



Hi everyone,

I hope you are still doing well in these challenging times. Wild Koala Day has passed, and we have celebrated Mothers around the world, including our koala mums. We have finalised our "Support a Koala" page on the website and a raffle is set up through raffletix so we need to promote this avenue of outreach and fundraising.

Our ability to continue with physical events for the time being is halted by the government restrictions in place but with meetings by "zoom" and "skype", rescues and checks on local koalas in place, we can still continue the work. Face to face opportunities are less but I feel fortunate to still be able to be a "voice" for koalas. There has never been a more important time to do this than now!

We are keeping an eye on development and clearing projects within our region and in the Noosa Biosphere post-election, earthworks have begun. The Tewanin block at Eagle Dr. is cleared. This was a pre-approved development application (DA) and we met with Council to request that trees were saved and that the dogs were used to assist with the job. Due to our diligence and opportunity to work "with" Council, they took this onboard and Maya and Billy Jean were called out onsite the 1st 2 days of clearing to check for koalas onsite. A male koala was found the first day and a female the second. On the 3rd day, the male was back and the final days of clearing no koalas were onsite.

Possoms were rescued and the team did the best job they could during the clearing to be accommodating which led to no harm to the resident koalas. Bernard was given permission by the owner to also check onsite and did so daily. It was reported as front page news in the Sunshine Coast Daily and was also given press on Channel 7. Only a fraction of our interviews was used but the general thoughts were conveyed. We worked with Paul Hilton (Renowned Environmental Photographer).

I feel for all the animals that now do not have their home trees. Koalas, birds, goannas, possums, gliders, frogs, snakes, insects, are all without homes not to mention significant koala food trees; just gone! The sounds of the clearing were disturbing to witness for all and neighbours were clearly upset with this deforestation in their backyard.

After the Attunga Heights development application was refused by Council, it is currently under appeal by the developer. We contributed a well written submission and we now need to keep the pressure on and educate new Councilors and request that the Council fight this appeal in order to save another very important koala corridor in Noosa Heads.

RACV is another site of pre-approved development that we were just notified about. Clearing is imminent and we need to be sure that restrictions are adhered to in best practice here as well.

Unless legislative changes can be made, further development will occur in koala areas and the urban population of koalas remains at high risk. The system needs to change, and pre-approved developments have to be considered under stricter restrictions before we lose the connective bush that koalas need for future survival. Every tree matters and needs to be considered. Looking at losses from drought and bushfires have to be further addressed as well in moving forward in the "climate emergent" times we are living in. With this current pause, we see that a smaller footprint leads to regeneration for the earth and her animals and it is an ideal time for governments to re-think and move towards considering life within our ecological limits with a more balanced approach.

Another known upcoming project is the C2C Bruce highway Section D. We have had online meetings with Transport and Main Roads (TMR) this past month regarding the tender for commencement of Section D in the Cooroy to Curra project and are awaiting the results of who is chosen to do the work. We will continue to put pressure on TMR to maintain best practice pre, during and after clearing and we are collecting film footage to contribute to the story.

We had our first meeting by zoom with the Social Deck team that are assisting with our Koala Sanctuary Business Development Plan and we discussed their proposal and who was responsible for communications during the project. Steve Speldewinde, Director will lead the project and communicate with Sarah Radge directly as point of contact for QKC. Rex and Meghan Halverson will provide input and planning documents. The draft document will be prepared within 3 months for our review. Anyone else who would like to assist with this project and has expertise to contribute, please contact: [ambassador@koalacrusaders.org.au](mailto:ambassador@koalacrusaders.org.au) for more information.

Thank you for being a part of this journey and for supporting our volunteer efforts. We are currently at a turning point of growth within our organisation in realising our goals for sanctuary for koalas which will be made possible in the coming months and years. Stay safe, ask questions, be creative and together, we will make a difference!

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Meghan