

**Maclean Flying-fox Working Group**  
**Minutes and Meeting Outcomes from 23 August 2017**

**Attendees:**

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|    |                 |                                  |
|----|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| DY | Dimitri Young   | Office of Environment & Heritage |
| IJ | Imelda Jennings | Wildlife SOS                     |
| RW | Rod Wright      | Clarence Valley Council          |
| CS | Cat Smykowsky   | Bush Regenerator                 |
| AJ | Alan Johnson    | Maclean Resident                 |
| GB | Gill Bennett    | Bat Historian –Yamba Resident    |

**Apologies:**

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|----|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| DS | Des Schroeder        | Clarence Valley Council          |
| BP | Bob Pearl            | Maclean High School              |
| LW | Linda Wright         | Valley Watch                     |
| KW | Krister Waern        | Office of Environment & Heritage |
| AP | Andrew Petroschewsky | Trade & Investment – Crown Lands |

**Meeting Commenced 1:10pm**

Open by Chair DY

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**General Business:**

1. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes from 23 May 2017:  
*Group accepted meeting minutes.*
  
2. Business arising from the minutes
  - a. WG Chairperson
    - i. WG feels that Maclean High School Students should be observers If chairperson rotates amongst members
  - b. Change to Terms of Reference

**Action for KW to update the TOR to reflect chairperson rotation**

- c. Achievements update:
  - i. - IJ read out the draft preamble to the list of achievements – issues re: WG members should not be targeted for criticism
  - ii. - AJ: Questions re TOR and the initial brief of the WG and that communication has been decreasing over time.
  - iii. - RW/DS: Communication is less now than before probably to due strategy being developed back then – less communication now as Council, DC, DP and CL apply for funds to undertake actions
  - iv. - General discussion about history of WG and members.
  - v. - IJ: Purposes –
  - vi. - Collate info for WG re progress on strategy goals
  - vii. - use as a report back to member organisation
  - viii. - Use as part of media communications

**Action – IJ to circulate draft preamble and achievements list for comment**

### 3. Update from Council:

- a. RW presented to WG on Council flying fox dispersal meeting
- b. - Councillor Baker asked why the clearing identified in the Strategy has not been fully implemented.
- c. - Criticism of WG for not fully implementing the Strategy.
- d. - Decided to seek dispersal
- e. - Good to propose audit of progress by WG on implementing the strategy, including why some work is not done e.g. Nunjera: wanted a buffer not air con. Buy back: no one came forward, no funds
- f. - costs for dispersal \$4-5 million based on Batemans Bay
- g. - nudging raised by RW – no support from dispersal group for nudging
- h. - based on Australian government – May-Aug – dispersal is best but influx will come later during reproductive phase
- i. - general discussion about dispersed costs, approval processes, methods, success, health issues
- j. - RW to report back to Council re costs and likelihood of success based on facts.
- k. - possible that WG achievements would be an attachment to council report.
- l. - still provide current strategy in the council report as the camp management plan
- m. - DY suggested an addendum could be added by council to discuss/justify dispersal
- n. - Discussion re impacts on gully and balance between vegetation retention and bat dispersal
- o. - nudging into gully will mean they fly out over houses – doing that anyway
- p. - expectations from residents that separation is required between the urban area and the flying-fox camp and that gully vegetation is valued by residents (zoned E2)
- q. Offsets – a block is for sale next to gully, \$300k
  - Site 1 – revegetation area in SW and then relocate them to that vegetation
  - Site 2 – Other site on west side of river between river bank and old Ferry Rd

### 4. Other Business:

- a. IJ – CSIRO counts discussion: may be inaccurate
- b. Discussion of methods for counts
- c. CS Potential to relocate School – Meeting held - new name for group – New high school for Lower Clarence (Relocate, Repurpose, Revegetate). \$50m and 10 years. New group to push this
- d. (GB) ABL Virus: People being tested. Discussion of recent issues and where information is available. ABL bat stats provided by GB
- e. IJ – what is good for school is not good for residents. Not 24/7/365. Too much focus on school amelioration - need to recognise this to re-balance
- f. RW – can keep doing minor work as gully and rainforest can support national camp – therefore now under EPBC threshold.

Meeting closed: 3pm

**Next meeting: 21 November 2017 1pm – 3pm Clarence Valley Council Chambers.**