

Thank you for allowing me to speak at this meeting regarding the Kings Forest Residential Subdivision Koala Plan of Management (Mod 4). I am here to support the endangered Tweed Coast Koala's & raise concerns that there are some significant issues that require the depts. action so they are resolved & will no longer threaten the survival of the Tweed Coast Koala's which are at present facing a high risk of extinction.

Firstly I would like to introduce myself & give you some background. I reside in the Koala Beach Estate at Pottsville, a renowned & successful koala friendly estate that was designed from the onset to minimise impacts to a small colony of Koala's that resided in the vicinity. I moved to Pottsville from Sydney several years ago & during that time I have become a member of various volunteer community groups that network & provide supportive services to each other and whose primary aims are to improve biodiversity outcomes for the region & educate the community. Our beautiful environment, its wildlife and in particular being able to see a Koala in the wild, are the main drawcard & source of great enthusiasm for many new & old residents as well as tourists visiting this area. This view is based on my conversations with the many people, including the general public at various market days, shopping centre stalls & community planting days etc.

Here are my main points of concern that require your further attention:

1. An area of 27hectares required as an offset has not as yet been identified or secured. It must be secured by legal agreement before issuing approval. Considering our Koalas are now listed as endangered, there should be no further delay in securing this offset area & commencing planting immediately to allow the trees to grow & be a viable piece of Koala habitat. Climate change impacts, has necessitated habitat areas not only provide food, but also pockets of dense shelter, so that wildlife are able to escape extreme hot weather events that are increasingly becoming more common. It is crucial an ongoing tree planting program of suitable koala trees is immediately implemented & furthermore a maintenance program that ensure the majority of trees reach maturity & those that die are replaced. The location of the offset area should ideally link Kings Forest to the Cudgen Nature Reserve or in another protected area that will enhance the local Koala's habitat & corridor here. The location must be supported by an expert koala ecologist.

2. The good health & safety of the Koala population in the king's forest area is of paramount concern & we need to aim for a zero mortality rate. We cannot afford to lose any of our precious koalas as we have now reached a critical turning point with the Koala status on the Tweed Coast now having moved to endangered. The developer must be held accountable for any loss of Koala's & we must ensure all necessary actions are taken that will ensure Koalas & other wildlife are not impacted. This will require:
 - a) Any roads that dissects or traverses an environmental protection zone, must have an underpass built underneath it before construction commences.
 - b) Protective fencing is only placed on the residential fringe (urban edge) & does not cut off Koala's from accessing their food trees, shelter or corridor.
 - c) The paddock (golf course) must not be fenced off & must remain part of the wildlife corridor, allowing the Koala's & other wildlife safe & free access to the food trees, shelter & corridor.

Thank you,
Irene Timmins

