

Maclean Flying-fox Working Group
Minutes and Meeting Outcomes from 20 February 2018

Attendees:

IJ	Imelda Jennings	Wildlife SOS
HM	Heather Mitchell	Clarence Valley Council
CS	Cat Smykowsky	Bush Regenerator
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
GB	Gill Bennett	Bat Historian –Yamba Resident

Apologies:

DY	Dimitri Young	Office of Environment & Heritage
AP	Andrew Petroschevsky	NSW Department of Industry – Crown Lands
NK	Noelene Kapeen	Nungera Co-operative
GJB	Greg Bell	NSW Health
TG	Trent Grimston	Essential Energy
EC	Edwina Cameron	Maclean Resident
HG	Helen Graney	Maclean Resident
DS	Des Schroeder	Clarence Valley Council

Meeting Commenced 1:00pm

Open by Chair IJ

General Business:

1. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes from November 2017:
 - a. Group accepted meeting minutes.

2. Nominate WG Chairperson
 - a. IJ was the previous chair. LW was nominated as chair for this meeting in line with the new rotating chair system.
 - b. Welcome to Reece Luxton from Clarence Valley Council who replaced Rod Wright.

3. List of Achievements progress
 - a. KW sent out a draft for comment prior to this meeting. Several comments were received and incorporated. WG discussed that some of the wording should be reconsidered to ensure we have the correct message. **Action: KW to finalise the document and send out to members.**
 - b. The use of the document to communicate to the public was also discussed, potentially as a media release or letter to the editor. A precis of the document would be better to provide to the media. **Action: KW to prepare a precis for members to review**
 - c. HM suggested uploading the document on the council webpage where all of the minutes from the meeting are located. **Action: HM to upload document to council webpage.**

4. Update from Council on dispersal group and LGNSW funding application:

- a. Council's Dispersal group - HM indicated that a meeting was scheduled for February 2018 but appears to have been rescheduled. No further update.
- b. LGNSW funding – The funding application was prepared by Rodney Wright for updating the strategy and consulting with residents. HM indicated that although council are hopefully the funding will come through, no formal response on the application has been received. The members discussed the possible updates to the strategy and areas where it required further information. If the funding is successful, further discussion will occur.
- c. Some concern was also raised that the current offsets for the vegetation removal was not being maintained, particularly the replanting that was undertaken next to the agricultural plot. **Action: RL to consider maintenance requirements for this area and advise the working group at next meeting.**
- d. Discussion was also held about making sure that appropriate offsets are in place before any further vegetation clearing is undertaken.
- e. Discussion was held about the ownership of the Strategy. KW indicated that although the document is intended to be a public document, council are best placed to engage the community and other interested parties in updating the Strategy.

5. Update on rehabilitation of MRR

- a. AP was an apology so no update available.
- b. CS indicated that there was still more work to be done to rehabilitate the reserve and more funding should be sought this year to speed up the rehabilitation. The funding is available now.
- c. LW and CS suggested that an update from AP could be sought before next meeting.
Action: KW to email AP and seek an update.

6. Maclean storm impacts

- a. LW provided an update on the impacts of the storm, including the death of more than 100 flying foxes. LW indicated that WIRES are developing an emergency response plan for these types of impacts.
- b. Group discussed who has a role in responding to these disasters. **Action: government agencies to clarify their roles before next meeting.**

7. Pavilion at Maclean Showgrounds

- a. LW indicated that the pavilion will be rebuilt as such no further discussion about this topic.

8. Other Business:

- a. GB indicated that the current flying fox numbers are likely to be less than 15,000 although no accurate count has been done.
- b. RL indicated that DS could not attend meeting on a Tuesday as there are council meetings on that day. Group discussed alternative days for the working group to meet to accommodate DS. Wednesdays appeared to be ok with members. **Action: RL to discuss with DS about his availability and so that we can book the next meeting.**
- c. GC indicated that there were no current issues at the school to provide an update on.

Meeting closed: 2:20pm

Next meeting: to be determined.

