

## Clarence Valley Biodiversity Advisory Committee - Meeting #6 Minutes

9:30 am Wednesday 14 June 2023

CVC Council Chambers, Prince Street, Grafton

**Present:** Cr Greg Clancy (Chair), John Edwards, Laura Noble, Barbara Linley, Peter Lake, Linda Wright, Adrian Deville, Phil Redpath, Reece Luxton, Heather Mitchell, Bill Larkin, Pat Edwards (guest), Leonie Blain (Guest), Erin Brady (online)

**Apologies:** Cr Peter Johnstone, Nigel Blake, Scott Lenton

<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Responsible person &amp; deadline</i>
<b>1. Meeting opening – 9:40am</b> Cr Greg Clancy (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed guests	Acknowledgement of Country Guest – Bill Larkin, Senior Conservation Planning Officer – filling in for Krister Waern as BCD representative.	
<b>2. Minutes of meeting #5 held 5 April 2023</b>	<b>Moved:</b> Phil Redpath; <b>seconded:</b> Barbara Linley – all in favour - carried	
<b>3. Matters arising from previous meeting</b>	1. Animal Control Strategy – cat management (BL) – presented 3 motions. Issues regarding roaming and native wildlife. GC – workshop with Councillors held in May 2023 - presented motions from BL - difficult to act as we are bound by State	

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	<p>government legislation. LW questioning Motion 1 (2) – we don't have the right to say cats to be fully contained because its against state legislation, other council areas have areas that have cats contained but generally next to NP. LN – across the state of QLD requires cats to be microchipped and 24/7 containment. Change Motion 1 (2) to CVC lobby state government to carry out that motion but CVC can't itself. GC suggested this motion be taken to LG conference in early November. Amend Motion 1 (2) – BL in agreement. Majority of councillors would be required to support the action on a DA for points 2 or 3 to be implemented for Motion 1. Motion 1 (3) PR – recent scientific evidence to support cats impacting on native fauna (RL to word 1 (3)). Keeping of Animals Policy out on submission ATM and individuals can comment. Discussion surrounding inclusion of standard condition that would trigger an 88b on restriction of keeping cats. Submission on the KoA Policy is required by the committee as the closing date is the 22/6/23.</p> <p>2. LN presented a response letter from contacting the OLG and was referred to the OLG <i>Keeping Cats Safe at Home program</i> (see <a href="https://www.rspcansw.org.au/keeping-cats-safe/#1500602646477-e31c26ac-8102">https://www.rspcansw.org.au/keeping-cats-safe/#1500602646477-e31c26ac-8102</a> – 11 partner Councils, with Byron &amp; Kyogle Councils being the geographically closest councils involved in the project.</p> <p>3. RL – follow up on LGNSW annual conference – Action and responses noted in 35 page document. BAC interested in following: - a. No.66 - demonstrating LG is following through on actions presented, to the State Govt.; b. No143 – Hornsby Council and KoA act – but no responses or actions to date from State Government which is disappointing.</p>	<p>Cat controls letter</p> <p>RL to follow up with PR on wording Motion 1 (3).</p> <p>RL to follow up with Murray Lane re matters surrounding inclusion of a standard condition on an 88b for DA's regarding cat control.</p> <p>RL to make a submission on the <i>Keeping of Animals</i> Policy on behalf of the BAC regarding BL motions for cat control.</p> <p>Action – queries to be followed up by next meeting</p>

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	<p>4. Report – Offsets (JE) – as per tabled document with meeting papers. Offsets to be discussed - There are two different types of offsets being discussed here – Council via biodiversity offset policy (BOP) which is where using Shannon Creek Lands as offset land, and State government (via the BOS) which are 2 different offset systems. Questions about the BOP - How much money is there? Where are the funds going? And how successful is the policy?</p> <p>5. Update – PR – Build the States Protected Area Network to 30% by 2030. 30/30 and wildlife protection areas (GC) Deferred from previous meeting. RL presented PR submission – concludes that 30% is not enough to be reserved. GC copies sent out for BAC to consider. GC discussed potential for further preservation on private lands. Deferred to next meeting.</p>	<p>RL to follow up on BOP review – and the 3 questions asked of 1. How much is in the fund, 2, where is it spent, 3 how successful is it. This should also include responding to JE concerns and the use of lands at Shannon Creek as an offset area.</p> <p>PR submission noted and to be sent to BAC members for discussion at next meeting.</p>
<p><b>4. Item 2 – Update on Council Actions</b> <b>- biodiversity projects – koala/flying fox</b></p>	<p>Information update from NRM staff</p> <p>Reece/Heather – koala projects – mapping for priority koala habitat as part of DPE funding from the NSW koala strategy</p> <p>Heather – LGNSW Susan Island Restoration Flying-fox – new Project Officer on board to manage the project and other tasks as they arise.</p>	
<p>Morning tea – 11:00 to 11:15am</p>		

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<b>5. Item 3 – CVC Plant ID project</b>	Plant ID - Erin Brady – Project Officer for project – showed the draft webpage for the Native Plant webpage. Current list of 350 plants to launch the website – for regeneration and backyard garden projects, with list growing with more data added through time. Also will include a citizen science page on Clarence Conversations too. Built for tablets and phones. Bill L suggested link to TreesNearMe App, GC list sources of native plants that local stocks (local provenance), PL asked to use same kind of abbreviations as other resources.	
<b>6. General business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LN – a) in the Clarence Magazine - under 28% rates notices are delivered electronically – so 72% in the mail – hence could still be a means of disseminating information on biodiversity? b) Has JP letter re: cats been addressed – yes – as it’s been integrated into BL motions on cat control.</li>   <li>2. LW – Illegal clearing on road reserves - where does a landholder stand if they’ve been mowing a road reserve for years but shouldn’t be without a permit. Discussion - GC - vegetation in road reserves should be a balance (native endangered plants etc) but in urban areas, not only allowed but encouraged to keep road reserves managed. However in rural areas – any management requires a permit from council; at the LGNSW conference increase fines for infringements. RL - preserving area for biodiversity is important, however where does it stand with other aspects such as safety, traffic management and other</li> </ol>	

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	<p>aspects. CVC have over 2000 km of road reserve. BL put forward that a notice to be sent out with rates notices regarding road reserve management. Resourcing to manage the regrowth of the road reserves – such as the biosecurity aspects such as weeds however that would take a significant change. AD how significant is this issue across the LGA – use the classification system from the RVMP to help identify high quality habitat. GC this issue is something we need to be aware of but how to manage is to be determined as it's an ongoing issue.</p> <p>3. JE - queried outcome of support end to native forest logging report – included points from Victorian Government phasing out logging and Mid Coast Council resolution - report going to the Council 27th June.</p> <p>4. GC – Susan Island Fauna Report - 15-year effort – currently being edited and inclusions such as photos. After August – community day to present report to the community – such as a seminar and a lunch involving presentation of report and other agencies eg NPWS, SEILMT, and perhaps the Susan Island LGNSW Flying-fox project.</p> <p>5. Other items to note - Bongil Bongil NP – Floyd's Grass (collected by GC - confirmed by Alex Floyd). LN – bank erosion from ski club along Clarence River at Koolkhan - suggested contacting state government as CVC has no jurisdiction over waters.</p>	

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<b>8. Action List</b>	Action list to be noted Agenda items for next meeting to be forwarded up to 7 days before next meeting	Reece – with minutes of meeting
<b>10. Meeting closed – 12:03pm</b>	Next meeting – Thursday 17 August 2023 – CVC Council chambers, Grafton	

Minutes confirmed by Cr Greg Clancy

Signature



Date

22 June 2023

END