

Draft Sunshine Coast Macropod Plan Community engagement summary

Consultation dates: 5 May to 3 July 2023

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www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

T 07 5475 7272 F 07 5475 7277

Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560

Acknowledgements

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Introduction

The Sunshine Coast is home to a beautiful array of native wildlife and Sunshine Coast Council recognises that wildlife management is a shared responsibility across multiple land tenures. Because of this, the draft Sunshine Coast Macropod Conservation Plan (draft MCP) highlights the importance of partnerships with all stakeholders across the Sunshine Coast to contribute to this plan.

Summary of feedback

Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback on the Draft Sunshine Coast Macropod Conservation Plan.

The Draft Macropod Conservation Plan, the Action Plan and Background Report were available for consultation from 5 May to 3 July 2023. The community was asked to complete a survey to prioritise actions from the plan, provide any general feedback about the plan and using an interactive map to mark any sightings of macropods during the consultation period.

All community groups who were involved in the early development of the plan (wildlife care groups and Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital) were invited to a stakeholder workshop.

Timeline

- ✓ Oct 2020: Phase 1 - preparing the plan
- ✓ Jan 2021: Phase 1 - stakeholder workshop
- ✓ Feb 2022 - Mar 23: Phase 1 - drafting the plan
- ✓ Mar 2023: Phase 2: draft plan complete
- ✓ 5 May - 5 June 2023: Phase 2 - community feedback on the draft plan
- ★ Jun - Aug 2023: Phase 2 - review community feedback
- ★ Sep 2023: Phase 3 - final Macropod Conservation Plan adopted

Survey feedback

There were 189 survey responses where participants prioritised the list of nine actions which should take place over the next three years.

The highest priority was given to the development of guidelines; the installation of fauna crossing injury mitigation measures and mapping habitat and refugia. These high priority actions were also the more costly. The lowest priority out of nine actions was tourism and the roadkill app.

Actions in order of priority

Develop a series of guidelines that can be used by Council and the community for better planning advice, road and landscape designs which create safer places for macropod movement (cost med)	86.76% 177
On Council roads, install appropriate and effective injury/mortality mitigation measures (strategic sign installation, virtual fencing, targeted traffic calming) at kangaroo-related road accident hot spots . See background paper: Appendix 5) (cost med-high)	85.78% 175

Contribute to safe macropod movement and critical habitat mapping to identify where macropods could persist during unsuitable climatic periods, drought, bushfire and with urban development pressures (cost med)	85.78% 175
Collaborate with Queensland Government agencies for a coordinated fauna movement approach including the installation of signage and fauna movement infrastructure at priority locations (cost low-high)	75.98% 155
Support USC research partnership to refine threat mapping which identifies hotspots where actions need to be taken (cost med)	72.06% 147
Develop targeted educational material and a communication plan —consistent with the background paper key messages and incorporating the “save my mob” marketing tool (cost low)	51.47% 105
Engage with Traditional Owners to incorporate Traditional Knowledge and practices into education and on-ground management (cost low-med)	49.51% 101
Develop a publicly available app for better recording of roadkill data (cost med)	40.20% 82
Consider promoting macropod populations as a valuable tourism attraction (cost med)	37.75% 77

General feedback and council’s response

There are the themes from the community feedback.



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Feedback themes



Feedback	Council response
<p>FENCING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban use of standard open weave dog fencing in new estate development - use alternate styles (wooden or panel) Yandina East Industrial estate fencing caused kangaroos to be trapped on roads Fencing design and regulation needs to be addressed, especially in small hectare developments, to allow fauna pathways for Macropods Virtual fencing - if this is the alarms that go off as a car is approaching, I have concerns about the impact the alarms have on stress levels and myopathy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add fencing to guidelines (Green Book) Create a virtual fence fact sheet
<p>ROAD CROSSING INFRASTRUCTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigate impacts at roadkill hotspots with reduced speed limits, underpass, fauna bridge or other safe fauna crossing infrastructure (x7) All new roads any road upgrades must include safe wildlife crossing infrastructure, such a land bridges, culverts, rope bridges and fauna fencing (x2) Wildlife bridges across motorways (x3) More wildlife crossing infrastructure (x2) Roadkill app and better data to identify hotspots for implementing safe crossing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify hot spots Add to guidelines (Green book) Resource/funding Roadkill app underway
<p>CORRIDORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More safe wildlife corridors (x8) Co-locate wildlife corridors with parks and allow refuge areas for wildlife where humans don't go Designated Park Reserve properties redesignated into macropod reserves and linked up with volunteer property owners to re-establish corridors. Property developers should not be permitted to install barriers cutting off established macropod corridors. Don't see any mention of creating/maintaining wildlife corridors that animals can move through safely and breed with high genetic diversity More virtual fencing with appropriate signage to let drivers know what they are for. (x2) Why not put the warning sensors located on roadside traffic posts that alert wildlife of oncoming traffic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update background report with corridor data Planning scheme Biodiversity layer includes wildlife corridors- investigate fauna movement patterns and permeability as well as any crossing barriers located within these. Corridor outcomes are included in the plan Maintain virtual fence program
<p>MANAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop relocations and help keep them safe where they are (x4) Make developers contribute to correct fencing and ongoing financial input into the environment including protecting habitat from the areas where they have displaced native animals. (x 5) Build up not out – less land clearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council recommends avoidance of relocation in favour of natural dispersal and associated management plans to facilitate safe movement Guidelines and green book
<p>THREAT MAPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot spots along Yandina Coolum Rd; North Maroochy River – kangaroos trapped by development expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Captured in action plan - Add to threat mapping project

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More rigorous enforcement of speed limits on the coast. A reduction in the speed limit, in many increasingly used roads e.g., Chevallum Road, Mons Road • Council should obtain regular feedback from the community to ensure groups and locations are still surviving in locations and all it done to maintain this environment • Curramore Road – investigate increased roadkill • Buderim Meadows – high macropod numbers and increasing car strike risk • Development at Thomas Road Bli Bli when we have a family if kangaroos living in those fields. • Ben Bennett – concerns about CRCU impacts on macropods • Desperately need a wildlife bridge across Steve Irwin Way between Ferny Forest and Mooloolah River NP. • Huge eastern grey roos are also crossing Parklands Boulevard. • Lots of eastern grey roos at Peachester. • Better understanding of where mobs are. • speed limit along Ocean Drive, Twin Waters, should be dropped from 80 to 60 for the sake of animals entering and leaving the reserve • Metal safety barrier which stretches for 1km or more along the David Low Way between Bli Bli central and Pacific Paradise needs to be addressed. It's a roo killer. • Could we also have an end to the 6-foot fence in 'roo areas. Have seen a 'roo jumping alongside the fence that runs alongside the aged care joint on Ocean Drive, Twin Waters. • unsure why Twin Waters Gold Course has put up very high (6 foot or 2m?) chain wire fencing along Ocean Drive, again stopping the 'roos movements. This sort of fencing is not appropriate in an area full of wildlife which needs to move around. • Attention needs to be paid to protecting the many 'roos around Ninderry • The roo mob on Yungar st Coolum is now at risk from fencing and building. • Sanad Capital Tourist Park and the proposed Discovery Tourist Park development, (dog friendly), will drive one of our last significant Eastern Grey mobs out of their home range into an uncertain future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines (green book) • Partner with DTMR
<p>HABITAT PROTECTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing habitat and, if possible, increasing connections between habitats would go a long way to ensuring macropods remain part of the Sunshine Coast wildlife population. (x2) • Protect habitat and corridors • Protect grassland (x2) • More Green space for the wildlife (x 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in the plan • Planning scheme • ELS • Review extent of functional habitat for macropods and update background report and associated mapping
<p>EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer incentives to developers and landowners to protect existing habitat, especially road crossings and wildlife bridges. Install more of the posts with sound warnings in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key feature of the plan • Noted • Add suggestions to education in the plan

<p>more remote areas...Old Coach Way loses a lot of animals from speeding traffic on hills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landholder incentives for wildlife care, refuge and release sites • Engage with wildlife groups (x2) • Education • Council to provide environmental info (accessible paper brochures etc) to new landowners to inform them of values of natural environment in our area. Collaborate with local conservations groups to prepare and distribute such info. • Educational material should be similar to the turtle education material i.e. 'cut the glow' and 'we're a turtle friendly community'. • Tourism material should be in conjunction with visit Sunshine Coast or Tourism Qld • Landholder information about fauna friendly fencing esp in peri-urban and rural areas 	
<p>SIGNAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Signage and appropriate signage (x4) • Less signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted – review actions in the plan
<p>DOGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control pigs deer, wild dogs, weeds • Responsible pet ownership – stop roaming dogs (x3) • Ban dogs from Mt Ninderry Bushland Conservation Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity plan • Dogfest • Dog Safety Week (July)
<p>REDUCE SPEED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce speed in habitat areas, crossing areas and where there are high densities of macropods, speed signage, especially dusk to dawn (x5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captured in action plan - Add to threat mapping project • Guidelines (green book)
<p>MACROPOD PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bribie island and Pumicestone passage needs to be part of this plan. Kangaroos are still sited on north Bribie. • All high priority (x3) • All the above are high priority and "doable" if funding is allocated appropriately. Most of these priority actions should be the expected approach to an increasing problem • More research • Insufficient funding - 60K ridiculous. Think our priorities need to be reassessed • Comments against the Grandview development (x6) • Can our macropods be declared locally significant under State Planning Policy 2016 due to their rapid decline over a short period of time to offer better protection? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted for review • Add timelines in the action plan • Resourcing to deliver the actions • Learnings from current development such as Twin Waters and Grandview to be added to guideline (green Book) • Council no longer has a locally significant species list and does not nominate species for EPBC or NC Act listing (Who does?)
<p>SUPPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I appreciate all the good work you are doing to help preserve viable populations of our macropods • Urgent action needed to address rate of development, population growth and decline in macropods. Please protect them (7) 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great initiative 	
<p>NOT SUPPORTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too little too late (x2) They do not need protection 	
<p>NOT APPLICABLE TO THE PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control population growth Protect dingos No shooting (x 3) Bigger trees need to be protected as they have large mycelium networks that connect to the other trees around them, this also helps to keep the surrounding trees healthy if the larger trees are healthy. 	N/A

Featured Contributions and key insights

“Since the electronic green macropod warning posts were installed on Noojor Road, Twin Waters there has been a significant decrease in wildlife fatalities. These should be installed at all hotspots - road kill areas.”

“Speed limits MUST be reduced in hot spots especially at dawn & dusk, council must consult with local wildlife group WILVOS, Drivers must be educated about what to do if they hit an animal, local planners should encourage more medium density housing with surrounding wildlife refuges rather than urban sprawl, education around sharing the environment with wildlife which has inhabited the land for millennia (also bats, possums, snakes) rather than relocating them.”

“It is such a privilege to have these beautiful animals living amongst us, we must protect them and provide habitat. Ongoing urban sprawl and unfettered housing development is pushing these animals to local extinction.”

“The busier the Sunshine Coast becomes the more these Macropods are being displaced. We need to do everything possible to ensure they are protected!”

“In more recent times there is far more roadkill on Sunshine Coast roads compared with 10 years ago. The extensive housing developments and roads are not environmentally friendly for native fauna. A lot of habitats lost and pushing the animals to be crossing roads and getting killed. Too much habitat is being lost.”

“A Wildlife Rescuer told me yesterday there have been 8 roos hit by cars in the past two weeks on a section of road just in Cooloom /Yaroomba Area. They are being pushed out of their habitat by housing developments. Dogs chase them where dogs are supposed to be on leads. It is distressing attending kangaroos that have been hit by cars.”

“We need to do better to save our coast macropods. The status ‘least concern’ certainly does not apply here.”

“I am a volunteer at a macropod sanctuary where we rescue and rehabilitate macropods. We would love to be involved more with this plan to help with education.”

“The Deception Bay Road wildlife bridge proposal is part of the Bruce Highway Deception Bay Road Interchange Upgrade. Why doesn't the Sunshine Coast step up and do this, we are Biosphere after all, so more reason to step up and act.”

“Please help our Sunshine Coast macropods, their situation is dire.”

“I live adjacent to the Pelican Waters Southern Lakes subdivision. A mob of 60 Eastern Grey kangaroos were identified on site as animals 'not of concern'. Many were killed from domestic dog

attack and construction 'accident'. I have seen no data regarding how many survived.... Recently, an old fellow who would have spent his life there moved into Jensen Park to snooze in the sun for his last days... On the basis of one complaint to Council, he was euthanised and our community was shocked, and grief stricken.”

“Our region has a collective grief, watching this happen for at least a decade. Unless Council is prepared to step up and ENSURE the macropods are protected by whatever means necessary, nothing will change. Two decades of fighting hard for better outcomes for the magnificent natural environment we once had has made me sad and cynical. I wish you luck, but the solution will take far more than some 'feel good' words.”

“When I came to Coolum 8 yrs ago you could always see a large mob in the field going south past the airport, now there are none.”

“They live here too. I enjoy living in an environment where I can see kangaroos. This is one of the many beautiful things about the Sunshine Coast.”

Written submissions

Submission 1: Received from a USC lecturer in animal ecology and Eastern Grey Kangaroo specialist.

Key points and proposed response:

All key threats covered.	
DO well designed to achieve outcomes	
<p>Action plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lacks quantitative targets and some outcomes or success indicators would not be achievable unless issues are addressed soon. Continuing current processes is not sufficient under the current rate of decline and pending development/growth 3.3.1 – hot spot mapping in background report and does not incorporate road-kill records or the dynamic nature of road risks as urbanisation continues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review timelines and success indicators <i>DO1 success indicator recognition of EGK as a significant species – add how and when.</i> <i>DO2 success indicator movement pathways and quality habitat mapped for application in development areas – add short time frame (1 yr) as this is an urgent requirement given the pace of development and roadkill. Also how.</i> <i>DO3 impacts of threatening processes understood and minimised – urgent (1 yr) due to current rate of decline.</i> Update roadkill hotspot mapping using peer reviewed methodology (1 yr).
<p>Background document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> too generalised and does little to place the information in a local context uses flawed methods to estimate Kangaroo density improve status and habitat information for Wallaby species particularly whiptail wallabies, pademelons and black-striped wallabies threat mapping in fig 8 is outdated habitat connectivity mapping (fig 10) is based on broad RE types and often does not correlate to macropod occurrence points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> update the background document using recent mapping and population data and new planning scheme information. Develop threat mapping for each area Consider feasibility for an annual review of population data Habitat connectivity mapping updated to include functional habitat for macropods.
DO3 Action 3.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a quantitative target aiming for reductions in the number of road kills e.g., reduce road-kills in hotspots by 50% by 2025.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadkill mitigation methods need to show demonstrated success or monitoring results Roadkill app strongly supported but data needs to be updated to maps annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadkill hotspot map updated annually
<p>DO3 Action 3.3.4 Success indicators need to demonstrate risk is being addressed e.g., off leash dogs chasing roos in dunes and reserves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update success indicator
<p>DO3 Action 3.4.6 High priority but lacks goals and quantitative targets. Success indicator being one movement structure installed is insufficient to address the scale of the problem</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review success indicators timeline in the action plan Identify fauna movement priorities and address threats at key locations and short time frame needed. Note the success indicator is for “at least one additional fauna movement infrastructure.” To determine what is most needed council will complete the current audit of fauna infrastructure by end of 2023 and identify gaps and priorities for future infrastructure. Also promote existing network of fauna infrastructure. Seek additional funding for improved fauna movement infrastructure
<p>DO4 Action 3.4.1 promoting sites for tourism increases roadkill risk and human wildlife conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under action 3.4.1 remove “<i>consider promoting macropod populations as a valuable tourism attraction</i>”. Noting this action is the least supported in community survey.
<p>DO4 Action 3.4.2 success indicators will not improve habitat connectivity. Suggest adding a quantitative target (details provided)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a quantitative target to guide implementation within council e.g., preservation of all key movement pathways and habitat in new developments or preservation and/or restoration of 50% of macropod movement pathways.
	<p>Seek additional funding to fast track the responses listed above.</p>

Submission 2: Received from: On behalf of Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc.

Key points and proposed response

Issue	Response
lacks specific targets or measurable outcomes and a local context where existing populations are known to exist.	Background report and mapping updated with current population and distribution data. Timeframes added to action
Supports focus on Eastern grey kangaroos	Noted
Acknowledgement of limitations to regulate development for a species that is not listed (EPBC or NCAAct)	noted
As the plan identifies, the maintenance and establishment of permanent wildlife corridors is	Review actions and add timelines

critical to survival. However this is unlikely to be achieved without a greater commitment.	
Wildlife recommends further investigation of a mechanism under State Planning Policy 2016 to enable listing of the specified species of macropods as Locally Significant to offer additional measures of protection	Shared responsibility is a key principle of this plan. SCEC and NGOs are undertaking this.
Desired Outcome 3 to reduce injury and mortality is better late than never but the pace of implementation is simply too slow to be effective.	Prioritise actions; review actions listed as ongoing and consider adding timelines.
A comment must be made on 3.4.1 to promote macropods as valuable tourism attractions. Whilst it may appeal to some, the place for human-wildlife interaction is in a zoo.	Removed from the plan

Submission 3: Received from: The Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) SCEC is the umbrella group for over 50 community groups primarily working in the areas of conservation, sustainability, and natural resource management.

All priority actions in the survey ranked high except for tourism which was ranked a low by SCEC.

Key points and proposed response

SCEC commends the obvious effort, considerations, and commitments for improved conservation outcomes for the region's macropods, particularly the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, evident in the *Draft Macropod Conservation Plan* (the MCP).

It is imperative that this MCP is a strong instrument that is effective in protecting and conserving macropod species now and into the future.

This is a critical strategy for the conservation of iconic but under-protected species which will importantly also benefit other wildlife and make a significant and lasting contribution to the region's biodiversity and reputation.

Issue	Response
<p>DO1 supported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1: supported. 3.1.1 Success Indicator: While efforts to have its conservation status (sadly) listed under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 are ongoing, we strongly support unique Sunshine Coast EGK genetic profile confirmed and recognised in SCC significant species database. However, we note there is no specific mechanism for how this will be adopted, incorporated, and operationalised. 3.1.2: supported – however the SCEC considers the timeframe should be short, not medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council supported USC genetic research which has provided evidence for the unique genetic profile of SCC EGK population. Review options to re-instate the SCC significant species database and add EGK to the list. Provide access to the fauna movement report Timeframes for 3.1.2 improved habitat mapping success indicators is currently ongoing as these projects are underway. Review the action plan and consider short timeframes for success indicators related to these comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage a reinstatement and 'refresh' of the Species of Local Significance¹ database and as a conservation, education, and planning reference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted – under investigation
DO2:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not clear what and how specific these guidelines are/will be. This requires further clarification and specificity please. • Given the tenuous status compounded by ongoing and emerging threats, time is of the essence to protect habitats and range/movement pathways etc before further fragmentation, barriers and displacements and conflicts occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detail on guidelines to be added to the action plan. • Add threat mapping to conservation mapping actions.
<p>DO2 Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCEC strongly supports this and is encouraged by this necessary foresight. Proactive input with contemporary mapping and data will be critical. We also look to the major development areas such as Beerwah East in supporting populations. • SCEC continues to seek the protection of the 200ha parcel of land comprising the Palmview Urban Investigation Areas for conservation and the habitat values it supports. This parcel must not be subject to urban development through a contentious planning scheme amendment and must be incorporated into the Mooloolah Green Space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background report and mapping updated • SCEC comments on Mooloolah Greenspace noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCEC welcomes this MCP and its progression (and resourcing). We also strongly support the feedback, expertise, and advice of Dr Elizabeth Brunton for incorporation into a final plan and going forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing

Interactive Map: Have you seen a macropod lately?

People were asked to identify where they had seen a macropod lately by marking the sightings location on a map. There were 181 contributors, who marked 403 places on the map. An unexpected amount of detail and useful data was captured in the interactive map, including new records and sites (to be verified before adding to our database).

Top 10 most frequent postcodes of participants

- Buderim (57)
- Coolum (21)
- Eerwahvale (16)
- Landsborough (14)
- Yandina (14)
- Little Mountain(12)
- Bli Bli (12)
- Peregian (12)
- Glenview (10)
- Palmview (10).

Each marker in the map below includes descriptions about the sighting and some have added feedback to the plan. The numbers of macropods recorded at each site ranged from 1 – 30 and some were roadkill's. Records also included species identification, life stage (e.g. mother with Joey) and behaviour.

- Add threat mapping as a success indicator to 3.2.1 conservation mapping data and investigate feasibility of a short (one year) timeline to deliver.
- Develop a more detailed three-year budget plan to determine the feasibility of timelines provided in the action plan. Develop a resourcing prospectus to meet community expectations.
- Add to the action plan as a success indicator that the background report and mapping updated with current population and distribution data.

Appendix 1 – MCP Background paper

While no changes to the appendix will be made, the following should be noted:

- Accept the report contains data that is now superseded by more recent populations surveys and the new planning scheme.
- Accept the methodology for population estimates is not scientifically accurate but was the best available at the time
- It is an action of the Plan to review population data.



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www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

T 07 5475 7272 E mail@sunshinecoastcouncil.qld.gov.au

Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560