



Clarence Valley Biodiversity Advisory Committee - Meeting #4 Minutes

9:30 am Thursday 2nd February 2023

CVC Council Chambers - 2 Prince Street Grafton

Present: Cr Greg Clancy (Chair), Cr Peter Johnstone, John Edwards, Laura Noble, Barbara Linley, Peter Lake, Krister Waern, Linda Wright, Adrian Deville, Phil Redpath, Reece Luxton (CVC Staff)

Apologies: Nigel Blake, Joanne Cunningham, Scott Lenton, Erin Brady (CVC Staff)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Responsible person & deadline</i>
1. Meeting opening – 9:35am Cr Greg Clancy as Chair opened the meeting and welcomed guest	Acknowledgement of Country Guest speaker - Devin Simpson – Manager Civil Services CVC – discussion on Roadside Vegetation Management Plan and impact on biodiversity	Cr Greg Clancy
2. Minutes of meeting #3 held 11 October 2022	Moved: John Edwards; seconded: Barbara Linley – all in favour - carried	* Acknowledge meeting scheduled 8 December 2022 did not proceed due to lack of quorum



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<p>3. Matters arising from previous meeting</p>	<p>1. Roadside vegetation management plan (RVMP) – Devin Simpson Background – maintained road network in Canada; started with CVC as Works Coordinator, went to TfNSW now Manager CS – was disappointed with current procedures, limited controls – developed RVMP to provide baseline support. Purpose – establish management zones – identified through range of GIS overlays - permitted activities noted for red/amber/green zones emphasising high conservation value vegetation with clearing allowances. Delivered through field Guide for staff. RVMP in draft form then Devin left role – now back and focus on implementing. Willing to share document with BAC for comment. LW – when will it roll out? This financial year – inductions and training PR – red zones – there should be a requirement for Council staff to report illegal clearing along fence lines – incorporate mandatory reporting? KW – roadside vegetation clearing – confirm that it is Council responsibility not LLS LW – issue in Lawrence – suggest letter to landholders advising responsibility near roadsides – whole of Council area? GC – issue of hazard reduction burns – existing plans used? Yes – eg considered CV Bush Fire Risk Management Plan, Nymboida RVMP</p>	<p>Ensure remain on agenda until dealt with (LN)</p> <p>To note – further advise required.</p> <p>Action – RL – feasibility of letter to landholders</p>



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	<p>LN – compliment Tree Register/Significant Assets Register? There is limited information and maps relating to this so this will help</p> <p>KW – does it include all roads? No, only those on Transportation Asset Register</p> <p>PR – does Forestry have rights over timber on all roads?</p> <p>GC – need to ensure sections of the floodplain are included as high conservation value vegetation</p> <p>Devin concluded his presentation by offering to have the RVMP sent out to BAC members for comment – acknowledge feedback on the plan and that it will be a dynamic plan</p> <p>2. Policies – update on policy reviews – sent out to members for further comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Tree Management policy</i> – note comments sent with agenda; responses acknowledged from Council staff - <i>Beach Access policy</i> – NPWS staff unable to attend meeting, but address importance of shorebirds to be included in the plan as per previous comments <p>3. Koala management actions – RL updated BAC on upcoming projects relating to koala management – Koala habitat mapping project - development of detailed koala habitat maps in high priority areas which will result in a strategic koala conservation planning</p>	<p>To note – further advise required.</p> <p>Action – RL – send RVMP out to BAC members for comment</p> <p>Comments document adopted by BAC</p> <p>Comments document adopted by BAC</p>



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	instrument. BAC provided with Clarence Koala Food Tree list for consideration. Discussion on tallowwood being used as PKFT? JE confirmed scats in Tullymorgan area suggested as such. Also, a koala vehicle strike project to raise community awareness by creating 'Koala Zones' using pavement treatment and installation of Variable Message Sign (VMS) trailers. This will be to encourage drivers to slow down at key vehicle strike 'blackspots' and to create a procedure for project partners (WIRES) to assist with signage installation.	Action – RL to send out KFT list to BAC members for comment by 6/2/2023 Note additional species to be included – <i>Corymbia henryi</i> , <i>Casuarina/ Melaleuca</i> ?
4. Item 1 – native forest logging in Clarence Valley	Follow up discussion based on redrafted motion forwarded with agenda Discussion on additional information from NRC and other Council's resolutions. Refer to supporting notes 3. – Cr Johnstone opposed to paragraph, suggesting professional roles may push out volunteer base and continued impact. JE countered those jobs to be created through various sources. PL suggested professional vs volunteers aren't mutually exclusive – there is ongoing need for staff – intent towards rapid response through professional measures. Employment suggested through move from native timber to plantation forest.	Note – previous motion revised for Council staff to review and present to Council Motion: That the Committee endorse the <i>draft stop logging public native forests</i> motion with removal of supporting notes 3. Moved: John Edwards; seconded: Barbara Linley – Carried.
5. Item 2 – Outcomes from 2022 Local Government NSW Conference	Noted as per attachments provided with agenda – Cr Greg Clancy identified the significant outcomes from motions adopted, particularly where it will tighten up Councils ability to protect the environment.	



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Morning tea – 11:10 to 11:25am		
6. Update – CV Plant Id website project	<p>Erin Brady – Project Officer for project – apology for meeting but sent through update presented by RL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - website developer is on board to build the website – Adam Woodleigh, Yamba - Troy Brown, Wooloweyah is compiling a large excel spreadsheet of native plants in the Clarence Valley including a number of key categories that users will be able to use to search for plants. - Website development plan: Upload 100 plants to the website and test searchability. March: Finalise list of plants to be uploaded Write website copy - Source photos of plants April: Create PDF booklet – a planting guide to promote biodiversity in the Clarence Valley. Working with planners on making this a resource, not only for Clarence Valley residents, but as a guide for new developments/builds. May: Final work on website and planting guide. June: Deliver website - not all native plants in the Clarence Valley on the website. However looking to build in an interactive /citizen science feature where people can upload plants to be included. Content would need to be approved. Would like some feedback on this. 	<p>Ideas to name website – recommend CV native flora site</p> <p>See JE for photos of native plants – happy to contribute to project</p>
7. General business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illegal land clearing – items raised at last meeting – Tullymorgan Road – reported to EnviroLine, although process clouded on who’s responsible; many delays in getting through to right section (BCD Compliance section). Identified many exempt activities, plus significant resourcing limitations – legislation needs to 	



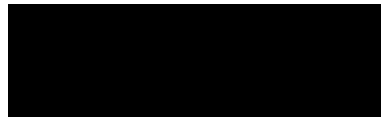
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	<p>change. Outcome desired was for an agency to directly contact the landholders concerned to see if aware of clearing provisions. Need to increase awareness in the community that illegal clearing needs reporting. In regards to Council – fines don't cover enforcement action. Concern regarding the boundary clearing code under RFS Act – 25 m is far too much. Road reserve belongs to public – need to ensure compliance actions. Ensure contact made to mitigate further detrimental actions.</p> <p>2. Council's offset requirements – query relating to types of plant species recommended for planting when clearing approved as part of planning assessment process. When conditioned in approval – how is it checked up on? Discussion whether checks prior to DA; issue with zoning prior to DA. Not worth offsets in particular situations – eg one acre blocks in Clarenza?</p> <p>3. 30/30 targets and wildlife protection areas – provided as late agenda item – Cr Clancy to seek further advice required on this item and to be referred to next meeting</p>	<p>Note – addressed through motion to Local Govt Conference</p> <p>Action – develop position to deal with clearing complaints</p> <p>Action – JE to look at CVC Biodiversity Offset policy and BIFA</p>
8. Action List	<p>Action list to be noted</p> <p>Agenda items for next meeting to be forwarded up to 7 days before next meeting</p>	<p>Reece – with minutes of meeting</p>



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10. Meeting closed – 12:50pm	Next meeting – 5 th April 2023 – Clarence ELF, Armidale Road Elland (South Grafton)	Discussion on whether to hold monthly? Refer to sub-committees in between quarterly meetings

Minutes confirmed by Chair Cr Greg Clancy

Signature



Date

17/2/2023

END