



COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING
(CITY BUSINESS UNITS COMMITTEE)
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
COFF AND CASTLE STREETS, COFFS HARBOUR
6 AUGUST 2003
Commencing At 5.00pm

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COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING
(CITY BUSINESS UNITS COMMITTEE)

6 AUGUST 2003

Mayor and Councillors

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

9 COFFS COAST MARKETING - REPORT 2002/2003

Purpose:

The purpose is to provide Council with an overview of the results of marketing initiatives undertaken over the past twelve months.

Description of Item:

Tourism is a major industry of the Coffs Coast region. It is a significant contributor to the region's economic well-being and employment.

Annual visitor expenditure is approximately \$300 million and direct and in-direct employment is around 2,000 plus persons.

Council is a leader and major player in tourism. Through partnerships with Commonwealth and State Governments, the local and regional tourism associations and industry, strategic and tactical marketing of the destination under Brand Coffs Coast have been implemented. Over the past 12 months these include:

Activities

- Brand Coffs Coast – strategic development of the brand for tourism as per Coffs Coast Tourism Development Plan
- Coffs Coast Holiday Planner (second edition) – production and distribution
- Coffs Coast Golf Booklet – production and distribution
- Coffs Coast website – launch and ongoing maintenance and promotion
- Coffs Coast Visiting Journalists Program (VJP) – ongoing hosting of selected media.
- Coffs Coast / NSW Holidays / Industry - pre-Christmas 'Short-Breaks' campaign October – December 2002
- Coffs Coast / Tourism NSW / North Coast Regional Tourism Organisation 'Drive Yourself Sane' campaign May – September 2003

cont'd

9 Coffs Coast Marketing - Report 2002/2003 (cont'd)

- Coffs Coast / See Australia / NSW Holidays / Virgin Blue / Flight Centre & Industry '3 for 2 Short-Breaks' campaign June – September 2003
- Coffs Coast – Home of the Wallabies, ongoing promotion in Inside Rugby magazines and 30 seconds commercial at test matches.
- George Gregan 'Coffs Coast Ambassador' appointment and promotions – Sydney media and industry launch, April, The Great Outdoors date to be confirmed, Channel Seven News and Sunrise 16 & 17 July, Eastern University Games, corporate golf day 15 July 2003.
- Destinations Coffs Coast half hour travel feature 12 July 2003 – national regional broadcast.
- Coffs RTV (Tony Barber) Coffs Coast / Novotel Pacific Bay Resort pay TV broadcast, May 2003.
- See Australia / Coffs Coast 'True Colours Rugby Tour' – Sydney launch and ongoing promotion July to October 2003
- Coffs Coast 'All You Need' half hour television feature – filmed June for broadcast in regional Australia October / November 2003
- Coffs Coast Conferences – ongoing promotion of destination for business tourism – conferences and meetings
- Attendance – Commonwealth Government 'Round Table – Tourism Leaders Forum' with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism. August 2002.
- Member – Coffs Harbour Education Campus 'English Language' Marketing Committee – ongoing.
- Presentations – Coffs Coast Tourism Association, Coffs Harbour View Club, Coffs Harbour Chamber of Commerce, Southern Cross University – Tourism & Hospitality Studies students.
- Coffs Coast – website education to industry in Coffs Harbour, Bellingen and Nambucca
- Relationship management with Commonwealth and State governments and their agencies, industry organisations, media, tourism association, chambers of commerce and industry operators.

Some results

- Airport passenger numbers at record levels - 210,000 as compared with the previous best performance of 174,600.
- Coffs Coast Visitor Information Centre sales in excess of \$1.1 million compared with \$750,000 the previous financial year.
- The Roy Morgan Research Holiday Tracking Study (June 2002) revealed that Coffs Harbour has the third highest awareness (after Sydney and Blue Mountains) among surveyed consumer as a desirable holiday destination in NSW.

National Visitor Survey (year ending December 2002) indicates a 7.5% increase in visitor nights compared with the same period of 2001.

Sustainability Assessment:

• Environment

As with all industries, there are issues for the environment such as carrying capacity of marine and terrestrial sites. To-date no negative feedback has been received in this regards.

cont'd

9 Coffs Coast Marketing - Report 2002/2003 (cont'd)

- **Social**

One of the Key Factors For Success In Tourism is a 'Welcoming Host Population'.

Friendly and welcoming social interaction between locals and visitors helps develop relationships and fosters positive word of mouth promotion for Coffs.

With tourism being a major employer, particularly for youth, it is crucial Brand Coffs Coast is strategically managed to maximise these benefits for the community.

- **Economic**

The value in terms of expenditure and employment has been previously identified and of vital importance to the region.

The other issue to be mindful of is that Tourism is interdependent with and influences the performance of other industries – sport, education, aviation, health, construction, retail and wholesale, re-settlement etc.

For example, on completion, Aqualuna on Sapphire Beach apartments will have expended \$20 million on the building and development of the property.

The positive image and demand created via Tourism marketing has direct, indirect and induced economic benefits. For example, four major resorts employ between 212 and 330 full time equivalents and have a combined salary and wages expenditure of some \$12 million per annum. In addition expenditure on food & beverage supplies is \$2 million, utilities, \$2 million, trade services \$1.2 million and some \$200,000 on Council rates.

Consultation:

The Coffs Coast Marketing team (Rob Cleary, Leanne Leach and Brian Bowers) all liaise with various publics.

Rob Cleary – has regular meetings with Tourism NSW, NSW Holidays, Coffs Coast Conferences, Coffs Harbour Regional Airport, airlines, Coffs Coast Tourism Association and NSW Convention and Bureau. Close contact is also maintained with Department of State & Regional Development, Marine Parks Authority, National Parks & Wildlife and State Forests.

Leanne Leach – has regular contact with Tourism NSW, media, Coffs Coast Tourism Association, Bellingen and Nambucca Tourism Associations and individual operators.

Brian Bowers – is our representative on the regional tourism organisation and has regular liaison with the Coffs Coast Tourism Association, The National Visitor Information Centre Network, Coffs Coast conferences, individual operators and various common interest groups and clubs.

Where appropriate, close working relationships are maintained and developed with Councils other departments, particularly the Economic Development Unit and the Coffs Harbour Sports Unit.

Related Policy and / or Precedents:

Ongoing management and marketing of the destination is in accordance with recommendations embodied in the Coffs Coast Tourism Development Plan which was endorsed by Council in January 2003.

cont'd

9 Coffs Coast Marketing - Report 2002/2003 (cont'd)

Issues:

Brand Management verses Advertising and Promotion.

The long-term strategic management of Brand Coffs Coast as an integrated high quality product is crucial to maximise ROI. Studies by the Harvard Business School highlight the positive and direct relationship between high quality products and high ROI. A similar relationship also exists for low quality products low ROI scenarios.

High levels of competition from other destinations (international and domestic) and other industries such as home entertainment have created a buyers market. In many instances, price and margins are at record low levels.

Council through leadership and strategic initiatives must pursue the high quality / high ROI sector to protect market share, economic well-being and employment. This must be done in partnership with the business community, local residents, and the Coffs Coast Tourism Association and individual operators.

Another key issue is the lack of new 'experiential infrastructure' in the region. Products like the Skyrail at Cairns, AirWalk in Tasmania and Bridge Climb in Sydney are classic examples. These quality by being 'Educational, Exciting and an Experience' have revitalised their respective destinations resulting in a boost in economic activity, jobs and a fillip to community pride and esteem.

The redevelopment of the Coffs Harbour Jetty Foreshore, carefully and strategically managed has the potential to achieve similar results for our community.

Implementation Date / Priority:

Implementation of the Coffs Coast Tourism Development Plan is ongoing.

A review of the Plan should be undertaken within the next 3 – 6 months to ensure performance and currency.

Recommendation:

That Council strategically maintain and foster sustainable economic, social and environmental initiatives via the Tourism Industry under Brand Coffs Coast.

CITY BUSINESS UNITS DEPARTMENT REPORTS

E46 PERMISSION FOR COUNCILLOR OVENS TO ATTEND AIRPORT CONFERENCE

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek permission for Councillor Ovens to attend the annual conference of the Australian Airports Association to be held in Canberra in November 2003.

Description of Item:

Councillor Ovens as Chair of the Airport Development Advisory Committee plays a significant role in the operation and development of the airport. It is important that he be aware of current aviation industry and business trends.

The Australian Airports Association Annual Conference will be held in Canberra from 18 to 21 November 2003. This group only meets a few times per year. Airport owners from all over Australia gather to hear about and discuss political, operational and technical issues that effect their airports.

The Association is the peak airport representative body for Australia. It works closely with industry and the Federal Government for the benefit of the industry and airport owners. Council has always played an active role in the Association with the Airport Manager currently the NSW Branch Secretary. The NSW Branch Chairperson and Board Member is Mr. M Dubois from Tamworth City Council.

The Association will value Councillor Ovens involvement in the Conference. Agenda items include a report from the Association's National Chairman; economic forecasts and aviation outlook; trends for Australian Tourism; presentation by CEO Qantas Airways; CASA and ASA.

Sustainability Assessment:

- **Environment**

Another important aspect of Council operating the Airport as a successful business unit is that in doing so Council can ensure it is operated in the most environmentally friendly way.

For these reasons it is important for Council and Councillors to be involved in high-level meetings relating to the provision of air services and other airport business matters as provided by the Australian Airports Association.

- **Social**

Equally, it is important that the Airport operate as a successful business unit of Council. In doing so, it returns a dividend to the community that can be invested into other Council projects that benefit the City.

Reliable and affordable air services are crucial to rural NSW. Many remote parts of the state rely heavily on these services for their social and economic well being. As one of the bigger regional centres in NSW, we are looked upon for support and leadership in the area of regional aviation. It is important Council participate in the activities of the Australian Airports Association for both the benefit of the Coffs Coast and regional Australia.

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E46 Permission For Councillor Ovens To Attend Airport Conference (cont'd)

- **Economic**

It is important for the City and our surrounding region to have reliable and affordable air services. This is crucial for the economic well being of the area. Costs associated with attending these meetings will be met from the current Airport Operational Budget.

Recommendation:

That permission be granted for Councillor Ovens to attend Australian Airports Association Annual Conference in Canberra to be held in November 2003.

E47 FIREWEED PROBLEMS IN COFFS HARBOUR

Purpose:

To report to Council on the current status of Fireweed in Coffs Harbour.

Description of Item:

Fireweed is a general name referring to a number of important weed species of the genus *Senecio*. In Coffs Harbour there are two species of Fireweed. One, *Senecio latus* is native to Australia and is found on coastal sand dunes and Muttonbird Island. The other, *Senecio madagascarensis* is a native of south-east Africa and is the species declared as a noxious weed in Coffs Harbour.

The physical appearance of both species is very similar with the only visible difference being the number of petals that make up the flower. *S. latus* generally has 11 petals while *S. madagascarensis* has 13 petals.

Fireweed grows from 10-50cm high and forms a heavily branched perennial bush. Flowers are small, yellow and daisy-like with up to 200 per plant with each flower producing between 100-150 seeds. Therefore a single plant has the ability to produce around 25000-30000 seeds with a high viability.

Most seed germination occurs from March to June with plants developing rapidly and flowering with 6-10 weeks after emergence. Consequently several generations of Fireweed can be produced in one season. The seed is light and easily dispersed by wind.

Fireweed is now a serious weed of coastal pastures in NSW. It can be found from south-east Queensland to the Victorian border.

It is a W3 category noxious weed in Coffs Harbour. The Noxious Weeds Act 1993 requires action to be taken to prevent the weed from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced.

Sustainability Assessment:

- **Environment**

In Coffs Harbour Fireweed is now widely spread throughout the City with large infestations found in Crossmaglen, Nana Glen, Bucca, Upper Orara and the Eastern Dorrigo. The sudden and widespread occurrence of this weed has been due principally to the effect of the recent drought. The loss of significant pasture combined with over stocking and a general deterioration of soil fertility have all contributed to ideal conditions for Fireweed invasion.

Fireweed is responsible for many cases of poisoning resulting in ill-thrift in livestock caused by alkaloids affecting the liver. While cattle and horses are most susceptible to these alkaloids, sheep and goats readily eat Fireweed without any harmful effects in the short term. However some liver damage can be caused if large quantities are eaten over several seasons.

Although Fireweed is rarely eaten by stock, ingestion is difficult to avoid when there is a severe shortage of other feed other than Fireweed and where it has been slashed and grazed immediately afterwards.

Hay or silage containing Fireweed can also be toxic as are plants that have dried off in summer.

cont'd

E47 Fireweed Problems In Coffs Harbour (cont'd)

- **Social**

There are few social impacts caused by the presence of Fireweed. No allergenic or toxic effects on humans has been recorded to my knowledge. It is recommended that gloves be worn by people who hand pull Fireweed.

Hand pulling of Fireweed, usually on smaller holdings where infestations are light is a commonly used approach to control. The pulled weeds are placed in bags for later disposal either in a hot fire or in land fill sites for burying.

- **Economic**

Losses of over 60% in pasture productivity have been recorded in Fireweed infested pastures, particularly where soil fertility is poor and competition from improved pasture species is absent.

Other economic costs of Fireweed infestations include:

- The time spent pulling and bagging
- Slower growth rates and decreased quality of stock produced for sale
- Costs of herbicide application
- Pasture improvement and management

Consultation:

Individuals and organisations consulted during development of this report include:

- NSW Agriculture Rod Ensbey
Noxious Plants Advisory Officer, Grafton
Terry Launder
Research Agronomist, Taree
- Kempsey Rural Land Protection Board Veterinarian
- Plant Protection Quarterly Vol 13(1) 1998

Related Policy and / or Precedents:

The current policy with regard to Fireweed is to encourage landowners to control by voluntary means. Council offers a service to carry out chemical control by boom and hand spraying.

Should voluntary control not be achieved Council can enforce control through the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

Statutory Requirements:

The Noxious Weeds Act 1993 provides for the systematic control of all noxious weeds. Section 18 states that 'local control authority (LCA) may require occupiers of land (other than public authorities or other LCA's) to control noxious weeds'.

Section 19 states that 'Occupiers must comply with weed control notices by LCA.'

Section 20(1) states that a LCA may control noxious weeds on land as required if the occupier of that land fails to do so.

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E47 Fireweed Problems In Coffs Harbour (cont'd)

Issues:

Although declared as a noxious weed in the adjoining shires of Bellingen and Nambucca it is believed that no noxious weed notices are being issued to landowners with infested properties in their shires. Unfortunately it is not a declared noxious weed in adjoining northern shires under control of the Clarence Valley Weed authority.

Council has issued 24 S.18 Weed Control Notices. In addition 29 landowners have requested Council to spray Fireweed on their behalf. Approximately 400ha has been treated with selective herbicides.

Because of its physiology and rapid adaptation to coastal soils and climate, fireweed is proving to be a difficult weed to control. The weed produces three types of seeds ie dark brown (9%), light brown 80%) and green (11%) which germinate at different times according to soil and environmental conditions. In addition, a high proportion of seed is viable (greater than 90%).

Attitudes to Fireweed vary widely from those wishing to eradicate it by a combination of methods to those who are very complacent. Such people consider Fireweed to be just another pasture weed and see little reason to attempt control as neighbouring shires do nothing to force control on their landowners.

Council Weed Services staff take an active role in encouraging and supporting landowners to control their Fireweed. The vast majority of landowners with significant infestations of Fireweed have been contacted either by letter or in person with control advice being freely given.

Very little research has been conducted on Fireweed management but an integrated approach to control achieves the best results ie a combination of herbicide and pasture management. The optimal time for herbicide application is from the small seedling to early flowering stage. However most requests for spraying occurs later which can lead to less than satisfactory results being achieved.

Wickwiping with Glyphosate has proven successful in trials at Taree with a greater than 90% kill rate achieved with two treatments. Two landowners in Coffs Harbour are planning to try this approach using Council's wickwiper.

Because of the periodic flushes of Fireweed germination from autumn to spring, one herbicide treatment is unlikely to be completely effective. Herbicide application should be carried out in conjunction with pasture improvement and livestock management.

Recommendation:

That:

- 1. Council continues its active role in encouraging rural landowners to control Fireweed by regular inspection and the provision of technical information to aid in control.**
- 2. Noxious Weed Notices be issued to those not controlling Fireweed satisfactorily.**
- 3. A field day be held on a suitable property next autumn to highlight the positive aspects of Fireweed control.**

**Pat Littler
Director City Business Units**

PLANNING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORTS

F60 BEACH SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Purpose:

To modify the current Beach Safety Working Group by changing the current terms of reference and group membership to reflect a community-based approach to overall beach safety issues.

Description of Item:

The original Beach Safety Working Group's purpose was to administer the allocation of Section 94 funding towards lifeguard and club equipment. The Beach Safety Working Group has identified the need to revisit the requirements of beach safety and redefine the Working Group. Additionally the Group should reflect the community's needs regarding beach safety issues.

It is considered that the new Beach Safety Working Group would discuss and make recommendations to Council regarding but not limited to the following:

Terms of Reference

1. Technical issues of beach safety including:
 - remote supervision – signs;
 - appointment of Honorary Beach Inspectors;
 - law enforcement issues related to local government;
 - protection of the public and public relations;
 - rescue issues and procedures;
 - first aid and additional medical competencies;
 - reporting procedures;
 - Deeds of Agreements between Coffs Harbour City Council and Surf Life Saving Clubs;
 - operation of mechanically propelled rescue equipment;
 - minimum qualifications of volunteers and professionals;
 - staffing levels on patrols;
 - expansion of lifeguard and life saving services;
 - education.
2. Marketing and promotional opportunities for volunteer and professional life saving services on the Coffs Coast.
3. To obtain additional external funding for lifeguard operations and equipment and to meet the needs of Surf Life Saving Clubs in the future.
4. Co-ordination of delivery of life saving services (integration of volunteer and professional services).
5. Strategies to minimise exposure of Coffs Harbour City Council and Surf Life Saving Clubs to litigation.

cont'd

F60 Beach Safety Working Group (cont'd)

6. Facilitate co-ordination of emergency services for best response.
7. Promotion of beaches and beach reserves as a basis of tourism in Coffs Harbour.

It is proposed that the group would comprise the original members:

- two Councillors (Councillors Ovens and Wood);
- two community members;
- President/nominee of Coffs Harbour, Sawtell and Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Clubs;
- two Council staff members;

plus a representative from each of the following organisations:

- Coffs Coast Tourism;
- Ambulance Service of NSW;
- Chamber of Commerce (one person representing the three Chambers);
- Junior Activities Committee for North Coast; and
- Surf Rider Foundation.

Sustainability Assessment:

- **Environment**

No environmental impacts or opportunities.

- **Social**

Significant social opportunities through consultation with the community by inclusion of groups such as the Surf Rider Foundation, Emergency Services, Coffs Coast Tourism and Chamber of Commerce representatives within the framework of the Group.

The group will be more representative and tap into the community at large.

- **Economic**

There may be enhanced economic outcomes long term through marketing grants and other opportunities as they arise.

Consultation:

Consultation has been made with the Chamber of Commerce, Surf Riders and Coffs Coast Tourism. Advertising for a representative from Junior Activities Committee for the North Coast would need to be undertaken.

Council's Beach Safety Working Group instigated the expansion of the Group.

Conclusion:

The expansion of the Beach Safety Working Group may enhance the safety of beach users in Coffs Harbour. The expanded group with appropriate terms of reference will lead to a broader and more representative committee to reflect the community's needs. The Group can also focus on marketing opportunities that promote Coffs Harbour as a safe destination for families and other visitors.

cont'd

F60 Beach Safety Working Group (cont'd)

Implementation Date / Priority:

Prior to the commencement of the 2003/04 surf season.

Recommendation:

- 1. That Council endorse the revision of the terms of reference for the Beach Safety Working Group so as to include beach safety: technical issues, marketing, co-ordination, minimising risk, emergency response and promotion.**
- 2. That the Beach Safety Working Group membership be expanded so as to include the current membership of:**
 - two Councillors (Councillors Ovens and Wood);**
 - two community members;**
 - President/nominee of Coffs Harbour, Sawtell and Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Clubs; and**
 - two Council staff members;**

plus a representative from each of the the following organisations:

 - Coffs Coast Tourism;**
 - Ambulance Service of NSW;**
 - Chamber of Commerce (one person representing the three Chambers);**
 - Junior Activities Committee for North Coast; and**
 - Surf Rider Foundation.**

Purpose:

To endorse actions taken by the Koala Management Advisory Committee.

Description of Item:

The Koala Management Advisory Committee met on 7 July 2003 and made the following progress on the Action Plan 2003-04:

• **Issues**

- **Action 1 - Fine Scale Mapping of Koala Habitat**

Three areas are to be targeted: Korora, West Coffs and Toormina. The project has commenced, with a final report expected in September 2003.

- **Action 2 - National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Koala Recovery Plan: Council Submission**

The Koala Management Advisory Committee recommends Council make a submission to the NPWS on the Koala Recovery Plan. The recommended submission is attached.

- **Action 3 - Priority Areas for Revegetation**

The Committee has commenced discussion with Coffs Harbour Primary School, and it is to set up a small sub-committee to oversee koala tree planting on the school land, with a view to expanding onto adjoining land, linking with Coffs Creek.

- **Action 4 - Brochures/Awareness**

The Committee has had 40,000 koala brochures printed. These are to be posted using Australia Post unaddressed mail service.

A short message is to be printed on the reverse side of Council envelopes, to promote awareness of koalas.

- **Action 5 - Seed Collection and Propagation**

Additional seed is to be purchased and collected; Council nursery to continue propagation.

- **Action 6 - Review: Hogbin Drive Section in Environmental Impact Statement**

The EIS was reviewed. The proposed mitigation measures include "floppy top" fencing for the full length on the section north of Coffs Creek. An underpass will be provided by the bridge crossing of the creek. On the southern side, a pedestrian path will be provided under the bridge, which will allow koala movement. The Committee was satisfied with these measures.

cont'd

Sustainability Assessment:

- **Environment**

Council has unique knowledge of koala management having adopted the first comprehensive Koala Plan of Management in New South Wales. Council's ongoing participation with the NPWS in Koala Recovery Planning may reap significant benefits for this threatened species.

The Koala Management Advisory Committee continues to make positive steps for the management of koalas across the City.

- **Social**

Council and the Coffs Harbour City community lead the state in koala management. This has a positive impact on civic pride. The actions of the Committee continue to improve community education and provide opportunity for community involvement and leadership.

- **Economic**

Council is well positioned to benefit from any State government funding of Koala Recovery Plan Actions because of the adopted comprehensive Koala Plan of Management.

Other actions are currently funded through environmental levy funds. Engaging community groups will provide ongoing, in kind resourcing much greater than the funding allocated.

Recommendation:

That Council make a submission to the National Parks and Wildlife Service on the Koala Recovery Plan as attached to the report.

Rick Bennell
Acting Director Planning Environment and Development

Attachments:

Coffs Harbour Koala Management Advisory Committee Submission on the Draft Recovery Plan for the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

Please find below comments from the Coffs Harbour Koala Management Advisory Committee for Coffs Harbour City Council on the Draft Recovery Plan for the Koala.

The Coffs Harbour Koala Management Advisory Committee (KMAC) is wholly supportive of the preparation and implementation of a statewide recovery plan for the koala, and believes that it is an important step in managing koalas as a threatened species across New South Wales.

As the first local government area (LGA) in New South Wales to prepare a LGA wide comprehensive Koala Management Plan under State Environmental Planning Policy 44 (SEPP 44), the KMAC feels there are a number of local issues related to koala conservation and management that can be of benefit to State wide management actions for the species.

The adoption of the Coffs Harbour Koala Management Plan has assisted in the conservation of significant local populations of koala. This has primarily occurred through the identification of three classes of koala habitat (primary, secondary and tertiary) based upon vegetation mapping undertaken for Coffs Harbour City Council (Fisher *et. al.* 1995), and the protection of these habitats through two key mechanisms:

Zoning Protection under the Coffs Harbour City Local Environment Plan (LEP), 2000

Substantial areas of Primary Koala Habitat were zoned for Environmental Protection in the Coffs Harbour City LEP 2000. Perhaps the most successful single component of the plan has been the effective protection of koala habitat through zoning protection. Whilst achieving effective protection of koala habitat, zoning protection has also proven the most contentious component of the plan, particularly where landholders have an actual or perceived reduction in capacity to manage their property as they see fit. This has led to conflict over conservation of Koala habitat within the Coffs Harbour local government area.

Implementation of a Tree Preservation Order

A tree preservation order was established over all three classes of koala habitat in LEP 2000 with the exception of koala habitat occurring upon rural agricultural lands (1A).

The KMAC is prepared to assist the NPWS in implementation of a Recovery Plan by providing advice on local government conservation management efforts, by indicating successes and failures in various measures implemented at a local scale, and by assisting the NPWS in undertaking recovery actions for the koala within the Coffs Harbour LGA. The koala conservation provisions of the Coffs Harbour City LEP 2000 could potentially be used as a model for other Local Government Areas within NSW.

The KMAC would welcome any assistance from the NPWS in terms of advice upon better managing the koala as a threatened species, as well as funding assistance for undertaking recovery actions within the Coffs Harbour LGA. Incentives for landholders wishing to conserve koala habitat, as well as those affected by legislative protection of koala habitat, are essential to ensure meaningful koala conservation and to alleviate conflicts between koala conservation and conventional land management practices.