



### Clarence Valley Biodiversity Advisory Committee - Meeting #3 Minutes

9:30 am Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

CVC Council Chambers - 2 Prince Street Grafton

**Present:** Cr Greg Clancy (Chair), Cr Peter Johnstone, John Edwards, Laura Noble, Barbara Linley, Peter Lake, Joanne Cunningham, Heather Mitchell (CVC Staff), Reece Luxton (CVC Staff), Nigel Blake, Mayor Ian Tiley

**Apologies:** Jonathon Yantsch, Scott Lenton (CVC Staff), Krister Waern, Linda Wright, Adrian Deville, Phil Redpath

<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Responsible person &amp; deadline</i>
<b>1. Meeting opening – 9:35am</b> Cr Greg Clancy as Chair opened the meeting and introduced Nigel Blake from LLS.	Acknowledgement of Country Nigel Blake – North Coast Local Land Services – responsible for delivery of State and Federally funded projects in biodiversity area.	Cr Greg Clancy
<b>2. Minutes of meeting #2 held 30 August 2022</b>	<b>Moved:</b> Barbara Linley; <b>seconded:</b> Laura Noble – all in favour - carried	



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<b>3. Matters arising from previous meeting</b>	<p>Action items from previous meeting: - Roadside vegetation management plan – under review; Tree register (significant trees) – no action as yet; Education delivery program – in development under Ops Plan 22/23</p> <p>CVC Policies – noted under Item 1 - <i>Beach Access Policy &amp; Tree Management Policy</i></p> <p>Local provenance planting - review definitions through minutes from last meeting</p> <p>Correspondence In:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Management of Cats on public land – noted for this meeting</li> <li>- Request to support end to native forest logging – noted for this meeting</li> </ul> <p>Proposed motion tabled and read by Laura Noble - regarding Linda Wright's request working on road reserve in Lawrence from last meeting under Item 1 – have the motion reviewed by staff – query whether a minor works permit be applied for and is it applicable in this instance. Proposed motion outlined in Appendix 1 below.</p> <p><b>Note</b> – Mayor Ian Tiley attended the meeting from 9:50am.</p>	<p>Ensure remain on agenda until dealt with (LN)</p> <p>Matters added to General Business</p>
<b>4. Item 1 – CVC policy/strategy review</b>	<p>Following from last meeting where a list of policies and strategies were highlighted – this Committee has an opportunity to review policies in relation to biodiversity issues – may not be many changes but checking in for review during newly elected Council within 12 month period. Note all Council policies are on CVC website – search 'policy' – and if issues arise to bring back to BAC, then can be discussed then.</p>	<p>Present various CVC policies to be revised and/or prepared in 22/23</p>



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	<p><b>4.1. Beach access policy</b> – internal review only – not due for public exhibition as long as no major changes. Reviewed in March 2020. RL discussed the existing policy including access points and issues with Crown Land/NP access to beaches. Included disabled access discussion. Other items to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- section 5.2 - what information is issued with permit? – eg brochures on wildlife that are active at various times of the year? Noted that map, access points included; updated CVC website has omitted brochure – to be readded. Suggestion on ‘insert’ with permit. LN</li> <li>- section 5.3 - speed limits – LN – mention wildlife and vegetation – reword to include all beaches, not just headlands. Speed limit listed – 5.3.2 - suggest reduce to 10km/hr nearer to pedestrian. Signage is at access points. “wildlife’ should be added along with pedestrian.</li> <li>BL - suggest no cars totally during breeding season, speed limit should be just 10km maximum.</li> <li>NB – difficult to address protection of shorebirds in this policy. Invite NPWS to talk about shorebirds.</li> <li>JE – add guideline – ‘avoid driving on beaches ½ hour prior to and after high tide (to keep off dune systems)</li> </ul>	<p>Beach Access brochure – add to CVC website</p> <p>LN and BL to send Reece a letter.</p> <p>Invite NPWS to next meeting to discuss shorebirds</p>



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	<p>IT – Congratulate committee members and thanked them for their contribution – the committee has been formed to make good firm recommendations to Council.</p> <p><b>4.2. Tree management policy</b> – likely to go on public exhibition – note local provenance native plant issue – item raised at Council May 2022 meeting – resolve to review policy - recommendations to go to policy owner (Manager Open Spaces)</p> <p>Local provenance discussion – <b>confirm the definition</b> – from item 6 meeting#2 30/8/22 – <i>“plants that are sourced from known local genetic stock from as close to the planting site as possible/practicable taking into consideration the vegetation community, soils, aspect etc (site characteristics) but no further than the catchment boundary based on the precautionary principle”</i>.</p> <p>JC queried whether the definition can be amended and improved over time? When policies reviewed.</p> <p>IT queried whether local provenance at a Council level had been researched? To the knowledge of the Committee members, this is not the case, hence need for definition.</p> <p>JE moved that <i>no further than catchment boundary</i> be excluded from the definition. With no seconder, the motion was lost.</p> <p>LN noted to provide other comments to be added when the document is out on public submission.</p>	<p>Motion: moved JC, 2<sup>nd</sup> PJ – move that the definition of local provenance as noted in minutes be accepted by Council.</p>



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<b>5. Item 2 – Cats</b>	<p>Letter from Janet Purcell noted in Agenda papers - however due to time constraints, and further advice to be provided through Councillor workshop and updated strategy on the matter, the item will be deferred to next time.</p> <p>NB queried whether interpretation of the legislation is valid and need to check compliance issues eg. keeping of animals policy</p>	Item deferred to next meeting due to time constraints
Morning tea – 11:00 to 11:20am		
<b>6. Item 3 – Native forest logging</b>	<p>Discussion - BAC watched footage of post logging impacts in Wedding Bells SF located behind Coffs Harbour. Discussion about potential for Local Government Conference - motion will be moved to phase out native forest logging.</p> <p>JE has reported multiple breaches over time – eg logging rainforest that was incorrectly mapped as scribbly gum.</p> <p>JE: correspondence read to members – requesting Council to pass a motion to request State Government to phase out native forest logging on public land, similar to Bellingen Shire Council actions on this matter.</p> <p>Notes on motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add - <i>impacts water supply catchment</i></li> <li>- Add – transition to plantation rather than private forest operations</li> </ul>	<p>Motion: moved JE, 2<sup>nd</sup> GC, <i>That Council consider the recent notice of motion by Bellingen Shire Council for phasing out native forest logging.</i></p> <p>(Note - Circulate to members as draft motion – with BAC support as per this meeting)</p> <p>(See attachment to email – notice of motion from Bellingen Shire Council)</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Point 6 – take out farm forestry</li> <li>- Note – an ePetition "End Public Native Forest Logging" has been presented in the Legislative Assembly - suggest Council motion include <i>"in the interim, place a moratorium on public native forest logging until the regulatory framework reflects the recommendations of the leaked NRC report."</i> See Appendix 2 for detail</li> </ul>	To be determined
<b>7. Presentation –Koala Management in the Clarence– Heather Mitchell</b> 11:54pm	Information item – what can Council do to strengthen our policies around supporting koala habitat?  Note – Mayor Ian Tiley left the meeting – 12:15pm	Heather - PowerPoint presentation
<b>8. General business 12:35pm</b>	Cr Clancy noted time and suggested there is limited scope to further discuss matters LN: Questioning where her information regarding her cat issue, and dam issue and lack of Council response; response from GC – 10 days requirement then refer to GM/Councillor  JE: videoed clearing along Tullymorgan Rd on rural land and adjacent road reserve. Contacted EnviroLine to seek support with compliance.	Reece to ask Devin Simpson to address next BAC re: RVMP – procedures for clearing



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<b>9. Action List</b>	Action list to be developed Agenda items for next meeting to be forwarded	Reece – with minutes of meeting
<b>10. Meeting closed – 12:50pm</b>	Next meeting – 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 – ELF	

Minutes confirmed by Chair Cr Greg Clancy

Signature 

Date 17/10/2022



### **Appendix 1**

CVC roadside reserve in Lawrence – Laura Noble

Linda's story at the BAC meeting on 30th August regarding caring for a Koala habitat in Lawrence highlighted to me that there is a need for council training and procedures to be reviewed. I understand that Linda was pleased to receive advice at that meeting and may help to resolve her issue. Even so, we do not know how many more such similar cases may have affected people past, present and in the future.

I'd like to put forward that at the next meeting for the Biodiversity Advisory Committee to discuss/decline/accept with or without amendments and consider presenting a Notice of Motion to Council as follows:

Summary: A community group of Lawrence has been caring for a CVC roadside reserve for sometime. Koalas use this area so the group has been clearing weeds and nurturing young koala tree saplings. The group requested assistance from Council to ask residents, living opposite this reserve, to stop misuse or damage to the property including using it as a dumping ground. A Council Notification was issued but it also applied to the community working group and, as a result, they too were prohibited access to the reserve. Naturally this was devastating to the group, followed by a frustrating and upsetting period with Council in trying to return to caring for this important koala habitat. Eventually at an impromptu discussion during a BAC meeting, it was advised that the Lawrence group can apply for an Application to Carry Out Works on Roads. This case had 2 issues for Council to deal with – one to stop misuse, which was carried out. The second was "what advice could/should have been given to the Lawrence group which has been caring for this Koala habitat so they may continue this important community-based activity" but this was not done.

**Proposed Motion:** Recommendation/request for this case to be addressed and a review of Council's procedures and training, so staff can focus on a balanced outcome for future similar issues which in turn will assist in the preservation of CV's biodiversity.





## **Appendix 2**

The ePetition "End Public Native Forest Logging" has closed for signatures and has been presented in the Legislative Assembly by The Hon. Shelley Hancock.

The ePetition text in full is: To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, Public native forest logging is pushing iconic species like the koala, swift parrot and greater glider towards extinction. The 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires burnt over 5 million hectares of forest and have left them more vulnerable to the impacts of logging. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the Environmental Protection Agency have recommended that in bushfire affected areas logging should cease entirely or face tighter restrictions, as current logging practices may cause irreversible damage to ecosystems and wildlife. Logging of public native forests is tax-payer subsidised. Forestry Corporation's Hardwood Division has been operating at a significant loss for the past decade. In 2020/21 it ran at a loss of \$20 million, with predictions that it will face losses of \$15 million until 2024. Reports also show our state forests can generate far more income through their protection than from logging, through recreation, tourism and carbon abatement. The Western Australian and Victorian Governments have already committed to ending this industry and have developed transition plans to support affected workers and businesses. The petitioners ask the Legislative Assembly to: 1. Develop a plan to transition the native forestry industry to 100% sustainable plantations by 2024. 2. In the interim, place a moratorium on public native forest logging until the regulatory framework reflects the recommendations of the leaked NRC report. 3. Immediately protect high-conservation value forests through gazettal in the National Parks estate. 4. Ban use of native forest materials as biomass fuel. The ePetition received 21046 signatures and has been sent to the NSW Government for a response.

END