

Maclean Flying-fox Working Group
Minutes and Meeting Outcomes from 23 May 2018

Attendees:

IJ	Imelda Jennings	Wildlife SOS
HM	Heather Mitchell	Clarence Valley Council
AJ	Alan Johnson	Maclean Resident
EP	Elizabeth Parker	Lawrence Resident
GC	Greg Court	Maclean High School
KW	Krister Waern	Office of Environment & Heritage
LW	Linda Wright	Valley Watch
RL	Reece Luxton	Clarence Valley Council
DS	Des Schroeder	Clarence Valley Council
AP	Andrew Petroschovsky	NSW Department of Industry – Crown Lands
GJB	Greg Bell	NSW Health
GB	Gill Bennett	Bat Historian –Gulmarrad Resident

Apologies:

DY	Dimitri Young	Office of Environment & Heritage
EC	Edwina Cameron	Maclean Resident
CS	Cat Smykowsky	Bush Regenerator

No Response:

NK	Noelene Kapeen	Nungera Co-operative
HG	Helen Graney	Maclean Resident
TG	Trent Grimston	Essential Energy

Meeting Commenced 1:00pm

Open by Chair AJ

General Business:

1. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes from February 2018:
 - a. Group accepted meeting minutes.

2. Nominate WG Chairperson
 - a. AJ was nominated as chair for this meeting in line with the new rotating chair system.

3. Geolink Presentation of Strategy
 - a. David from Geolink provided a PowerPoint presentation of the draft strategy for information and comment.
 - b. General working group discussion. **Action: members to provide any feedback to HM for consideration.**
 - c. GC commented that the vegetation removal at the school was unfortunate and covered walkways probably would have been a better option. KW noted that the previous vegetation clearing was undertaken at the request of the school and the principal at the time. Any further vegetation clearing would only take place if recommended by the school.

- d. GC also indicated that air conditioning of the school gym is required.
- e. KW gave brief overview of the draft Code which is out for comment and how this may relate to the draft strategy.
- f. Although CS was an apology, CS sent an email noting that *'there should be no more clearing of buffers in the Maclean Gully. The habitat vegetation is degraded and there is Madeira vine present which is threatening what is left of the trees. This has been treated in the past by chemical, mechanical and biological methods but requires further follow up. Any further "trimming" at the edges will exacerbate the problem as indeed it already has. Also, there is no real need to trim behind the houses in Kathleen Street, the residents already keep a cleared area there and the flying foxes have only been that far up after a disturbance event coupled with a time of increased population'*.

4. Update from Council:

- a. Council advised of the proposed sprinkler system trial to create a buffer between residents and flying fox, like what has been trailed on the Sunshine Coast.
- b. HM advised of the information drop in day at council which will be held between 2:30-5:30. This is aimed at discussing the draft strategy with residents.
- c. DS gave an overview of the potential for land acquisition as a possible solution to the conflict between residents and flying fox.

5. Update from Greg Bell re Problem Based Learning day

- a. GB sent an email to the working group explaining the PBL and encouraged members of the working group to attend to highlight some of the ongoing issues at Maclean.
- b. **Action: working group members to let GB know if they are available to attend.**

6. Costings discussion from Imelda Jennings

- a. LW suggested that the working group should keep a record of the costs associated with implementing the strategy. Need to ensure there is a positive return on the investment. The detail should also identify who has funded works to date to provide better transparency of all the costs.
- b. Currently only the cost of the botanic gardens and Melbourne appear to be in the media. We should aim to understand how much we have spent and estimate what our future costs may be.
- c. The motion to capture both in-kind and dollar costs was carried by the working group.
- d. **Action: all government agencies to provide costs to IJ. IJ to collate all costs.**

7. Other Business:

- a. LW indicated that the bench seat appears to finally be happening.

Meeting closed: 3:00pm

Next meeting: to be determined.