

Responses to Questions on Notice

Received at the 26 August 2021
Ordinary Meeting of Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Arnold'.

Mark Arnold
General Manager

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

1 Koala Plan of Management (2019) progress with adoption and support from State Government..... 3

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Question with Notice No. 13.1 Koala Plan of Management (2019) progress with adoption and support from State Government

File No: I2021/1414

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 26 August 2021, Kate Coxall asked the following question which was taken on notice:

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 26 August 2021, Kate Coxall asked the following question which was taken on notice:

Koala Sepp 2020 outlines that before granting consent to a DA, for consent to carry out work on land which applies, that it is satisfied that there is a plan of management prepared in accordance with Part 3 that is applied to the land.

Part 3 reads that this policy aims to encourage the proper conservation and management of areas of natural vegetation that provide a natural habitat for koala's, to ensure a permanent free-living population over their present range, and reverse the current trend of koala population decline by requiring the preparation of planned management before DA can be granted, in relation to areas of core koala habitat, and by encouraging the identification of areas of core koala habitat and by encouraging the inclusion of core koala habitat's in environmental protection zones.

1) Are all recent DA submissions including that of Alidenes Road, Wilsons Creek in alignment with these principles?

2) What will Council be doing/ put in place to protect the koala population that is regularly sighted?

Response Director Sustainable Environment and Economy:

1. Are all recent DA submissions including that of Alidenes Road, Wilsons Creek in alignment with these principles?

There are currently three koala planning policies in effect in the Byron Shire: Koala SEPP 2020, Koala SEPP 2021 and the Byron Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM). The applicable policy depends on the location and zoning of the proposed development. Importantly, all three policies only apply to proposed development on lots that have a land area of greater than 1 hectare.

The Koala SEPP 2020 applies to proposed development on rural land that is not within the Koala Planning Area as defined in the CKPoM.

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

All DAs are assessed in accordance with the applicable policy. It should be noted that under the Koala SEPP 2020, a plan of management (POM) can only be required if the proposal is on land that meets the definition of core koala habitat set out in that Policy. It is also noted that the definition of core koala habitat differs between all three policies.

2. What will Council be doing/put in place to protect the koala population that is regularly sighted?

Council continues to make efforts to protect koala populations from threatening processes including the impacts of development. Whenever possible Council requires development to avoid all potential impacts on koalas and their habitat – Council’s DCP and the CKPoM include provisions in this regard.