

Maclean Flying-fox Working Group
Minutes and Meeting Outcomes from 8 November 2016

Attendees:

DY	Dimitri Young	Office of Environment & Heritage
LW	Linda Wright	Valley Watch
IJ	Imelda Jennings	Wildlife SOS
RW	Rod Wright	Clarence Valley Council
CS	Cat Smykowsky	Bush Regenerator
GB	Gill Bennett	Bat Historian –Yamba Resident
KW	Krister Waern	Office of Environment & Heritage
AJ	Allan Johnson	Maclean resident

Apologies:

DS	Des Schroeder	Clarence Valley Council
BP	Bob Pearl	Maclean High School
AP	Andrew Petroschewsky	Trade & Investment – Crown Lands

Meeting Commenced 1:10pm

Open by Chair DY

General Business:

1. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes from 8 Nov 2016:

- o DY gave an update on previous meetings actions.

Group accepted meeting minutes.

2. Business arising from the minutes

a. Distribution of education materials update:

- i. DY: Educational material yet to be sent to target feeder schools.

Action 1: DY to contact BP or school secretary to obtain list of feeder schools where educational material will be sent.

b. Offset Requirements update:

- i. DY: OEH staff Rachael Binskin has reviewed all s91 licences/s95 certificates and found that there are two certificates that required offsets.
- ii. KW: recalls there being a commitment by the school to maintain the areas after planting.
- iii. DY: One area being near the big fig and along the river on school grounds and the other being the thin riparian strip along the river next to the agricultural plot.
- iv. There was no requirement of the certificates that follow up maintenance was required, however the offset areas are weedy but the plants appear to be ok.
- v. The next maintenance should be done by qualified revegetation persons.

Action 2: DY to contact BP to discuss maintenance of the offset areas.

c. Feature displays at Education centre:

- i. RW: no update

Action 3: Continue action item.

- d. Letter from CWA to council re seat:
- i. LW: letter sent on 29 January 2017.
 - ii. IJ: letter also sent from SOS to council. Seat costs about \$800 and SOS will contribute \$400.
 - iii. LW: Council has informed that council policy is not to have memorial plaques. There will be a report to council in March and LW to make deputation at meeting

Action 4: Leave on the agenda for future update

- e. Additional fly out sign:
- i. RW: no update

Action 5: Continue action item.

- f. Letter to Department of Education re air con and solar panels:
- i. DY: letter sent.

Group acknowledged action.

- g. Letter to Department of Education re air con and solar panels:
- i. School looking at upgrade the front of building and the potential impacts of this on the FF should be considered.

Action 6: DY to contact BP and discuss potential upgrade to school building.

3. Glenreagh flying-fox colony:

- RW: extreme heat and increased numbers have caused 700+ flying-fox dead
- Council received many complaints about carcasses on ground.
- The main population is on the opposite side of the river to the main street and RW has spoken with the landholder and provided information.
- DY: there is currently an OEH investigation into the harming of flying-fox in the area
- LW: raised question whether water mist spraying of the flying-fox during extreme heat might be feasible, particularly when the cost of cleaning up the carcasses may be more expensive.
- IJ: spraying is difficult to undertake and not sure if this is a positive or negative.
- GB: temperatures over 42 degrees and low humidity that will contribute to deaths.

Group discussed aspects of the Glenreagh colony, no action proposed.

4. Other Business:

- DY: noted that Ron Browning wasn't coming back to the working group.
- DY: welcomed Allan Johnson to the working group as a new community representative. DY explained aspects of the work that the group has been doing, particularly in relation to offset requirements
- AJ: indicated that he would discuss the groups work with his neighbours and other interested residents after the meeting. AJ raised the lack of information or misinformation currently being discussed by the community in relation to FF.

- DY: explained that there has been difficulties in the past in issuing media notifications, however IJ has now been nominated as the media spokesperson.
- AJ: there may be benefit in putting information into the rates notice about FF matters and what the group is up to.
- RW: there is potential to do a mail out to a section of the Maclean community where information about FF can be included.
- IJ: indicated that we currently have two documents already created which may be useful to include in the mail out.

Action 7: RW to send to the group a draft cover letter for review then proceed with mail out to community.

- GB: raised matter about survey pegs in ground at Iluka next to existing FF colony, was there a development application currently being assessed by Council?
- RW: Rod was not aware of any DA for the area, however noted that sometimes surveys are done prior to the submission of a development application. Rod indicated that council's biodiversity strategy would be triggered if a DA was submitted for the area and this would deal with how any proposed development would be assessed with respect to the FF.
- GB: has observed that the Ulmarra Street plantings are being used by FF. This area was planted specifically for FF habitat.
- IJ: how does the group make submissions on broader issues associated with FF and should we?
- DY: the group generally supported making submissions when the opportunity arises. OEH may be best to coordinate a response and the group should advise the chair of any opportunities.
- IJ: noted that the Maclean School P&C have distributed a survey relating to FF. IJ wondered what the aim of the survey was and whether the group could get a copy of the results of the survey.

Action 8: DY to contact BP and discuss Maclean School P&C survey and make agenda item for next meeting.

- RW: Council has received calls seeking information about how the school deals with the increase in numbers, i.e. increase in FF droppings etc...

Action 9: RW to contact BP and seek clarification about how school responds to an increase in numbers of FF.

- DY: Due to work commitments DY will step down as chair of the working group and hand the task of chair to Mr Krister Waern from OEH. Krister has had involvement with the Maclean FF over many years and was part of the group a few years back.
- DY: next meeting scheduled for 23 May 2017
- GB: likely to be an apology.

Action 10: KW to send out invites. Seek to meet at council chambers but group is open to other venues.

Meeting closed: 3pm

Next meeting: 23 May 2017 1pm – 3pm Clarence Valley Council Chambers.

Table 1: Action Items 21 February 2017

Agenda Actions	Action	Responsible
1	DY to contact BP or school secretary to obtain list of feeder schools where educational material will be sent.	DY
2	DY to contact BP to discuss maintenance of the offset areas.	DY
3	Discuss about feature displays, perhaps Maclean rainforest restoration and RW to talk to Education Centre. It could be about habitat restoration, bush regeneration rather than just solely flying foxes. Overall habitat restoration.	RW
4	LW to write council on behalf of CWA with background info and what they propose re the seat and funding - addressed to council General Manager. IJ to be cc'd in. Update from LW	LW
5	RW to investigate potential for another sign highlighting fly out, good location to view it from. Funding from Valleywatch. RW to progress the potential of publicising the location of the fly out view point on council's tourist information website.	RW
6	DY to contact BP and discuss potential upgrade to school building	DY
7	RW to send to the group a draft cover letter for review then proceed with mail out to community.	RW
8	DY to contact BP and discuss Maclean School P&C survey and make agenda item for next meeting.	DY
9	RW to contact BP and seek clarification about how school responds to an increase in numbers of FF.	RW
10	KW to send out invites. Seek to meet at council chambers but group is open to other venues.	KW

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting 23 May 2017