership and population growth in an expanding housing estate might offer one explanation for this.

On average 57.8% (s = 0.14) of dogs were off-leash representing an 11.4% increase in dog leashing compared to the pre-campaign off-leash rate of 69.2% (s = 0.21) (Figure 1). The percentage of dogs off-leash ranged between 36.7% - 90% (Figure 2).

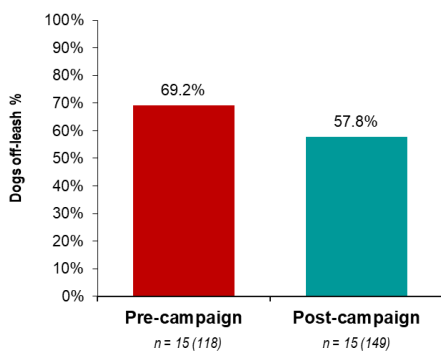


Figure 1: Average percentage of dogs exercised off-leash pre-campaign (69.2%, s = 0.21) and post-campaign (57.8%, s = 0.14) at West Mullumbimby Koala Management Precinct.

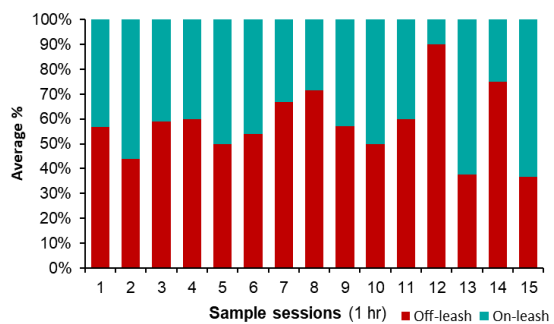


Figure 2: Average percentage of dogs exercised off-leash versus on-leash for sampling sessions of one hour duration at the West Mullumbimby Koala Management Precinct.

Dog leashing increased by 22% on streets and 21% in park areas, but only by 5% at the sports oval (Figure 3). Some dogs were observed on-leash until reaching the oval for off-leash exercise. Leashing decreased at the sports courts with 100% of dogs off-leash but is only based on four observations as lesser destination for dog exercise compared to others.

The percentage of large dogs off-leash reduced by 26% which is the largest change indicated, while medium-sized off-leash dogs reduced by 17%. In contrast, the percentage of small dogs exercised off-leash has increased by 8% (Figure 4).

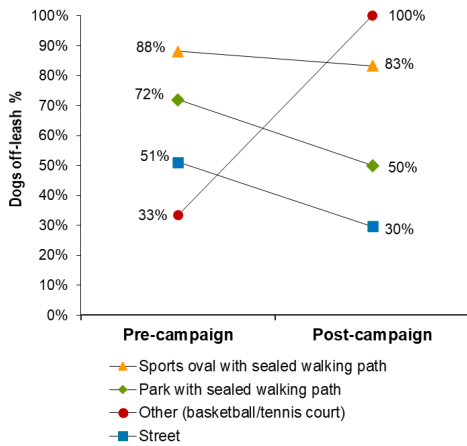


Figure 3: Percentage of off-leash dogs by location, pre-campaign and post-campaign for at the West Mullumbimby Koala Management Precinct.

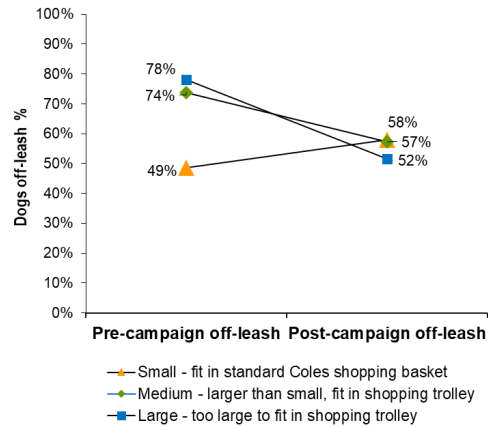


Figure 4: Percentage of off-leash dogs by size, pre-campaign and post-campaign at the West Mullumbimby Koala Management Precinct.

Conclusion

Although dog leashing only increased incrementally by 11.4%, some very clear behaviour changes are evidenced:

1. Dog owners are increasingly leashing their dogs in streets and parks by +20%; and
2. Owners of large dogs are increasingly leashing their dogs by +26%.

In this regard, the campaign communications do appear to have had a positive effect and achieved incremental changes to dog owner behaviour.

Analysis of off-leash behaviour among owners of small dogs would likely show much of it occurs at the oval and contributes substantially to the sustained presence of unleashed dogs, as was observed. Any reduced presence of large, off-leash dogs at the oval might further motivate increased off-leashing of small dogs, along with other behavioural factors.

Lastly, for koalas and dogs in private land settings, this work could suggest that owners of larger dogs might be more amenable to making changes to their dog and land management practices in favour of other animals.

Given that the Leash-Up campaign has provided a foundation which by design, encompassed many dog breeds for broader appeal, future programs might consider owners of large dogs more specifically.

Overall Project Learnings

1. More off-leash areas are needed to reduce the impacts of domestic dogs in general. Some dog owners are leashing more consciously on the street and in the park, but some dogs are being unleashed for exercise once arriving at the oval (or not leashed at all).
2. Engaging signage with a 'thank you for leashing' message is ignored by some dog owners, and not others. Numerous dog owners pass 'on-leash' signs with dogs off-leash. Two out of the four signage locations were ideal (street and park) for communication to foot-traffic, while the other two not so much due to one lower profile site, and the other needing larger size if appealing to vehicle traffic from a road island.
3. Some dog owners point to others and their dogs as the problem rather than considering they may also contribute by not leashing (i.e. reinforcing the social norm).
4. Wildlife conservation (and safety) is not the most widely appealing motivator to change dog leashing behaviour but gives a 'feel good' to those already doing the behaviour.
5. Use all communications to drive website traffic via link/visit webpage call to action with a smart-url.
6. Social media can provide a monitor for qualitative, not quantitative engagement, and short, boosted videos increase and extend audience engagement, discussion and sharing of important information. This encourages 360 degree comments over time.
7. A mix of multi-pronged media and high repetition is required to reach dog owners in high numbers to generate message recall.
8. Human behaviour is very hard to change. Expect a minority to respond fairly quickly and aim for increments of change e.g. off-leash area proximity/convenience as next target issue.
9. Projects (especially with an element of 'bad news' for some dog owners) take longer and are much more difficult to implement within local government than anticipated.
10. Achieving incremental changes in leashing behaviour is possible to an extent via communications only, and without enforcement activity. However, shifting social norms will take longer than two months and requires consistent, ongoing effort. The program appears to have raised the 'care-factor' concerning dog leashing indicating a first step.

Appendix 1 – Campaign materials and performance

1.1 TV ad - If Koalas could talk

<https://www.facebook.com/100064469540703/videos/198822565408604>



TVC PERFORMANCE

- Six week campaign 16 May - 26 June, 2021
- Aired across 3 commercial TV networks in the Northern Rivers/Northern NSW region
- Reach to 53% of TV viewing households (237,000) with frequency of 3+ times
- Reach to 41% of TV viewing households (183,000) 7+ times

Facebook video (public stats)

- Views 4,800
- Likes 20
- Shares 10
- Comments 0

1.2 Social media video - If dogs could talk

<https://www.facebook.com/100064469540703/videos/222673913002790>



DOG VIDEO PERFORMANCE

Facebook – boosted post (public stats)

- Views 13,000+
- Likes 190+
- Shares 60+
- Comments 80+

1.3 Social media video: Koala Vet talks koalas and dogs

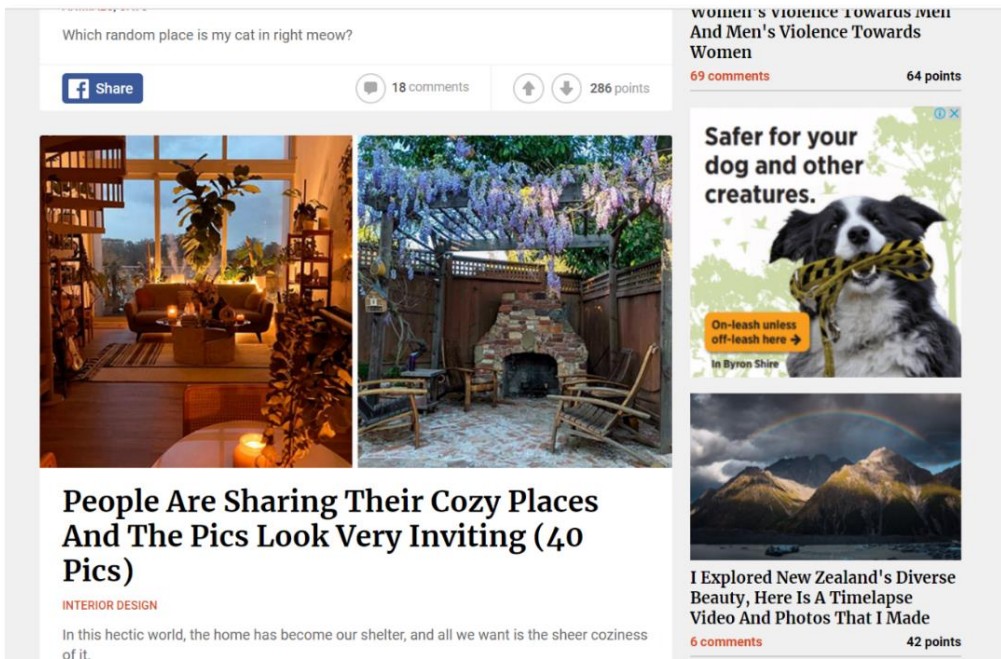
<https://www.facebook.com/100064469540703/videos/1390044188024326>



1.4 Digital Display ads – Pay per click


- Over 500,000 viewable impressions (at least 50% of ad visible for 1 second)
- 925 click throughs to council's dog-leashing page
- Almost four times the traffic received by council's koala pages for same period
- Equals one third of the visits received by koala.nsw.gov.au (for 2 months)
- The most effective ads in attracting click-throughs were - 1) Hound, drop-ins 2) Border collie, safety 3) Staffy, stress relief 4) Dalmatian, spotted and 5) Airedale, 'Wuv me'






1.5 [Byron Shire Council's Dog-Leashing web page](#)

Dog leashing



Watch on  YouTube

Dogs make wonderful companions, family members and workers with approximately 10,000+ domestic dogs living in Byron Shire.

Leashing all dogs in public spaces not designated 'off-leash' ensures you're always in control and attentive to your dog (including their waste).

When everyone leashes, it not only benefits you and your dog, but other dogs, dog owners, people and animals because leashing:

1. reduces unwanted dog approaches and stressful interactions
2. limits aggression and minimises bites
3. keeps your dog safe and under control
4. helps to protect our wildlife.

Leashing means avoiding a \$330 fine, or more if an off-leash dog rushes, harasses or chases any person or animal. Find out more about [responsibilities and penalties](#).

Bow Wow! Thanks for leashing now!

Why does dog leashing matter?

Leashing is good dog community care. With dog owners generally spending more time in nature than non-dog owners, many dog owners conscientiously leash their dogs in public spaces and understand the potential impacts of free-roaming dogs.

Six things to consider

1. Even if your off-leash dog is friendly, other on-leash dogs can be more protective or aggressive when approached by off-leash dogs.
2. Whether your dog is legally on or off-leash, before approaching an unfamiliar dog [look for these canine signs](#).
3. In unexpected or threatening situations, normally predictable dogs can act out of character on canine instinct, especially in highly stimulating environments.
4. Dog walking in natural habitat can reduce the number of birds by 41% and the types of birds by 35%.
5. Off-leash dogs cause breeding shorebirds to leave their nests for longer than on-leash dogs so keeping dogs out of sand dunes helps (endangered) shorebirds to successfully raise their chicks.
6. Dogs often out-number threatened wildlife. For example, there are approximately 100 dogs to every koala across 25% of the shire, including where koalas move between fragmented habitat close to areas regularly frequented by numerous domestic dogs.

In fact, appropriately leashing dog owners can be good wardens for nature and the environment in general. [Find out more about Byron Shire's wildlife](#).

WEBPAGE PERFORMANCE

Page views: 3,400

Unique page views: 3,200

Time on page: 1 min 50 sec

Main traffic sources

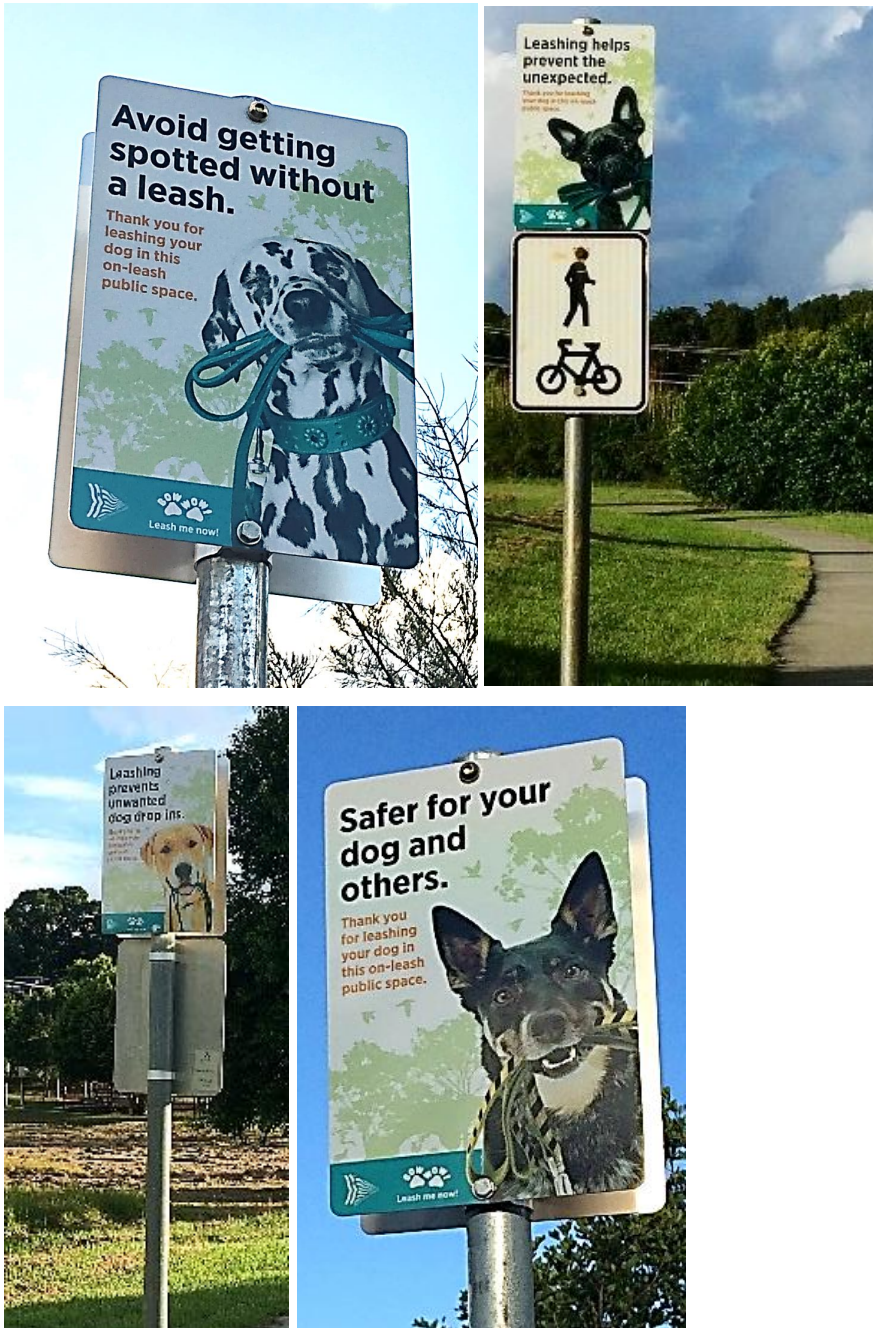
- Facebook 62%
- Google Display ads 29%
- Ranked 4th most visited page on website over campaign period
- Visitors spent 10 sec longer on leashing page compared to the average page time (1 min 40 sec)

Comparatively:

- 300 page views for koala web pages over same period
- 550 unique visits to off-leash dog maps page

1.6 On-ground signage

On-ground, aluminium signage (450 x 300 mm) comprised eight different messages on double-mounted signs using existing open spaces poles. The size-wise worked well for passing foot-traffic but larger signs are required for vehicle drivers. Signage was not installed close to the oval given its 'no-dog' status and sign copy stating 'on-leash' area.



Report No. 4.2 Council maintenance works adjacent to areas of High Environmental Value

Directorate: Sustainable Environment and Economy

Report Author: Lizabeth Caddick, Biodiversity Officer

5 **File No:** I2021/762

Summary:

10 A member of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee has raised concerns regarding the methodology Council utilises when undertaking 'maintenance' alongside roads that run adjacent to Nature Reserves, and other areas of high environmental value. Impacts from road maintenance work may include silt runoff and damage to vegetation.

The Biodiversity Advisory Committee is seeking more information regarding the guidelines, assessments, protections and consultations that operate when Council works/maintenance is being undertaken in close proximity to areas of high environmental value.

15 Relevant Council staff will attend to provide further information to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Report

5 A member of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee has raised concerns regarding the methodology Council utilises when undertaking ‘maintenance’ alongside roads that run adjacent to Nature Reserves, and other areas of high environmental value.

Impacts from road maintenance work may include silt runoff and damage to vegetation.

The Biodiversity Advisory Committee is seeking more information regarding the guidelines, assessments, protections and consultations that operate when Council works/maintenance is being undertaken in close proximity to areas of high environmental value.

10 **Strategic Considerations**

Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan

CSP Objective	L2	CSP Strategy	L3	DP Action	L4	OP Activity
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No relevant activities currently identified. This is a new issue, for discussion only at this stage.

Recent Resolutions

- 15 • N/A

Legal/Statutory/Policy Considerations

N/A

Financial Considerations

N/A

20 **Consultation and Engagement**

N/A

Report No. 4.3 Brunswick Valley Landcare Support Officer report April to June 2021

Directorate: Sustainable Environment and Economy

Report Author: Lizabeth Caddick, Biodiversity Officer

5 **File No:** I2021/1355

Summary:

This report tables the activities of the Landcare Support Officer quarterly report, from April to June 2021.

10

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Biodiversity Advisory Committee note the report.

Attachments:

15

1 Landcare support officer report April to June 2021, E2021/104699 , page 42 [↓](#)

Report

Council provided an allocation of funds in the 2021/22 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 (April to June 2021) from the Landcare Support Officer for the Committee’s reference.

Strategic Considerations

Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan

CSP Objective	L2	CSP Strategy	L3	DP Action	L4	OP Activity
Community Objective 3: We protect and enhance our natural environment	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

1st April – 30th June 2021

LFW

Total of 143 properties registered in Byron Shire

81 registered by BVL, 62 registered by BSC

Site Assessments and Properties registered:

- Wilsons Creek Public School
- 110 Mullumbimby Road, Mullumbimby
- 212 The Manse Road, Myocum
- 789 The Pocket Road, The Pocket

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)
- organised a FREE Chem Cert training delivered by Rural Biz training on Thursday 29th April - 18 attendees, members, landholders, volunteers and contractors attended.

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 13th 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. Project on track. Final year reporting due 1st September 2021.
- **SOS Phyllanthus** – \$7,500 received for project working on weed control and monitoring on 5 sites along the Brunswick River and Mullumbimby Creek in Mullumbimby. Final year of confirmed funding completed, and draft report submitted.
- **IRCC grant** \$29,894 "Adapting to climate variability—a planting guide for the Northern Rivers region, NSW" to be delivered by 31st 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 demonstration planting completed in Heritage Park. Guide under development with printing to be done by the end of the year.
- **WIRES and Landcare Australia post-bushfire wildlife habitat regeneration** \$19,978 "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. 30 site visits completed with 29 nestboxes installed with final round of site visits for monitoring happening now. Final report due 24th June.
- **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 25th 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 plus \$4000 community donation. 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.

19 August 2021 Report by Alison Ratcliffe

- **Working Together** \$2000 to have aboriginal traditional owners attend our Smart Farms and Seeds of Hope events.
- **Bushfire Recovery Revegetation Funding** Was successful for 1000 trees @\$8 each to be planted by 17th August.

COUNCIL

- **Smart Farms workshops** - workshop 1 “You and Your Land” held on 10th June – 21 attendees. Andrew Cameron attended and gave introduction. Ivan Holland – BSC planner spoke at first Smart Farms workshop on rural land legislation.
- **Smart Farms workshops** - workshop 2 “Soil – our National Capital” in Myocum to be held on 23rd June. 50 people booked in. Leveraged additional funding from Casino Food Coop, Australian Macadamias and Commonwealth Bank to be able to run it at 2 additional locations – Lindendale and Doubtful Creek.
- Sent reporting requirements from first Smart Farms workshop to Peter Boyd – photos, sign on sheet, media, evaluation sheets.
- Circulated a weed control EOI to our members and Land for Wildlife members on behalf of Peter Boyd for farmers to carry out riparian or HEV veg weed control work for 1 year.
- 21st April attended meeting with John Nagel, Local Land Services re possible biodiverse carbon farming projects.



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.

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ENQUIRY TOPICS/ ISSUES

Phone	Email	Website	Social Media	Walk in	In Person
Big Scrub book	Creek erosion	3 x Volunteering			2 x volunteering
CEN grants	Private landholder funding	3 x Help on private property			Nest boxes
Regen ag contacts	Nest box installation	2 x Nest boxes			Ballina Landcare
LfW	Contractor rates	2 x Attendance at event			Working on council land
contacts	Advice of bush regeneration	Memorial seat			canetoads
Tree planting in a public park		MLNG			Regen contacts
Help on private property					Dams
volunteering					
Pecan association					
9	5	12			8
TOTAL					34

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