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12 March 2019

NSW Government
Independent Planning Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

**REF: Public Meeting-Modification to Kings Forest Residential Subdivision
Koala Plan of Management (KPOM MOD 4) – D544-18**

The following is the speech given by Linda Brannian BirdLife Northern Rivers, 12 March 2019 to the Independent Planning Commission at their public meeting at Kingscliff:

{Beginning of Speech}

- Good morning – I am Linda Brannian, Convenor of BirdLife Northern Rivers and Deputy Convenor of BirdLife Northern NSW. Landowner in the Tweed for over 20 years.
- BirdLife Northern Rivers is a community group comprising local people concerned with the protection of native birds and their habitats. We are a branch of BirdLife Australia, the nation's largest bird conservation organisation with a voice for Australia's birdlife for well over a century.
- BirdLife Northern Rivers has been active in the Tweed for twenty years. Our members are recreational birdwatchers, citizen scientists, and strong advocates for birds and their habitats. Illustrated by my speaking to you now.
- As I speak for our current members and supporters, I also speak for future residents of the Kings Forest (KF) Community.
- Today people want to live with wildlife illustrated by the rapid uptake in such programs as *Land for Wildlife* and *Backyard habitat for wildlife* both programs sponsored by TSC (Tweed Shire Council) and available to future residents of KF.
- People want birds around them as demonstrated by the high level of participation in our annual Aussie Backyard Bird Count and our Birds in Backyards program

- There is now compelling evidence (in the scientific literature) that the loss of nature interactions has negative impacts on human health and wellbeing (physical, mental and social wellbeing).
- Humans need and want wildlife around them.
- I am here to **have my say**. Our members want the KPOM and a comprehensive offset package for KF to protect our endangered Tweed Coast Koalas at Kings Forest. Furthermore, with measures I outline the plan will also protect other local wildlife all needed for human wellbeing.
- I now draw your attention to the summary of changes to the KPOM (**MOD 4**) –**D544-18** in Table 3 pg 10. We support those changes in the column labelled *Proposal (as amended by the RtS Addendum)* the far-right column.
Important items are:
 - Planting of a 100m wide east-west corridor
 - Specifying a Minimum of 7 fauna underpasses
 - Figures (numbers) now specified for total offset habitat, primary and secondary food trees.

For the KPOM to work and for this community to keep its koalas/wildlife interactions:

- Fauna Underpasses - must be built before construction commences. Entrance roads through Environmental Protection zones must run over fauna underpasses. These underpasses must be maintained into perpetuity and be designed using best practices for koalas in 2019. They are also important for several local species of ground dwellings birds.
- Do not fence wildlife out of the Cudgen Paddock (to be golf course). It is to be part of a wildlife corridor.
- The 27ha offset planting - see it secured through binding legal arrangement before any construction commences. An important addition to bird habitat as well.
- The 100 m wide east-west corridor planting will be important to birds.
 - Wider corridors support more bird species, particularly encouraging forest specialists (that don't live in our suburban gardens) to move through, and potentially visit resident's back yards
 - Corridors need to be wide enough to remove edge effects.
- The KF EPZ and accompany buffers are very important. They will hold "garden birds" during construction and facilitate their being available to move into and through the mosaic of backyard habitats. Native remnant specialists, urban generalists, and forest specialists will all benefit from the design of this KPOM.

Your determination to approve this KPOM with modifications mentioned today will result in an innovative community, of premium value as future KF and coastal Tweed residents will

benefit from the wildlife corridors, agricultural and ecological buffers and environmental protection areas.

Wildlife need habitat and people need wildlife.

Thank You

{end of speech}

Yours faithfully,



Linda Brannian,
Convenor, BirdLife Northern Rivers
Deputy Convenor, BirdLife Northern NSW

