

**Maclean Flying-fox Working Group**  
**Meeting Outcomes from 10 February 2015**

**Attendees:**

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Linda Wright (Valley Watch) (LW)	Dimitri Young (Office of Environment & Heritage) (DY)
Imelda Jennings (Wildlife SOS) (IJ)	Catherine Smykowsky (Bush Regenerator) (CS)
Rod Wright (Clarence Valley Council) (RW)	Greg Bell (NSW Health) (GJB)
Gillian Bennett (Bat Historian/Yamba resident) (GB)	Mark Summers (??) (MS)

**Apologies:**

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Bob Perl (Maclean High School); Des Schroeder (Clarence Valley Council); Andrew Andrew Petroschewsky (Crown Lands)

**General Business and discussion points:**

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Meeting Start

- DY opened the meeting at 9:30 am at the Maclean offices of Clarence Valley Council.
- Action items from the previous meeting were reviewed. Updates and new actions arising are included in the summary table below.
- Detailed discussion points follow.

Previous Outcomes

- GB advised that letter for student pack from Health needs to be done. GJB to attend to this.

Letterbox Drop

- IJ suggested that letterbox drop be repeated later in the year if no responses received.
- DY indicated that letter to P&C etc. still to be prepared. OEH to action.
- GB suggested candidates for NSW election to be made aware of MFFWG. IJ and LW to provide link to strategy and brochure via their facebook pages.

Education Materials

- Meeting suggested facebook page for MFFWG but all agreed it would be too hard to manage.
- Various comments made about the draft materials – WG happy with them in general; Intellectual property needs to be checked; corrections required for accuracy; messages not to be lost; wildlife carers are not just WIRES so suggest use 'local wildlife carer groups'; message for children should be to 'tell an adult' not 'to call WIRES'; need to add link to wildlife carer groups instead of link to WIRES; poster changes to images and text suggested; change photos on Eating (add bananas etc.); Forests Need Flying-foxes (delete farmed fruit; use only Australian bats and Australian plants); changes also suggested to health message on Slide 13 re seeking medical assistance and using alternative photo/logo. OEH to amend materials.

Batpack

- IJ not heard from High School yet. OEH to follow up.
- Various changes suggested to Batpack – amend dot point re don't touch; urgent in care for biting/scratching incident. OEH to amend materials

- GJB to email Health letter for back of Batpack – add ‘an initiative of the MFFWG. GJB to follow up.

#### Logo

- Issue of a MFFWG logo was discussed. WG agreed that not necessary as creates liability issues.

#### Signage Viewing Location

- LW outlined meeting with other MFFWG members and recommendation that open area on LHS of McFarland Bridge with Osprey pole is best location for first sign – good view; parking available.
- \$1000 to design, \$500-1000 for production (funded by Wildlife SOS) and \$100 for installation by Council. RW to check tenure with Crown Lands and their agreement to place sign there. IJ and GB to prepare content; LW Valley Watch might be able to provide funds – will seek funds once project further advanced: OEH to assist with design.
- IJ to check with RMS re willingness to fund Osprey sign in this location.

#### Projects by CVC

- RW outlined progress on expending funds for projects. Some re-allocation of funds between projects. Bush regen in rainforest reserve to be topped up by funds from Ulmarra Road Reserve works. Keen to follow up on Nungera work. Some funds to be used for interpretive signage as Council has committed to ongoing maintenance. Potential to use funds in same precinct to manage for rainforest edge effects.

#### DET Offset Planting

- GillB advised that fig tree branch has fallen onto fence. RW to call Crown Lands re repairs.
- Discussion deferred to next meeting.

#### Communication Protocol

- IJ noted issues with school maintenance impacting FF adjacent to rainforest reserve. WG to write to Bob Pearl, CVC and Essential Energy re principles for maintenance work to minimize FF impacts given incident with mowing recently – prefer morning disturbance; keep animals in rainforest not in gully; not done when young FF present. OEH to draft.

#### Western Carpark

- RW noted no news yet re grant application by Council. No work done due to FF present.

#### Terms of Reference / Code of Conduct

- Comments sent to OEH by LW. GJB to send comments too. OEH to prepare draft for comment at next meeting.

#### Essential Energy

- Matter deferred.

#### CVC Resolution

- RW advised that there has been pressure by Councilors for more work to be done by MFFWG to reduce conflicts between FF and humans. Councillors discussed the approach of Richmond Valley Council at Casino in preparing a management strategy and seeking approvals under Part 5 of the EP&A Act. Council was seeking feedback from the WG on this approach as DET and Nungera may wish to increase their buffers under Part 5 EP&A Act and s91 TSC Act respectively.

- RW advised that WG should wait for outcome of grant application. If this is unsuccessful then Council would have to fund the increase of compensatory habitats itself (this needs funds and the agreement of landholders (DET, Nungera, Mr Browning). Funds are not available at present for this.
- Council prefers to increase the Nungera buffer in June/July as well as gully vegetation. A REF is the necessary approach which would need to be consistent with the long-term strategy. Council is likely to undertake an assessment of significance and approve the tree removal at Nungera under its Tree Preservation Order.
- CS advised that the Strategy states that vegetation removal should be at the same rate as compensatory habitat establishment so there is no net loss of habitat. The WG should not endorse removal of vegetation, only trimming or vegetation modification to decrease the suitability of the habitat for flying-fox roosting.
- RW advised that most pressure is coming to Council from the gully area residents. Council is likely to base strong reliance on increasing compensatory habitat when considering these matters.
- LW indicated that Council's Biodiversity Management Strategy supports net gains in native vegetation biomass.
- No action required by WG at this stage.

#### Media

- DY advised of inability of WG to undertake media releases given that OEH is the spokesperson as the WG chair. Suggested that Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct be changed to enable others to chair/be spokesperson for the WG.
- DY to email original TOR and Code to LW and GJB for review.

**{Action table over page}**

## Action Items

Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
Meeting Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting reminder to be circulated the week prior all future WG meetings</li> </ul>	OEH	ongoing
Student Pack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letter from NSW Health to be provided for inclusion</li> </ul>	GJB	May 2015
Letterbox drop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letters to P&amp;C, Yaegl, Nungera and TAFE to be prepared</li> </ul>	OEH	May 2015
Education Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Require amendments based on comments received.</li> </ul>	OEH	May 2015
Batpack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High school to be contacted re Batpack and materials amended as per comments received.</li> <li>- NSW Health letter updated with 'an initiative of the MFFWG'</li> </ul>	OEH GJB	May 2015 May 2015
Signage Viewing Location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- check tenure with Crown Lands and their agreement to place sign there</li> <li>- prepare content</li> <li>- seek funds from Valley Watch once project advanced further</li> <li>- assist with design</li> <li>- check with RMS re willingness to fund Osprey sign in this location</li> </ul>	RW IJ and GillB LW OEH IJ	July 2015
DET Offset Planting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crown Lands to be contacted re repairs required to fence</li> </ul>	RW	May 2015
Communication Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letter to DET re principles for maintenance work to minimize FF impacts given incident with mowing recently</li> </ul>	OEH	May 2015
Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct for Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Original TOR and Code to be emailed to LW and GJB for review re chair and spokesperson</li> <li>- OEH to prepare draft for comment at next meeting</li> </ul>	GB/ LW	May 2015 May 2015

- Meeting closed 12:05pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 5 May 2015 – Maclean office of CVC - 1pm to 3pm**