

Hello Panel & Hello audience

Well here we go again, another Venue, another Modification from the proponent – number 4 in fact and another IPC Panel. Once again as the goal posts change, we as representatives of the community have to speak up to protect our endangered Tweed Coast Koalas. The dictionary meaning of the word endangered is “a species of animal or plant that is seriously at risk of extinction”.

Why are we here ? well it is because we want the BEST version of a Koala Plan Of Management to ensure their survival in Kings Forest.

Let’s face it, the protection conditions for the Koalas right from the beginning in the Concept Plan were comprehensive, The proponent was well aware of the fragile Koala habitat within Kings Forest so the Community insisting on rational adjustments to this Determination to protect these Koalas should come as NO surprise to the Commission, in fact it should be welcomed.

I have a question for the Panel and to the Department of Planning and IPC – Are you aiming for success with this Koala Plan of Management for Kings Forest? Or are you aiming for a show of good faith to the community and hoping that close enough is good enough or maybe even a compromise?? I feel that Planning and the Commission have put in a pretty good effort, Modification 4 put forward by the proponent in May 2017 was a devastating backward step in Koala protection for modern day Australia.

And then Modification of Project Approval by the Commission has clawed back some Koala conditions but still stops short of being a successful Koala Plan of Management. I say to you all, the Commission and the planners that you are not there yet!!

There is no room for compromise; Koalas generally are on the decline through natural courses such as sickness, drought and flood. Since 2010 the situation for Koalas has not improved, if anything over time the situation has become more dire. Lets not add to this human ignorance. Here we are in 2019 armed with a ton of ecological knowledge, ignorance is unacceptable as an excuse. This is about intent!

So I ask again are we aiming for success with this KPOM or is it a potential hit or miss ??

If the Commission is serious, if the Department of Planning is serious, if the proponent is serious about protecting the koalas in Kings Forest then you must all try harder, there are some major issues with the Determination that have stood out like beacons to myself and others, that must be addressed and not ignored if we are to SUCCEED.

If a Koala could speak and have its own voice what it would say to YOU the Independent Planning Commission and the audience it would be something like this -

PUT ON KOALA EARS

“Thank you to the Tweed community for standing up for me, if it wasn’t for all of your thousands of objection submissions on Modification 4 this opportunity to speak again at a public meeting and get the KPOM just right for me, would not have eventuated.

Thank you to the Dept of Planning & Modification& the Commission for stopping and listening. For not allowing Modification 4 to proceed without serious ecological investigation and consideration.

But most importantly I say to you, the KPOM in the Determination is still not there yet, there are 3 main points that have been missed that can ensure my buddies and I can survive and prosper in Kings Forest. Please don't stop now, I beg of you., I need the 27ha of land **secured** and guaranteed to know I will have other trees **before** you take mine. They were promised to me. The vagueness and relaxed attention to 27ha of my new food trees is worrying, I cannot feed from a sapling I need well established trees. No tree, no me.

I need underpasses on all roads **before** those big haul trucks move in, don't block me out from travelling across my habitat which you call the EPZ's. I am a Koala, I am a landscape species and I need to travel overland to survive. Temporary fences and no underpasses which could be up for years or decades will stop me and isolate me from travelling to meet my buddies, find a gal and have a joey or two, Fencing and No underpasses will finish me. If you don't change this in particular, it is highly likely I will not exist by the time the underpasses are built, imagine that !

Don't take away my ability to access Cudgen Paddock what you call the Golf Course you had always promised me I would have this from the beginning. I hope your memory is not faded. Cudgen Paddock is full of my buddies and my other wildlife friends and over 7hectares of Koala food trees, don't lock us out of our home, our habitat, fence the development in and give me access to freely cross the golf course to my food trees and to other Environmental Zones. Us Koalas, we can live with humans; the humans just have to plan it better so that we can."

TAKE OFF KOALA EARS

In summary I would like to make it clear to the Panel what I am seeking as an informed member of this community .

1. GOOD INTENTION and FIRM COMMITMENT must be displayed through actions – that a legally binding agreement is in place for the 27hectares of offset planting with a timing plan for planting the trees, BEFORE any bulldozing and or construction commences. To date the OEH and Tweed Shire Council have not been approached by the proponent in regards to this very important commitment - and not one tree has been planted !
2. NO temporary fencing to be erected along current haul roads to split Environmental Zones and isolate Koalas and wildlife. That Approved UNDERPASSES are constructed BEFORE construction certificates are issued.
3. NO fencing of Environmental Zones and buffers adjoining the Golf Course. The original Concept plan had no fencing here , just stick to the plan and move the proposed fencing between the Urban Development and the Golf Course therefore giving unimpeded access by Koalas and wildlife across this Highly Significant and Sensitive Habitat Area.

As time goes on and many years pass the conservation status of the Koala in this country isn't improving. We can't afford trial and error, we do not have enough Koalas to attempt this approach.

Our Tweed Coast Koalas are ENDANGERED, without attention to detail in this KPOM it could reach the next level Critically Endangered, and if mismanaged eventually , God Forbid! EXTINCT IN THE WILD!

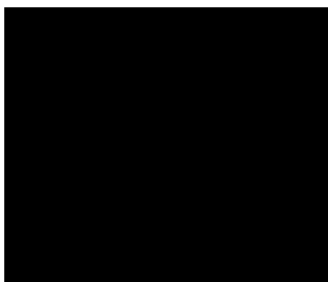
What legacy will we leave behind for our children? That we had the knowledge but just didn't try hard enough to sufficiently protect them!

We as a community expect the BEST Koala Plan of Management in Kings Forest to protect our Tweed Coast Koalas as anything less is just not good enough.

Every Tweed Coast Koala we save makes a difference; they are defenceless members of OUR community.

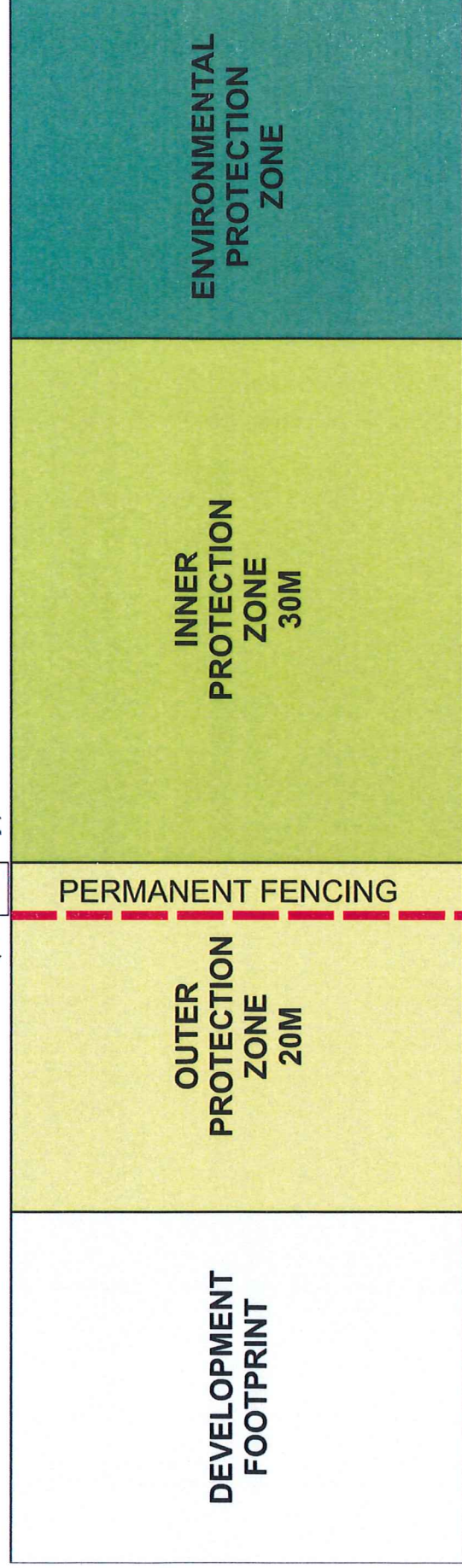
Thank you.

Please note – I do not want my personal information published with this submission.

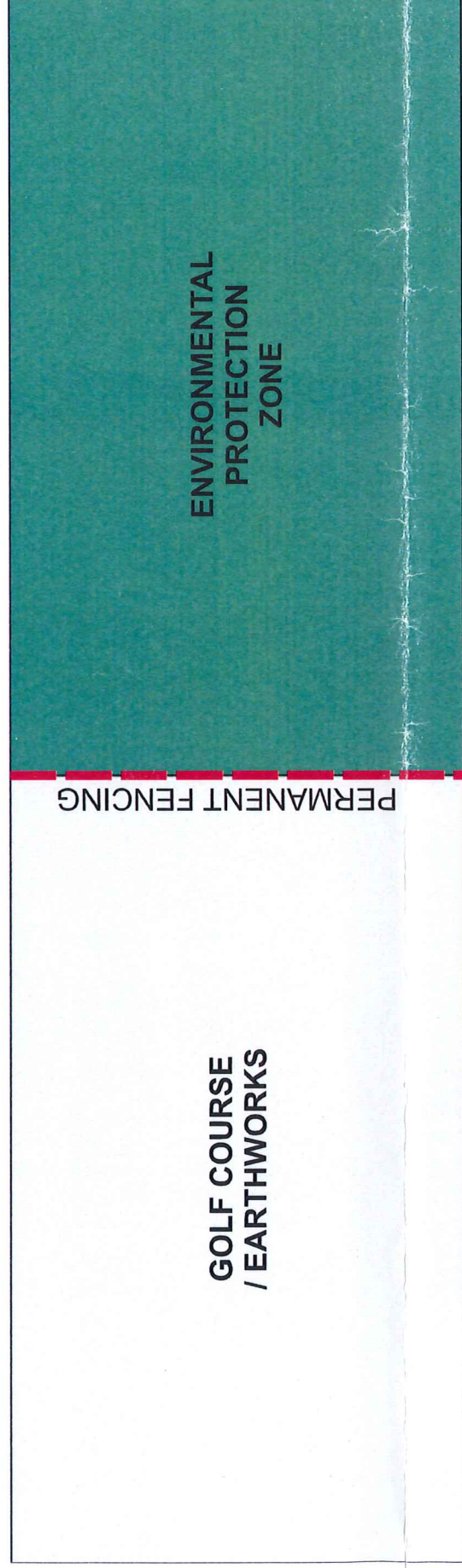


INDICATIVE LOCATION OF PERMANENT FENCING

3M
(Generally)

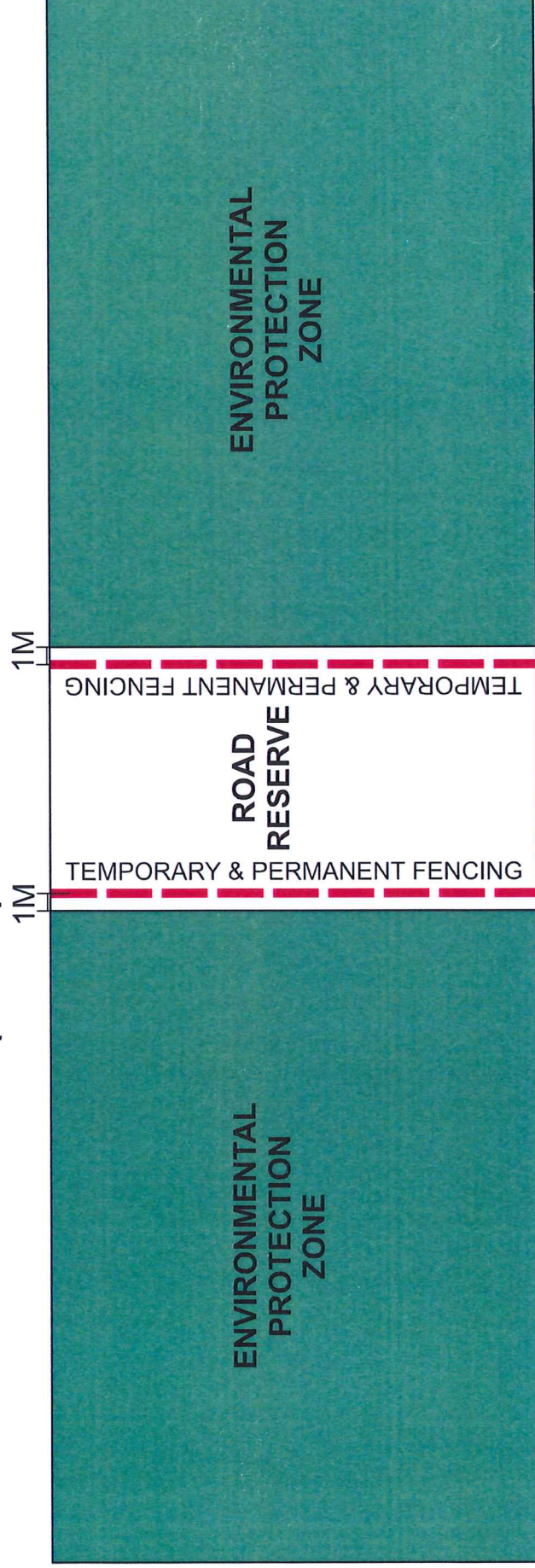


INDICATIVE LOCATION OF PERMANENT FENCING IN CUDGEN PADDOCK



X
NOT GOOD ENOUGH

INDICATIVE LOCATION OF TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT FENCING ALONG SOUTHERN ACCESS ROADS AND WHEREVER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ZONES (EPZ'S) OCCUR ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD



NO DO NOT PLACE FENCING HERE



SOURCE: JWA

SCALE: 1 : 500 @ A4

JWA PTY LTD
Ecological Consultants

CLIENT
Project 28 Pty Ltd
PROJECT
Koala Plan of Management
Kings Forest
Melaleuca Drive, Duranbah, NSW
Shire of Tweed

FIGURE 25

PREPARED: BW
DATE: 22 December 2016
FILE: N97017_Fencing.cdr

TITLE

FENCING
LOCATION
GUIDE