

**Clarence Valley Council
FLYING FOX DISPERSAL COMMITTEE**

FRIDAY, 28 JULY 2017 COMMENCING 1:30 PM AT THE MACLEAN COMMITTEE ROOM

MINUTES

Attendance:

Kevin Hogan MP, Federal Member for Page; Jason Thompson, Office of Kevin Hogan MP; Chris Gulaptis MP, Member for Clarence; Councillor Andrew Baker; Councillor Debrah Novak; Des Schroder, Director Environment, Planning & Community; Rod Wright, Natural Resource Management Coordinator; Ron & Dianne Browning; Edwina Cameron; Andrew Potter and Denise Worrill

Item	Discussion/ Comments	Reporting Officer	Actions	Action Officer
01	Welcome to Country	Acknowledged	Des Schroder	
02	Apologies	Nil		
03	Declarations of Interest	Nil		
04	Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting held – N/A first meeting			
05	Business Arising from the Minutes - N/A			
06	Business for this meeting			
06.01	Election of Chair (Councillor)	Councillor Baker elected		
06.02	Review of Constitution	Constitution was reviewed		
06.03	Overview by Participants	Each attendee outlined the issues around flying fox; all agreed dispersal was desirable due to the impacts on the affected residents and the Maclean High School.	All committee members	
06.04	Overview of the current management strategy and legislative framework	Rodney Wright outlined the actions so far by the Working Group and the regulatory framework for managing flying fox camps. The group was supplied with resource reference material including extracts from the current Maclean Flying Fox Management Strategy, the National Flying Fox Monitoring Program, information around land tenure around the	Rodney Wright	

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	<p>camp, the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) 2015 Flying Fox Camp Management Policy, OEH fact sheet, summary sheet of strategy and the referral guideline for management actions from Australian Government. Some discussion about the constraints that legislation puts on timeframe for dispersal and general acceptance that if dispersal is to occur the earliest that might happen would be middle of 2018.</p> <p>General discussion about what has been achieved to date and Rod outlined a number of the actions from strategy that have been completed including buffers, air conditioning at the School, power going underground, work in rainforest and offset areas.</p> <p>There was general consensus that the actions to date had done little to reduce impacts on residents. One resident advised he had listed his house for sale at reduced price but had still not been able to sell. General agreement that flying foxes weren't an issue for residents in a big way before they were forced up the gully and into substation areas with dispersal from School.</p> <p>There was discussion about impact of fly out of flying fox on residents further away from the main camp and also on expansion of Maclean township into an area that is zoned residential but currently constrained by presence of flying foxes.</p> <p>There was a question on available options for getting flying foxes away from the residents and some discussion on potential to use bush fire hazard reduction burn in the Cameron Street gully as a way to move them on. General agreement that would be difficult to get approval for and also to get the wet gully to burn.</p>			

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07	Alternative offset sites	Discussion of alternative offset sites. Some discussion on offset sites to facilitate further buffer clearing and Councillor Baker questioned if no buffer sites found yet so long after the strategy was adopted was this going to be likely. Rod suggested that some ground has been made recently on offsets but the areas were limited and likely that if further buffer work was undertaken flying fox may well move further up the gully. There was some discussion on potential purchase of Lot 356 DP751388 which is the main part of the gully above Cameron Street as an offset area but this was not supported by the group for a number of reasons.			
08	General Business Councillor Baker asked if anyone was satisfied with the approach to date and general agreement from Committee members that flying fox camp needed to be shifted out of town. The potential costs and process was discussed further and Councillor Baker sought commitment from State and Federal reps that funding would be available to support dispersal. There was no commitment provided. There was general discussion around likely costs of dispersal and questions on potential costs put forward. Some discussion around volunteers doing dispersal and estimates on costs to disperse seems overstated.				
08.01	Resolution	The Committee developed the following resolution to forward to the Council meeting on 15 August, the resolution being: <i>“that a dispersal licence be applied for to disperse flying foxes within 100 metres of urban areas, where flying foxes are causing a nuisance, within the Clarence Valley Council area”</i>	Des Schroder	Prepare a report for the Council meeting of 15 August.	Des Schroder
09	Items for next meeting – Nil recorded.				
10	Time, date and venue of next meeting)	The next meeting will be scheduled when Council considers the resolution and develops a response to it at the September meeting.			
11	Meeting close	3:30 pm			