

27<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Independent Planning Commission (NSW)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Koala Plan of Management for the Kings Forest Residential Development Tweed:**

Bangalow Koalas as an advocate for our vulnerable koalas would like to take this opportunity to ensure that the KPoM for the Kings Forest Residential Development in Tweed is not allowed to be modified to the detriment of our koala populations. This development is two and a half times the size of Kingscliff- 856 hectares and koalas need to be protected from overdevelopment and ensured protection.

The following points need to be addressed:

1. **Offset planting of 27ha of Koala Food Trees is not clear and is unresolved. It must be secured** through binding or legal arrangement before any construction commences.

**Background**

27ha of koala food trees were to be originally planted in Cudgen Nature Reserve. This condition is still a serious area of concern as the proponent has to date not approached Office of Environment & Heritage or Tweed Shire Council regarding planting of any of the 27ha's of koala food trees. Nor has any legal or binding arrangement been made to secure offset planting which is a biodiversity responsibility when dealing with fragile ecosystems.

- 2 **Entrance roads through Environmental Protection Zones must have underpasses** before any construction commences. If ONLY fencing is installed without underpasses it will result in Koalas and wildlife being cut off from their natural corridor for many years.

**Background**

The haulage (entrance) roads that traverse environment zones exist already between proposed work sites and access road. If only fencing is installed along these roads and no underpasses it will result in koalas and wildlife being cut off from their natural corridors for many years, maybe even decades. It is imperative that underpasses are in place PRIOR to Construction Certificates. Installation of road underpasses first before construction was the intent of the original Concept Plans for Kings Forest.

2. **The Cudgen Paddock (golf course) should not be fenced off** .It was always to be part of the wildlife corridor and fencing would stop the Koalas from access to their food trees. The fencing should be placed around urban areas that abut the golf course to allow koalas and other wildlife unimpeded access to it.

**Background**

The Cudgen Paddock will be severely disrupted by earthworks and the creation of a golf course. As compensation the golf course was to be part of a wildlife corridor. This has been a condition of approval from the earliest Director Generals Environmental assessments. How are the Koalas in the Environmental Protection Zones adjoining the golf course supposed to access their food trees in the golf course and how do they cross to other EPZ's if they are fenced from this area. It is much more appropriate and logical to place fencing around urban areas that adjoin the golf course to allow freedom of movement for koalas and wildlife.

I thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards

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