

Notes for IPC meeting Tuesday 12th March

Speaker #13: Rosanda Watson.

There are 3 points I would like to discuss in relation to the KPOM – Koala Plan of Management that the developer has not addressed.

The **original concept plan dated 2010** that was signed off by the departments Secretary includes agreement for:

1. Offset planting of 27 Hectares of Koala food and habitat trees in the Cudgen nature reserve.
2. Entrance roads through Environmental Protection zones must have Underpasses for the movement of koalas and other wildlife
3. No fencing of the Cudgen Golf course as this is a natural koala corridor

Addressing point 1: The proponent has not yet approached the office of Environment & Heritage or Tweed Shire council to establish a site for the offset planting. The planting of Koala food and habitat trees is necessary and required to be undertaken prior to the construction certificate being issued.

Addressing point 2: I ask why the project approval dated 2018, is planning to build the underpasses at the same time as the roads, this contravenes the original agreement. It is an imperative step to build the underpasses prior to construction for the safety and protection of the endangered Tweed Koala population. If no underpasses are built prior to construction, this will result in koalas and wildlife being cut-off from their natural corridors and habitats.

Addressing point 3: Fencing of the golf course would remove the natural corridor for the koalas to move around, causing isolation. It is my understanding this will result in causing stress, loss of habitat and the inability to find a mate. In the 2013 DGs Environmental Assessment, it states... NO koala fencing should surround the golf course area. The report describes the golf course as: "encompassing ecological buffers" and it refers to the: "7.86 ha of koala food trees to be located within the proposed golf course".

In summary...I am seeking adequate action on the Koala Plan of Management KPOM to put in place these 3 necessary requirements prior to any construction work commencing.

1. Offset planting of 27 Hectares of Koala food and habitat trees in the Cudgen nature reserve.
2. Entrance roads through Environmental Protection zones must have Underpasses for the movement of koalas and other wildlife
3. No fencing of the Cudgen Golf course as this needs to remain a natural koala corridor

There is only one chance to get this right and any further eroding of the original conditions and concept plan cannot be undone in the future. Therefore I request that the IPC consider these 3 points as an imperative for action.

Thank you.