

Mid North Coast
Joint Organisation

mncjo



Mid North Coast Joint Organisation

Board Meeting

Minutes

Date: 3 July 2020

Location: Kempsey Shire Council – Committee room

Time: 9:30am



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**ATTENDEES*****Voting Members:***

Mayor Liz Campbell	Kempsey Shire Council (Chair) (IA)
Mayor Dominic King	Bellingen Shire Council (Deputy Chair) (IA)
Mayor Peta Pinson	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (IA)

Non-Voting Members:

Liz Jeremy	General Manager, Bellingen Shire Council (IA) <i>Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (Acting EO) (IA)</i>
Robert Fish	Kempsey Shire Council, Director Operations & Planning (IA)
Melissa Watkins	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (MT)

Other Attendees:

Steve Dobbyns Gemma Porter	Timber NSW, Vice President (IA) Porters Sawmill (IA)
The Hon. Leslie Williams MP	State Member for Port Macquarie and Parliamentary Secretary (MT)
Darren Boulet	Office of Emergency Management, Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer Mid North Coast (IA)
Dr. Rebecca Montague Drake	Koala Ecologist (MT)
Kate Wood-Faye Amber Marks	Charles Sturt University (MT) Charles Sturt University (MT)
Michael Thurston	Destination North Coast NSW, General Manager (MT)
Louise McMeeking	Regional NSW, R. I. A & R, Director North Coast (MT)
Anita Gambhir	Office of Local Government, Engagement Officer – North Coast, and Eastern Coast (MT)

(In Attendance – IA) (Microsoft Teams - MT)

The meeting opened 9:39am



1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair opened the meeting acknowledging that the meeting was taking place on the traditional lands of the Dunghutti, Birpai and Gumbaynggirr people.

2. APOLOGIES

Craig Milburn General Manager, Kempsey Shire Council

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

MOVED: King/Campbell

That the Board confirm there are no PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY Interests.

- No Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interests were declared.

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil*

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOVED: Pinson/King

That the Board confirm the minutes of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) Board meeting held the 1 May 2020, via teleconference.

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil*

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

6. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MANAGER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MOVED: Pinson/King

That the Board note the minutes from the General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) meeting held on the 23 June 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil*



7. VOTE OF THANKS– CRAIG SWIFT-MCNAIR

MOVED: Pinson / King

1. That the Board correspond with Craig Swift-McNair to thank him for his commitment to the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) and General Manager Advisory Committee (GMAC) both as Port Macquarie Hastings General Manager and as the MNCJO Executive Officer.

CARRIED: 3/0

FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell

AGAINST: Nil

8. CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED: Pinson / King

That:

1. The Board note the incoming and outgoing correspondence included on the correspondence register for the period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020.
2. The Chair respond to Minister Hancock's correspondence requesting further consideration of the work being carried out by and funding for the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.
3. That a copy of the for mentioned correspondence be provided to the Member for Oxley, the Hon Melinda Pavey MP, The member for Port Macquarie, the Hon Leslie Williams MP and the member for Cowper, Pat Conaghan MP.

CARRIED: 3/0

FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell

AGAINST: Nil

9. SPEAKERS

MOVED: Campbell / Pinson

That the Board accede to the following requests to address the Board:

1. Steve Dobbys – Correspondence attached to these minutes
2. The Hon. Leslie Williams MP;
 - The Hon. Leslie Williams encouraged the board to view the recent parliamentary inquiry into Koala populations and habitat in NSW <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/inquiries/2536/Koala%20populations%20and%20habitat%20in%20New%20South%20Wales%20-%20Report%203.pdf>
 - The Hon. Leslie Williams will seek advice from the Health Department on the correct policy on events being held during COVID-19 and how the organisers seek permission.
 - The Hon. Leslie Williams will investigate the MNCJO bridge portfolio further.
 - The Board will forward The Hon. Leslie Williams with project updates for her information.



3. Darren Boulet - Correspondence attached to these minutes
4. Dr Rebecca Montague Drake – See item 11
5. Kate Wood-Foye - Correspondence attached to these minutes
6. Michael Thurston, – see attached Destination North Coast – North Rivers Joint Organisation of Council's Update
7. Anita Gambhir – see item 18

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil

10. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON FOR THE MID NORTH COAST JOINT ORGANISATION

MOVED: King/Pinson

1. The Returning Officer asked for nominations for the position of Chair and received two. Mayor Liz Campbell, Kempsey Shire Council was declared the Chairperson of the MNCJO.
2. The Returning Officer asked for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair and received two. Mayor Dominic King, Bellingen Shire Council was declared Deputy Chairperson of the MNCJO.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil

11. KOALA RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UPDATE

MOVED: King / Pinson

That the Board receive and note the Koala Recovery Partnership Project – Quarterly report.

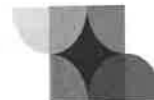
CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

12. REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM UPDATE

MOVED: King / Pinson

That the Board receive and note the Regional Disaster Preparedness Program Update.
That the workplan for the Program be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King



AGAINST: Nil

13. COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE FROM MEMBER COUNCIL'S

There was a general discussion regarding the actions and initiatives being undertaken across member Councils.

14. ROAD CLASSIFICATION AND REVIEW AND TRANSFER

MOVED: Pinson / King

RESOLVED:

That the Board make a collaborative submission to the Panel.

CARRIED: 3/0

FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King

AGAINST: Nil

15. REQUEST FROM REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA MID NORTH COAST FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

MOVED: King / Pinson

That the Board approve the granting of associate membership to the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation to Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast.

CARRIED: 3/0

FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell

AGAINST: Nil

16. PROJECT UPDATE

MOVED: King / Pinson

That:

- 1. The Board receive and note the Project Update report which provides an update regarding the operation of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO).**
- 2. That the project list be distributed to The Hon. Leslie Williams MP, The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP and Pat Conaghan MP.**

CARRIED: 3/0

FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell

AGAINST: Nil

**17. UPDATE FROM THE NSW JOINT CHAIRS FORUM**

MOVED: King / Pinson

That:

- 1. The Board receive and note the update from the NSW Joint Organisation Chairs' meeting held 25 June 2020.**

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil*

- 2. The Board reluctantly contribute to the secretariat function of \$1500 for a six-month period.**

*CARRIED: 2/1
FOR: Campbell and King
AGAINST: Pinson*

18. OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

MOVED: Campbell / Pinson

RESOLVED

That:

- 1. The Board accept the Office of Local Government update information provided by Anita Gambhir - Correspondence attached to these minutes**
- 2. Future reports from the Office of Local Government have a section specifically on Joint Organisations.**
- 3. The OLG provide a report to the next MNCJO meeting outlining other Joint Organisations; projects, funding arrangements and outcomes.**

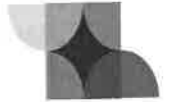
*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil*

19. UPDATE – WATER AND SEWER ENGINEERING MEETING

MOVED: Campbell / Pinson

That the Board receive and note the information tabled by Robert Fish, Director Operations & Planning – Kempsey Shire Council.

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil*



20. MNCJO FINANCIAL REPORT

MOVED: Campbell / King

1. That the Board receive and note the MNCJO Financial report.
2. That GMAC review organisational finances and report back to the JO Board

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, King, Pinson
AGAINST: Nil*

21. LATE REPORTS:

MOVED: Campbell / Pinson

- 21.1 Kempsey Shire Council Proposed Great Koala National Park.

That the Board receive and note the report Kempsey Shire Council Proposed Great Koala National Park.

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil*

- 21.2 Consultation sessions and material – Independent Road Classification Review and Transfer.

That the Board receive and note the report Consultation sessions and material – Independent Road Classification Review and Transfer.

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil*

22. MATTERS RAISED BY VOTING AND NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES

MOVED: Campbell / Pinson

An overview was provided by Michael Thurston which is attached

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil*

CLOSED MEETING: The Ordinary MNCJO meeting went into Committee of the Whole at

23. CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

MOVED: Campbell / Pinson

- Item 23.1 Executive Officer and Project Manager positions for the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.

**That the Board:**

1. Note the financial contribution made by each of the member councils and thank each council for their support to the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO).
2. Appoint Mrs Liz Jeremy to the role of Executive Officer of the MNCJO (in addition to the role of General Manager Bellingen Shire Council) for a period of one year post the resolution of the Board, whereupon the Board may make a further resolution regarding appointment to the role.
3. Endorse funding allocation for the appointment of a Project Manager for a period of one year as outlined in this report.
4. Provide advice to the NSW Office of Local Government regarding the administrative arrangements for the operations of the MNCJO.

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil*

RESUME MEETING: The Ordinary MNCJO Board meeting resumed at**24. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

MOVED: Campbell / Pinson

That the abovementioned recommendations from Confidential Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) be adopted.

*CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King
AGAINST: Nil*

The meeting closed at 12:15pm



TIMBER NSW

4 June 2020

Mr Craig Milburn
 General Manager
 Kempsey Shire Council
 P.O. Box 3078,
 West Kempsey NSW 2440
ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Milburn,

Proposed Great Koala National Park

I write concerning the proposed Great Koala National Park and its impact on the timber industry, should it come to fruition.

The hardwood industry has been operating on the North Coast of NSW for over 150 years. The industry relies heavily on native forests.

Native timbers supplied from the NSW North Coast currently supply three quarters of the State's hardwood needs. State forests in the Kempsey Shire are in the heart of the North Coast and play a critical role in that supply.

Today only about 10% of the public forest on the north coast is subject to timber harvesting (306,700 hectares out of 3 million hectares, refer Table 1). Retaining access to this much diminished resource base is essential if hardwood timber production is to continue.

Table 1 - Changes in the area of North Coast State forest nominally available for timber harvesting (1997-2015)¹

Year	Net Mapped Area (Hectares)	Net Harvestable Area (Hectares)
1997 (Pre RFA)	732,800	553,600
1999 (Post RFA)	459,100	374,100
2006	439,300	314,000
2015	416,500	306,700

The NSW North Coast functions as a single timber supply zone. The amount of timber produced is based on sustainable yield for high quality logs from all North Coast State forests. The

¹ Forestry Corporation of NSW (2015) North Coast Resource Assessment – 2015
<http://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/about/pubs/corporate/auditor-generals-performance-audit-of-native-forest-and-hardwood-plantation-operations>

Forestry Corporation of NSW who manages these State forests delivers high quality logs to mills throughout the region at sustainable levels.

To achieve the best end use, timber harvested within the Kempsey Shire is supplied to both local and more distant mills located up and down the coast. In total there are over 57 processing businesses which rely directly on these logs. Three of the region's most important businesses, Hurford Hardwoods Kempsey (sawmill), located at Yarravel, Hayden Timbers (sawmill) located at Gum Scrub and Macleay River Haulage located at Fredrickton contribute enormous economic resources to the Shire. Collectively just these three represents over 110 direct jobs and more than \$7M in wages that would be lost let alone the contractors and other businesses that are part of the supply chain in the Kempsey Shire.

Additionally, although not a member of Timber NSW, this would be detrimental to Macleay River Hardwoods who I understand employs in excess of 20 people and would be somewhere in the value of \$5-10M to Kempsey.

It is important to remember that some of these mills are producing essential service products for electricity transmission, railway infrastructure, bridges and wharves.

The management of State forest and the harvesting and processing of timber directly employs 1,400 people on the North Coast. This, however, is not the full story. Much of the hardwood timber processed on the North Coast is subject to further value adding in metropolitan areas.

If implemented, the proposed Great Koala National Park will see the closure of mills across the north coast. This will impact directly on the 1,400 regional jobs and the associated metropolitan jobs in value-added manufacturing.

Another potentially unforeseen implication of the proposed Great Koala National Park will be a shift in demand from domestically produced hardwoods to imported tropical hardwoods sourced from rainforests within developing countries like Indonesia (e.g. Borneo and West Papua) that are the home of the Orangutan. While we are not advocating that koalas and their survival be traded for Orangutans, we submit that the environmental controls applying to timber harvesting on State forest are amongst the most stringent in the world and will provide for the certain survival of koala populations. Those same environmental controls do not exist for Orangutans whose habitat destruction is directly supported by the export trade of tropical hardwood timber and palm oil.

Over the past four years Dr Brad Law from NSW DPI's Forest Science unit has been undertaking extensive surveys of identified koala habitat on the NSW north coast using acoustic recording technology. His surveys reveal that koalas are just as likely to occupy State forests that have a long history of moderate or high intensity timber harvesting as they are to occupy protected forests in National Park. The findings are a positive testament to how State forests are being managed.

The National Parks Association states that large and well-managed protected areas remain the single most effective tool to protect biodiversity around the world, and Australia is no different. We concur with this statement. Where we differ with the National Parks Association is their call for more National Parks on the North Coast.

Australia's approach to building a system of protected areas is based on the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA). In NSW there are 18 IBRA Regions. The North Coast IBRA Region which includes the Kempsey Shire is one of only four IBRA Regions that exceeds the IUCN's 15% protected area threshold (by 10%).

The extensive network of protected areas that already exist on the North Coast IBRA Region are the product of a comprehensive regional assessment (CRA) process that occurred in the late 1990s. This process culminated in the signing of Regional Forest Agreements and the creation of a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system.

Our view that the reserve system on the north coast is already comprehensive, adequate and representative is entirely consistent with the NSW Government's Draft Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2017-2037 for private land conservation. In this strategy the NSW Government has prioritised the State's bioregions according to their need for additional conservation protection. The map at Figure 1 shows that the native vegetation in the area proposed for the Great Koala National Park already meets the 'representativeness' target (i.e. investment in more protected areas is not a priority for this bioregion).

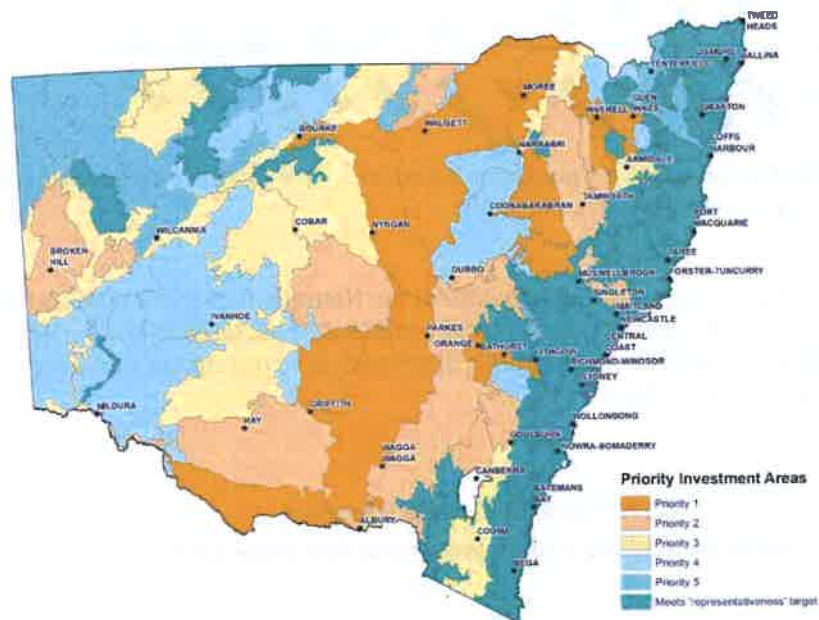


Figure 1 – Map of Priority Investment areas for private land conservation (Source: NSW Government 2017)

Another important reason why the industry does not support the expansion of National Parks on the north coast is that it is genuinely unconvinced that NPWS management will save the koala. Over half a billion dollars is spent annually by NPWS on park and reserve management. Despite the funding the organisation has yet to implement a system of formal scientific monitoring or accountability and no evidence to show how our wildlife is fairing.

There is a presumption that changing the tenure (i.e. State forest to National Park) is all that is needed to save the koala. There is no evidence to support this notion, in fact the evidence points the other way. Research has shown that the single greatest predictor of koala occupancy is wildfire history (Figure 2). Put another way, wildfire is the single greatest threat to koalas.

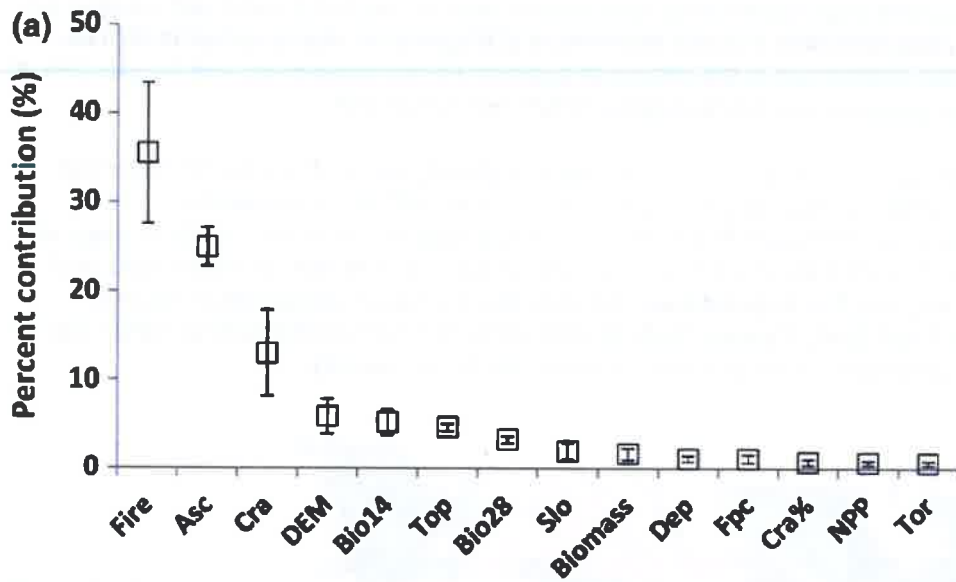


Figure 2 - Percent contribution of the 14 predictor variables – Fire (wildfire frequency), Asc (soil type), Cra (vegetation type) (Source: Law et al. 2017)

When it comes to the effective suppression of wildfires the National Parks and Wildlife Service’s has an appallingly record. In the last 20 years, literally millions of hectares of koala habitat within NSW National Parks and Reserves has been destroyed as a consequence of failed attempts at wildfire suppression (Figure 3).

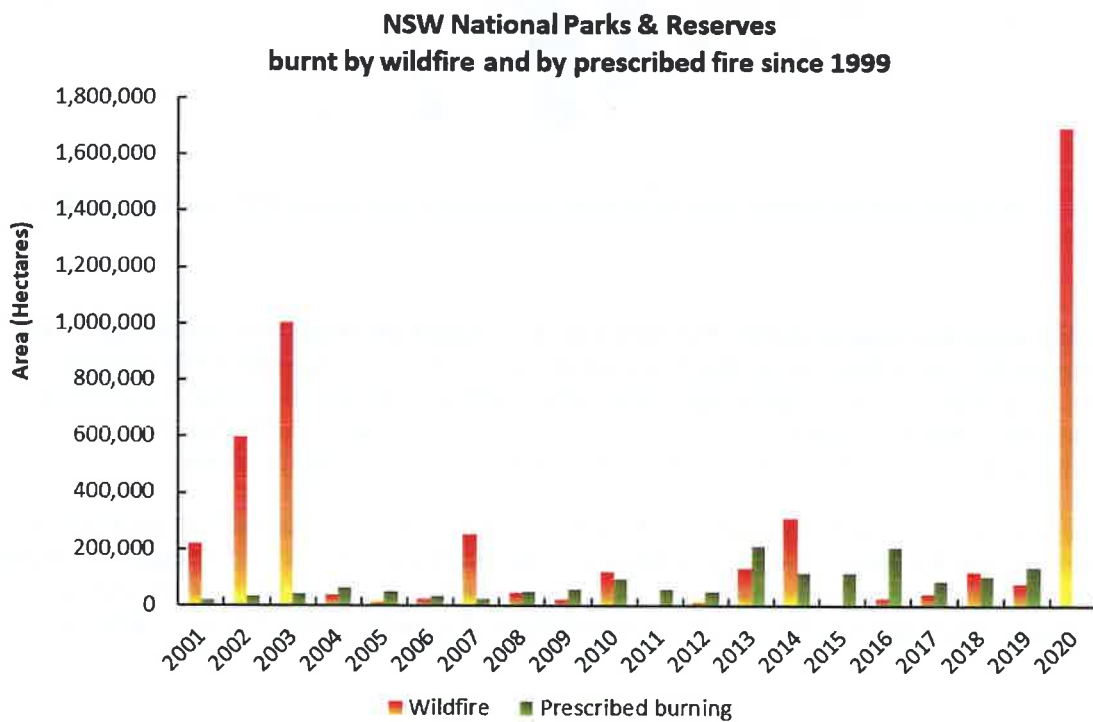


Figure 3 – Area of forest burnt by wildfires and by prescribed fire on National Parks & Reserves

We submit that the dogged pursuit of tenure-based solutions is hindering best practice conservation for koalas and other native species. If adopted this strategy risks the redirection of scarce public resources from where they are most needed.

We urge the Kempsey Council not to support the proposal for a Great Koala National Park. Support for it will be a setback for biodiversity conservation science and risks devastating the State's hardwood timber industry.

NSW State forests are world renowned for the adoption of best practice in forestry management and conservation of the forest estate. This extends to world class management of flora and fauna, as well as regeneration practices and sustainability for future generations, reducing the risk of devastation seen recently in many wild fires originating from National Parks.

This is not generally reported on. It is important to recognise these world class sustainable practices and maintain a balance between community needs and conservation.

We would be happy to respond to further queries and provide representatives to attend to discuss any concerns you may need clarified "

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maree McCaskill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maree McCaskill
General Manager

Proposed Great Koala National Park

Timber NSW presentation to MNCJO Board

July 2020



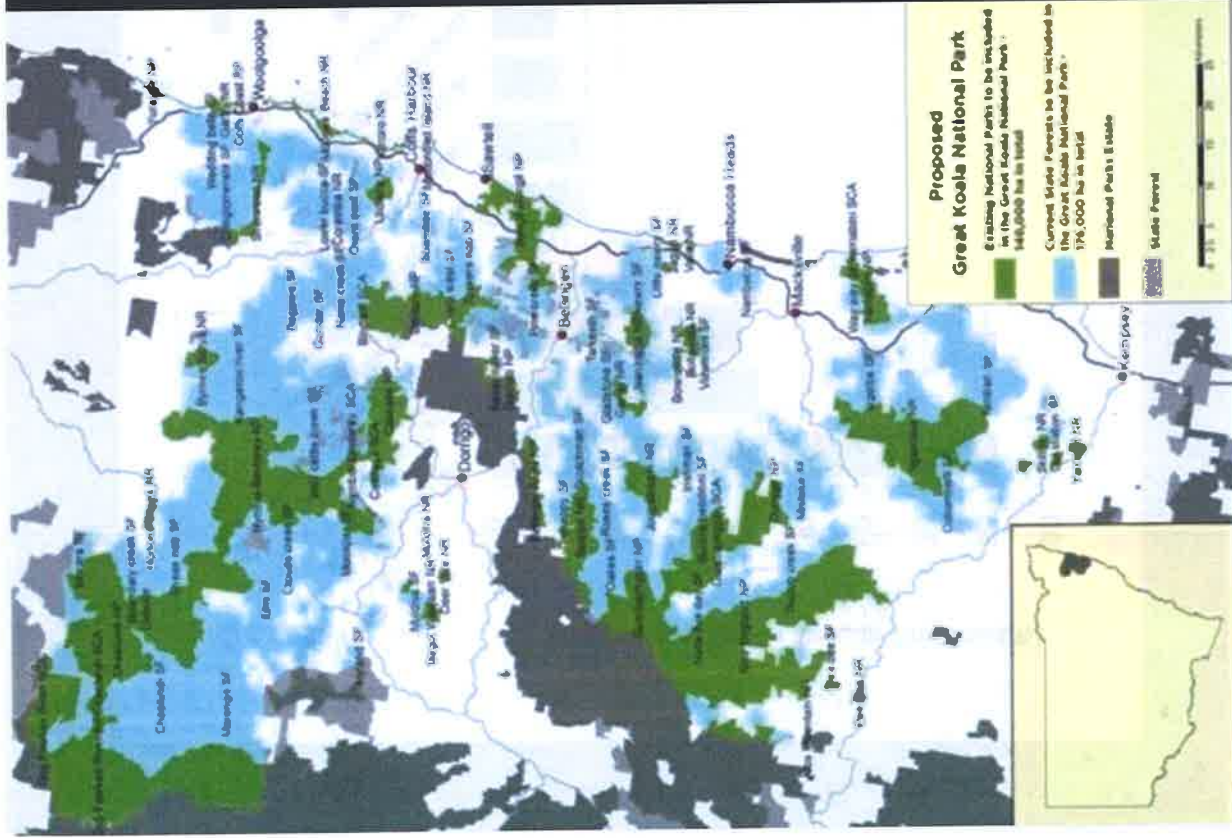
TIMBER NSW

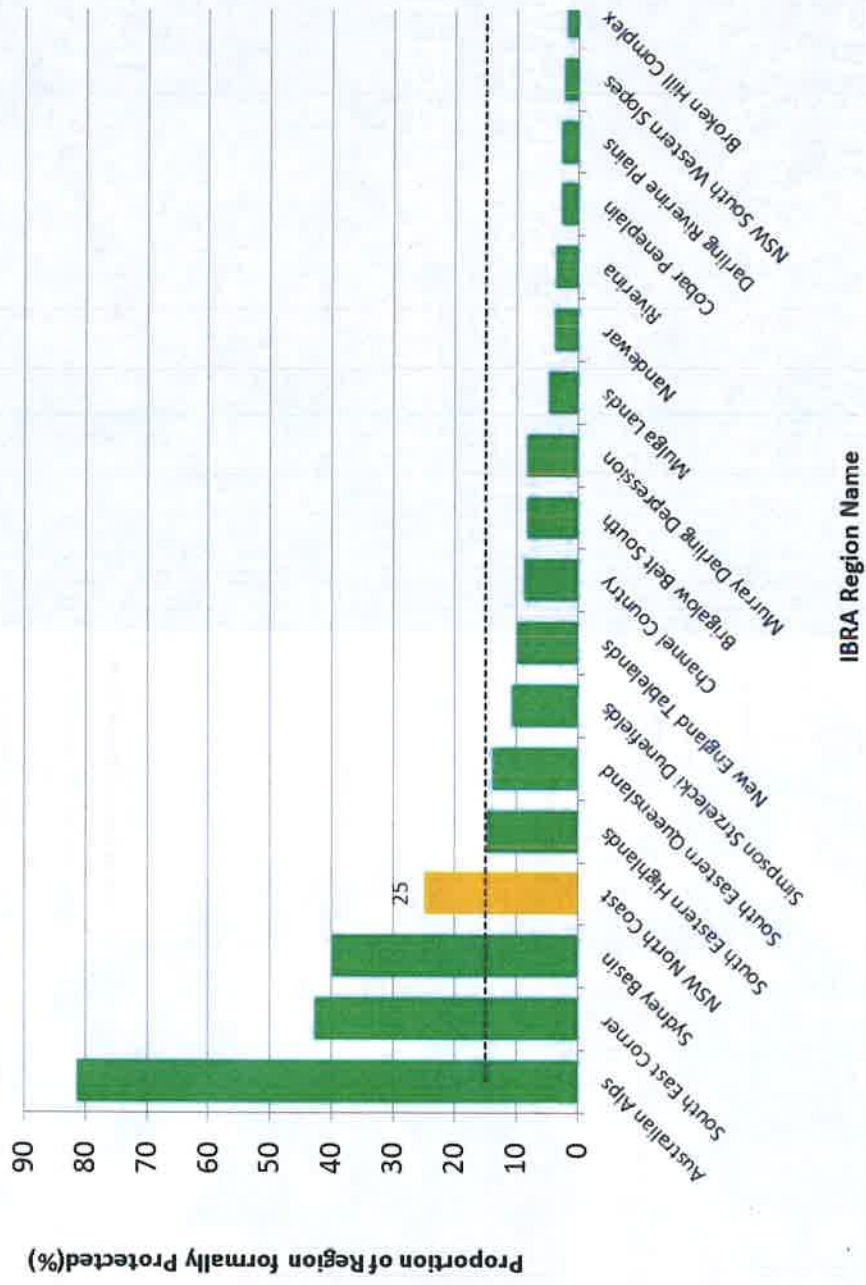
- 3 million hectares of public forest on the north coast
- the reserve system on the north coast is already comprehensive, adequate and representative
- only 10% is subject to timber harvesting

Year	Net Mapped Area (Hectares)	Net Harvestable Area (Hectares)
1997 (Pre RFA)	732,800	553,600
1999 (Post RFA)	459,100	374,100
2006	439,300	314,000
2015	416,500	306,700

- 3,000 direct jobs in forest management, timber harvesting, transport and processing
- NSW North Coast currently supply $\frac{3}{4}$ of the State's hardwood

GKNP will remove a further 175,000 hectares (10% of NSW's remaining State forest)

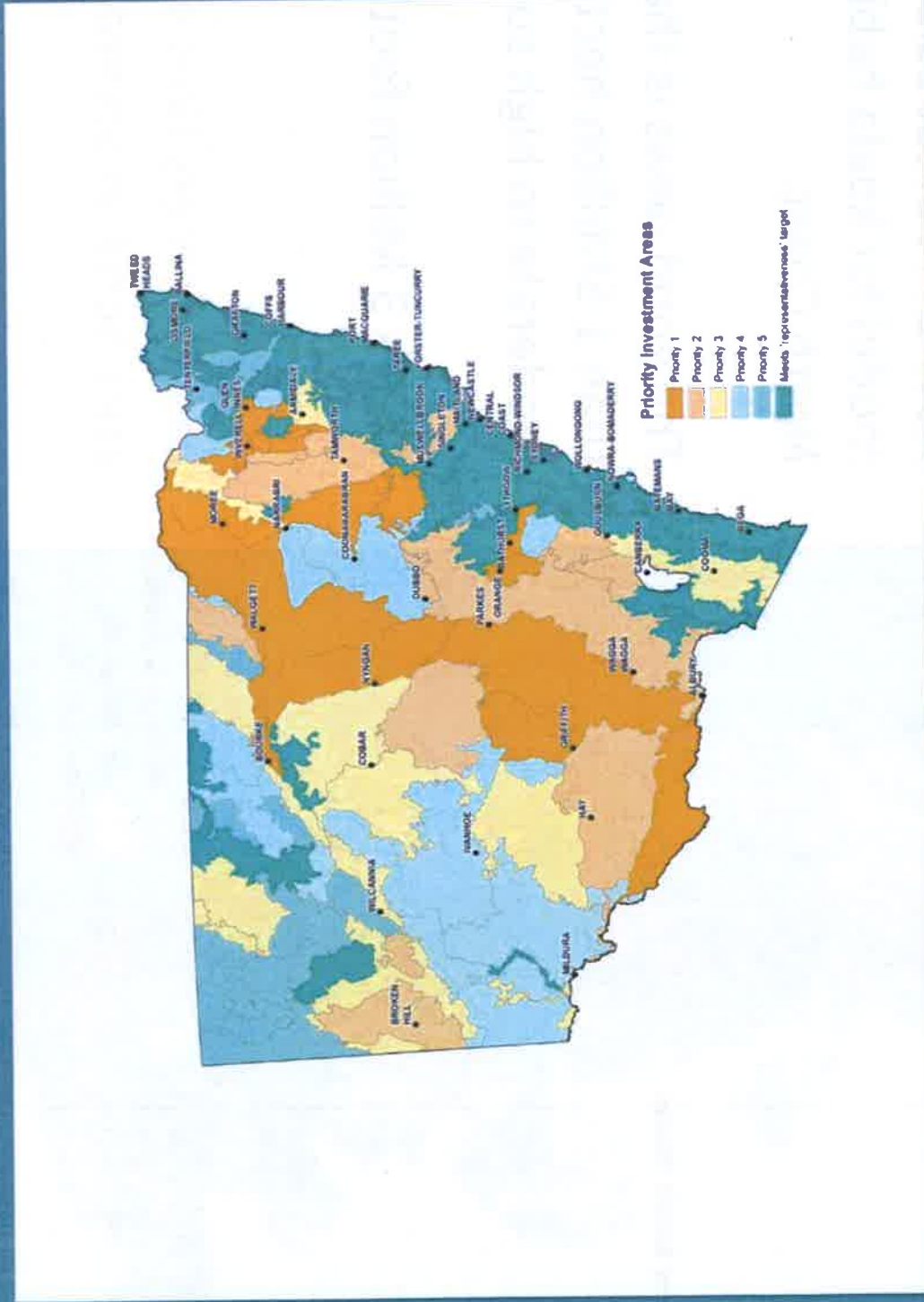


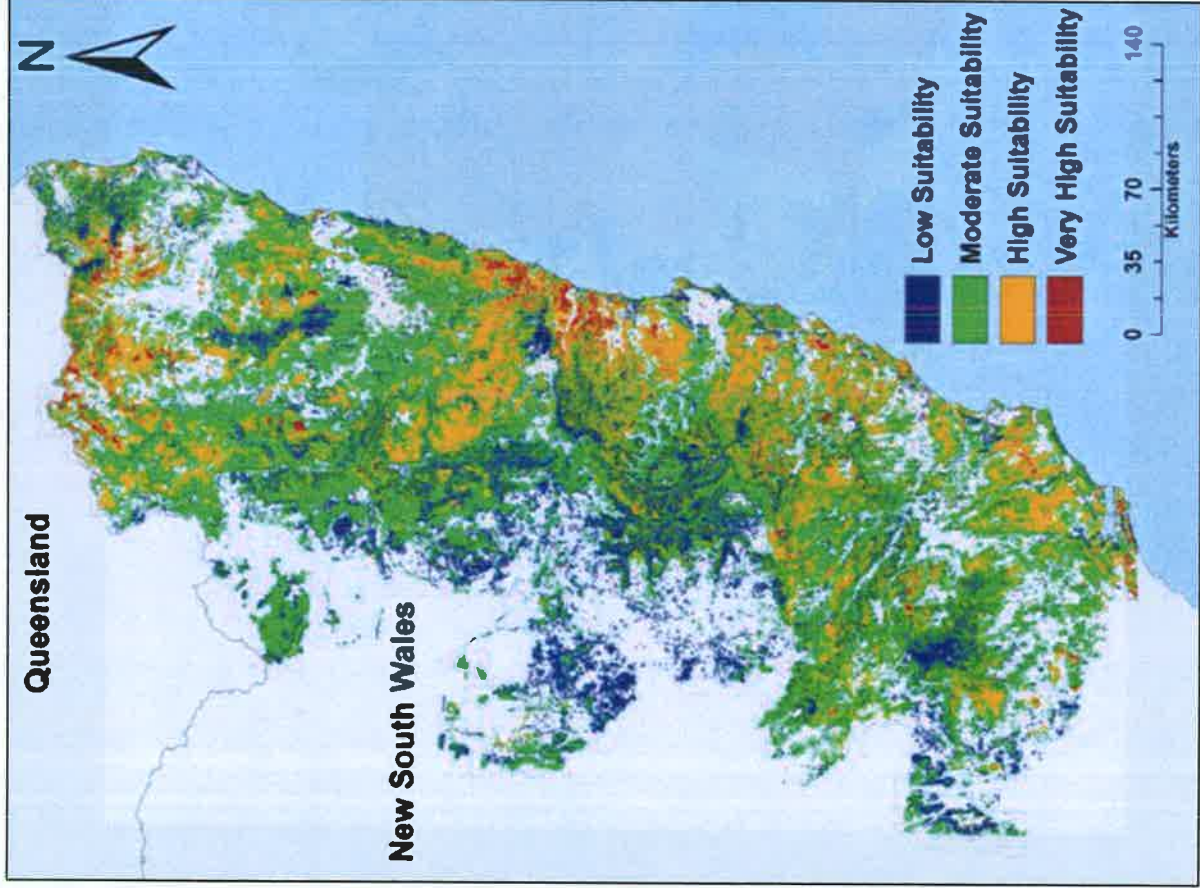


North Coast Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Region already exceeds the International Union for Conservation of Nature 15% protected area threshold target by 10%

Map of Priority Investment areas for private land conservation shows GKNP area **already meets the 'representativeness' target** (i.e. investment in more protected areas is not a priority for this bioregion)

(Source: NSW Government 2017)





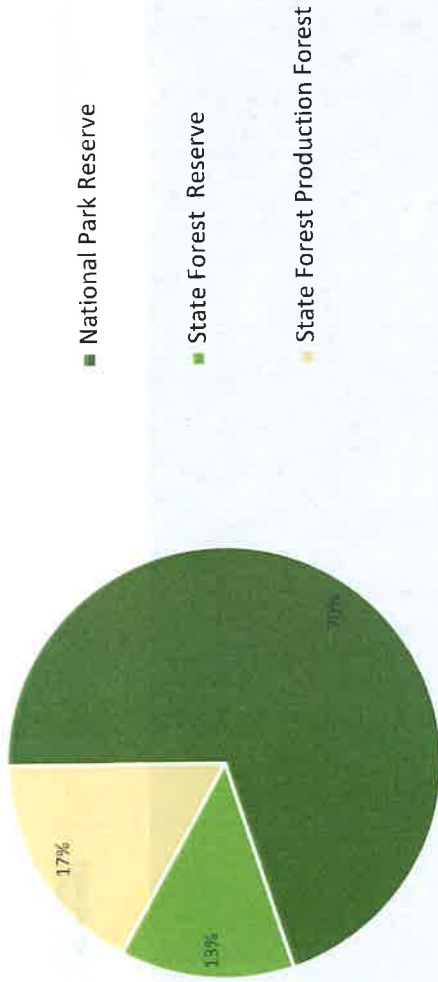
NSW DPI Forest Science produced a model for koala habitat right across the North Coast.

The good news is that there was more than 1.5 Million hectares classified as moderate to high suitability for koalas.

That's 3 Million football fields

Last summers fires saw only 17% of this area burnt in severe wildfire.

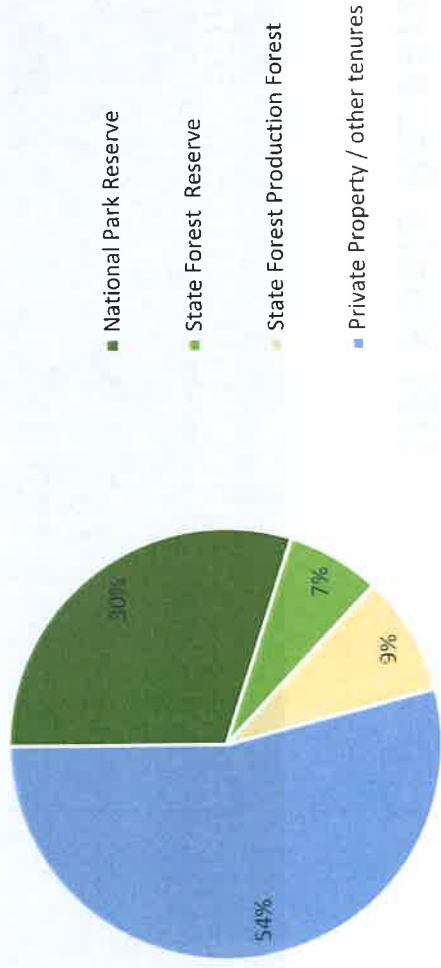
Proportion of moderate and high quality habitat on NSW crown forest tenure



The vast majority of the best koala habitat on NSW public forest is already in reserves.

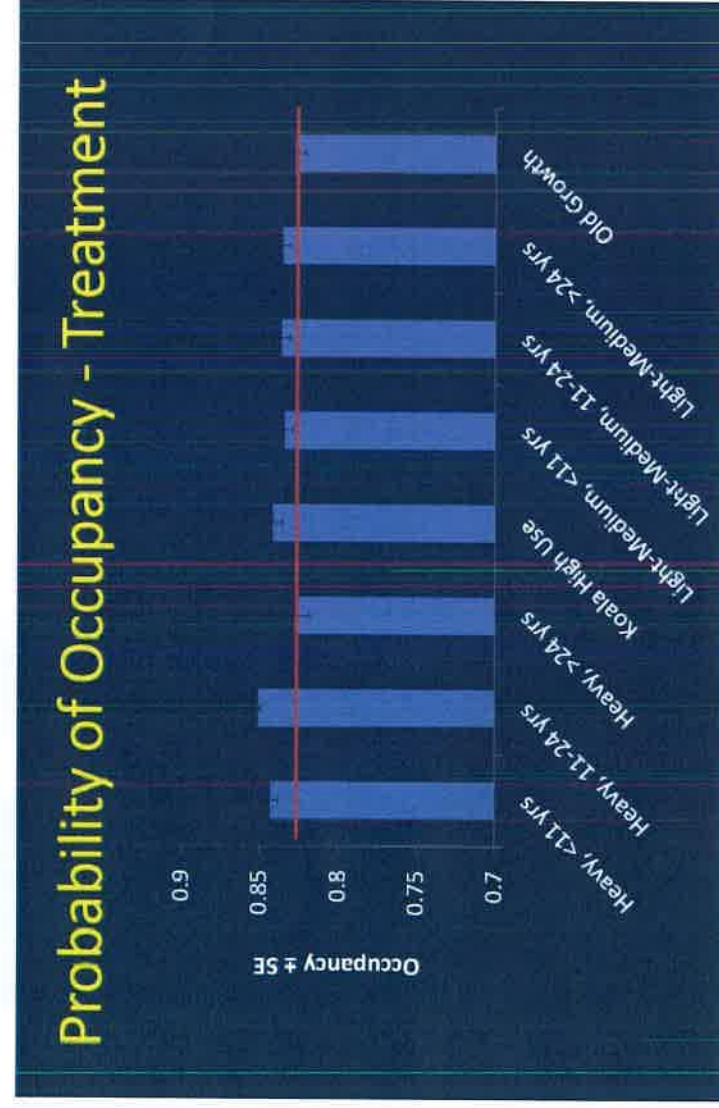
The 17% remaining on state forest is critical to timber supply

Proportion of moderate and high koala habitat - All tenures



More than half of the best koala habitat is on private / council lands

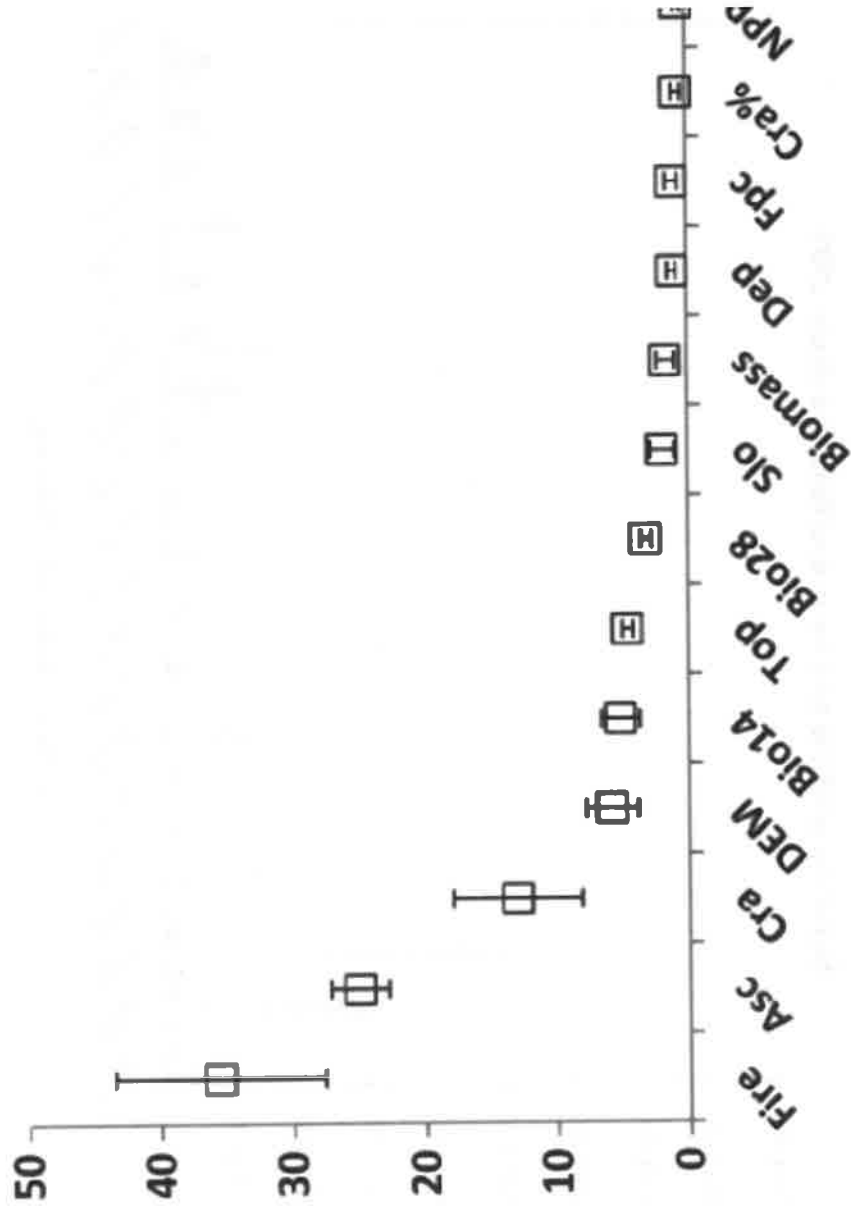
DPI Koala Research & Monitoring



DPI Forest Science Unit –
extensive field studies found:

**No significant
difference in Koala
numbers between
areas where logging
has occurred and
where it hasn't.**

(a) Percent contribution (%)



Percent contribution of the 14 predictor variables –

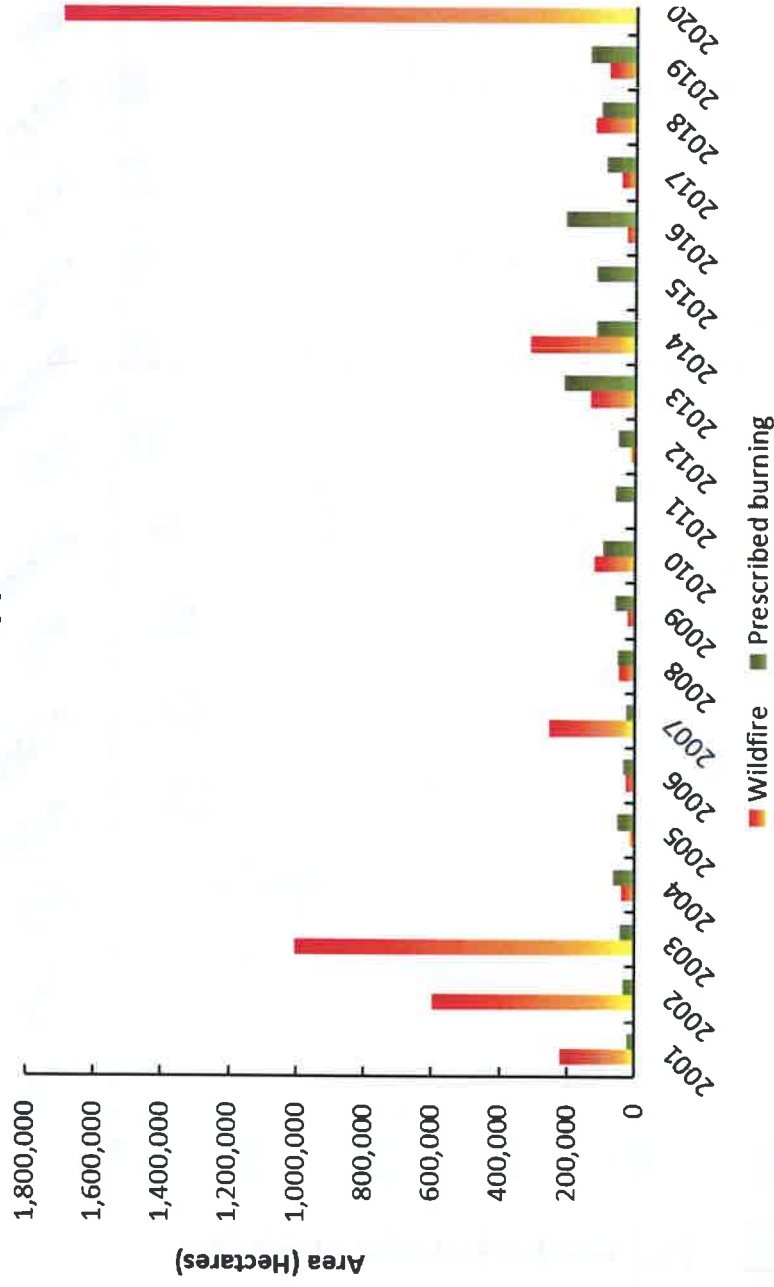
Fire (wildfire frequency),

Asc (soil type),

Cra (vegetation type)

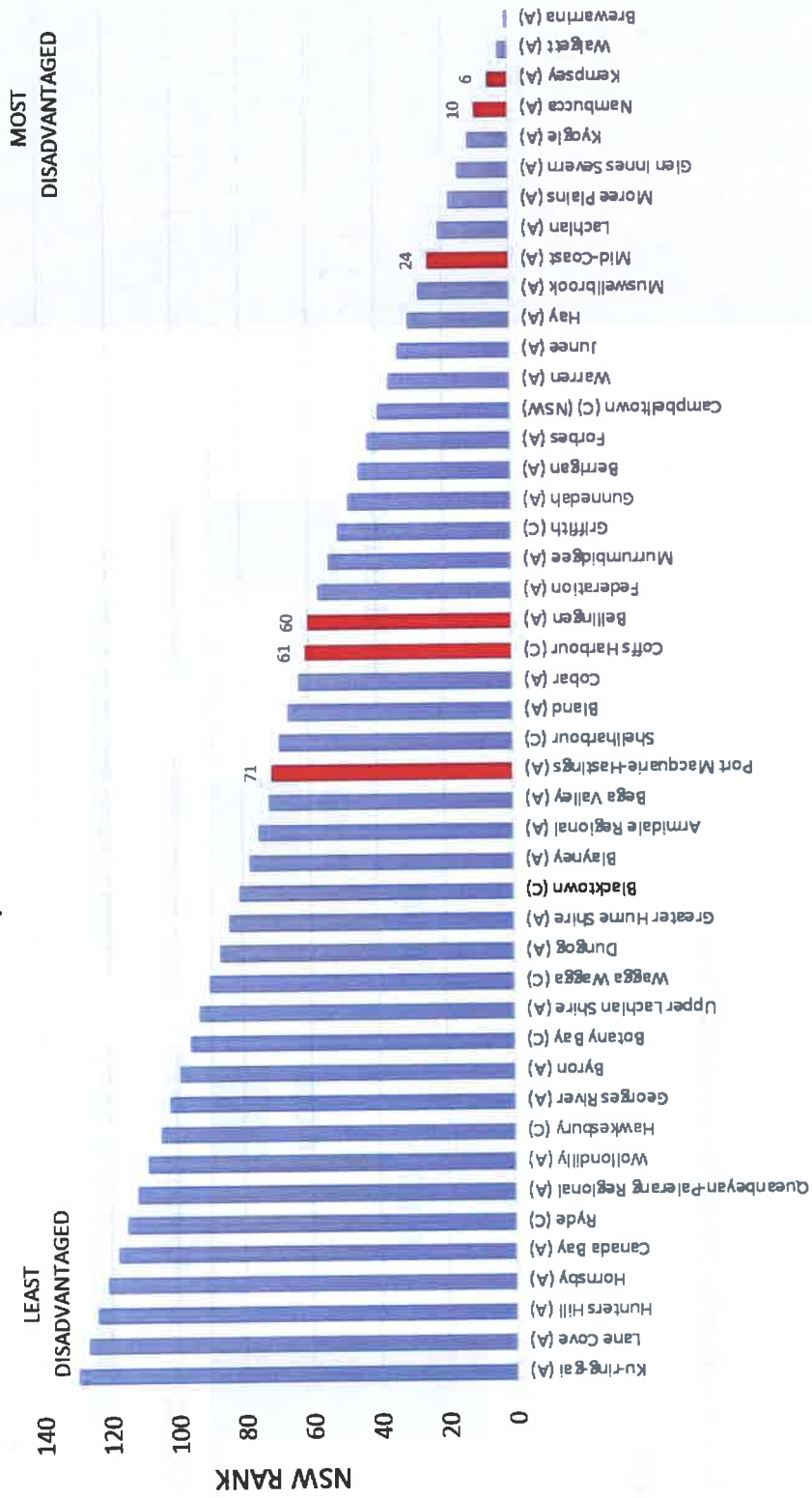
(Source: Law et al. 2017)

**NSW National Parks & Reserves
burnt by wildfire and by prescribed fire since 1999**



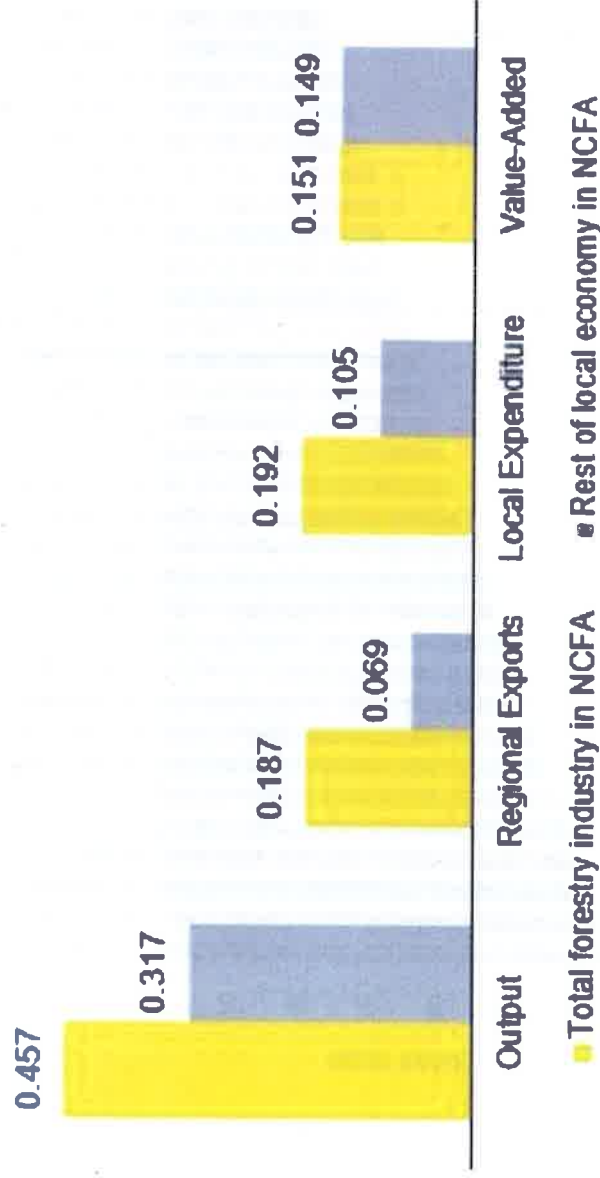
Millions of hectares of koala habitat within NSW National Parks and Reserves has been destroyed as a consequence of failure to suppress wildfire

Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia (SEIFA), 2016
Local Government Area (LGA) Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
(mid North Coast in red)



SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Figure 8: NCFA economy comparison per job (\$m)



The forestry industry generates \$0.5m in output for every employee, \$0.2m in value add and \$0.2m in regional exports for every employee.

These indicators are higher than those for the rest of the NCFA economy

The Impacts

The annual direct impact of the cancellation of WSAs is estimated to be a reduction in output of **hardwood production of \$57m** (i.e. forestry and logging) and a reduction in output of **hardwood processing of \$268m** (i.e. sawmill and other wood manufacturing). This is made up of \$217m in the NCFA, \$37m in the rest of NSW and \$14m in the rest of Australia).

The flow on impacts include:

Estimated reduction in total output of:

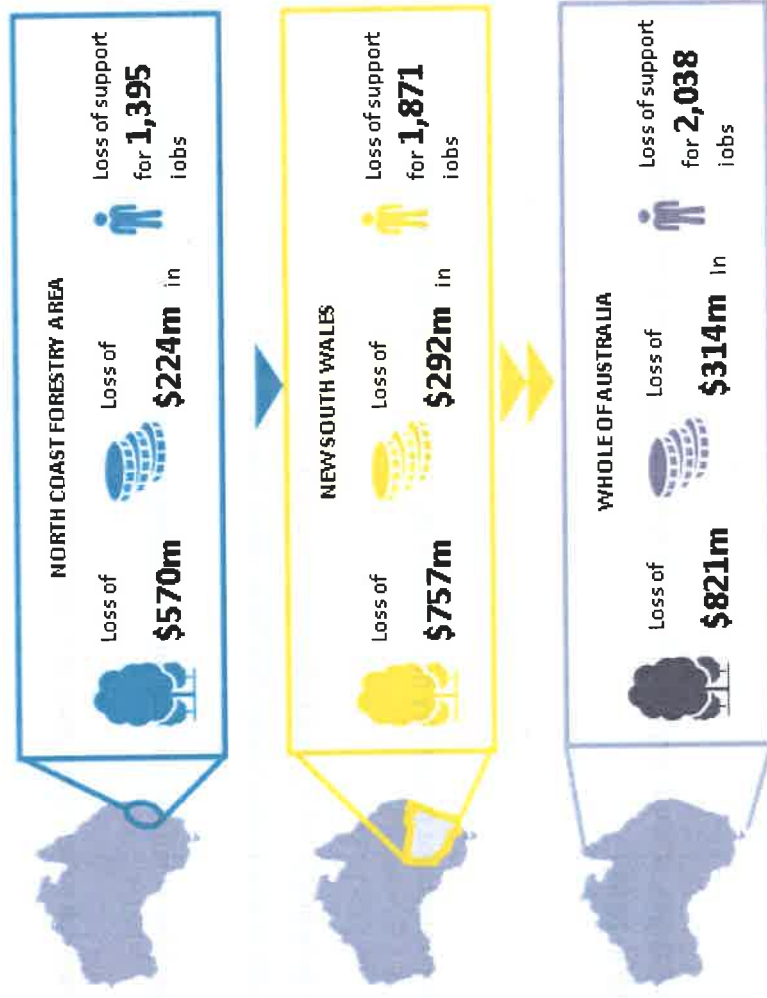
- \$570m loss in economic output per annum in the NCFA.
- A further \$187m loss in output per annum in the rest of NSW.
- A further \$64m loss in output per annum in the rest of Australia.

Estimated reduction in total value add of:

- \$224m loss in value add per annum in the NCFA.
- A further \$68m loss in value add per annum in the rest of NSW.
- A further \$23m loss in value add per annum in the rest of Australia.

Estimated reduction in employment through the loss of support of:

- 1,395 jobs in the NCFA.
- A further 476 jobs in the rest of NSW.
- A further 167 jobs in the rest of Australia.



Source: The economic impact of the cancellation of NSW North Coast Wood Supply Agreements due to the creation of the Great Koala National Park, Ernst & Young, Australia, March 2019

Case study: River Red Gum National Park

- resulted in a decimation of the region's timber industry and affiliated businesses, without any of the forecast conservation and tourism benefits
- the management of 117,000 hectares of River Red Gum transferred to NP in 2010

POPULATION

- The population of Mathoura declined by 20 per cent

EMPLOYMENT

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing jobs declined by 47 per cent and overall employment in industry has declined by 34 per cent, while six Arts & Recreation jobs were created

TOURISM

- The Mathoura Visitor Centre has recorded a decrease from 32,000 visits annually (in 2010) to 23,000 visits (in 2014).
- In 2019, Council data from January to March show that 55 visitors from out of town pass through Mathoura each month.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

- The Cummeragunja timber cutters near Barmah lost a viable firewood business when the thinning and harvesting operations ceased in the region.

DOWNSTREAM BUSINESSES

- Local community businesses – cafes, supermarket, pubs, newsagency – have all suffered or closed as a result of the conversion.

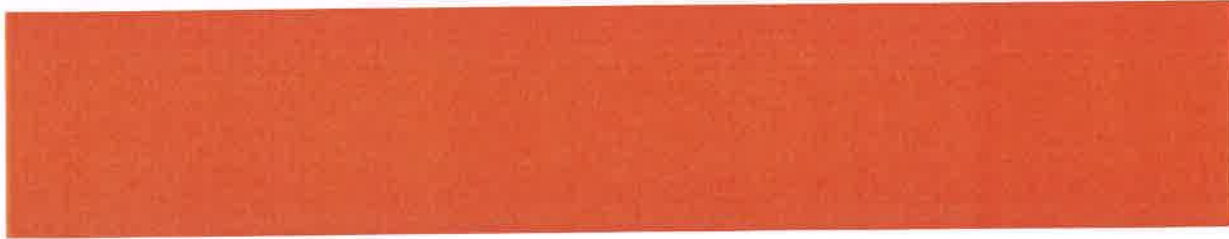
FIREWOOD SUPPLY CRISIS

- The collection of woody debris for firewood is now heavily restricted, creating a crisis in local firewood supplies and increasing bushfire risk.



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Community Leadership and Resilience Education



The journey...

- 2018 Co-creation with industry and our communities – 6 workshops across campus regions
- Workshops and testing
- We talked to our regions to deeply understand what is needed for sustainable and resilient communities.





Key features

- Small chunks
- Affordable
- Flexible delivery

We developed the Graduate Certificate in Community Leadership and Resilience

Our offering

- 28 micro-subjects developing key skills, knowledge, and attitudes
- Stackable to build up to the full qualification
- Supported online study with opportunities to engage face-to-face
- F2F and/or online training workshops in some subjects
- Co-created design - we've worked with industries and communities

Three core themes:

Building Communities | Building Relationships | Building Capable Leaders



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What could that mean for professional development?

Professional Development	Curriculum Content	1
	Specific Instruction	2
	Workshops and Seminars	3
	Conferences and Workshops	4
	Self-Directed Learning	5
	Peer Observation	6
	Coaching	7
	Professional Learning Communities	8
	Online Learning	9
	Workshops and Seminars	10
	Conferences	11
	Workshops and Seminars	12
	Workshops and Seminars	13
	Workshops and Seminars	14
	Workshops and Seminars	15
	Workshops and Seminars	16
	Workshops and Seminars	17
	Workshops and Seminars	18
	Workshops and Seminars	19
	Workshops and Seminars	20
	Workshops and Seminars	21
	Workshops and Seminars	22
	Workshops and Seminars	23
	Workshops and Seminars	24
	Workshops and Seminars	25
	Workshops and Seminars	26
	Workshops and Seminars	27
	Workshops and Seminars	28
	Workshops and Seminars	29
	Workshops and Seminars	30

2020

Theme	Short Course/Micro-Subject	Points
Building Community	Models of Community Development	2
	Inclusive Community Engagement	2
	Community Contexts	4
	Media Production	2
Building Relationships	Networking and Building Partnerships	2
	Developing Media Relationships	2
	Negotiation and Conflict Management	2
	External Communication Strategies	2
	Building Personal Resilience	2
	Strategic People Management	2
	Financial Literacy	2
Building Capable Leaders	Designing, Implementing and Evaluating Projects	4
	Motivating and Influencing People	2
	Strategic Management	2
	Leading Change	2



2021/2022 development

Theme	Short Course/ Micro-Subject	Points
Building Community	Assessing Community Needs	4
	Disaster Recovery Approaches for Communities	4
	Disruptors to Community Resilience	2
	Analysing Community Landscape	2
	Building Community Resilience	2
	Strategic Event Management	2
	Internal Organisational Relationships	2
Building Relationships	Sourcing and Managing Project Funds	2
	Transformative Leadership	2
	Social Entrepreneurship	2
Building Capable Leaders	Continuous Improvement	2
	Governance and Decision-Making for Communities	2

Micro offering

- A short course qualification you can stack towards further postgraduate study!
- Fully supported and engaging online topics, coupled with an interactive training workshop*
- 35-40 hours to complete the course over 8 weeks (2-points)
- The right blend of contemporary theory with the relevant practical skills you need
- Affordable PD training, delivered by an accredited university with thorough content
- 2-point \$600 and 4-point \$1,200
- Assessment included, meaning you can demonstrate your competence on completion
- And no previous qualification required to enrol in the course



Group learning

Staff training for organisations

- Interactive training workshop delivered to you in-house
- Professional development group training in the skills areas you need most
- Helping to develop a culture of ongoing learning and team building
- Building professional qualifications within your team

Community education through scholarships

- Interactive training workshop delivered to your location group (or virtual online)
- Community network development and relationship building
- Building leadership capacity and capability in communities
- Driving connection



MNCJO Community Network

**Commitment from Port Macquarie, Kempsey and Bellingen
\$1,200 scholarship and staff PD places to complete 2 x micro-subjects:**

- Leading Change – commencing 29 June
- Building Community Resilience – commencing 19 October

Set out to fill 59 places – filled 69 places!

Breakdown:

Port Macquarie Hastings LGA -	12 Scholarships and 5 staff PD
Kempsey Macleay LGA -	12 Scholarships and 6 staff PD
Bellingen Shire LGA -	15 Scholarships and 13 staff PD
Charles Sturt funded -	4 Scholarships
Self-funded	2 places

MNCJO Community Network

Number of applications

Though a tight turnaround, 90 scholarship applications were received.

Age Demographics

The age demographic of the applicants varied greatly between the ages of 20 to 73.

Occupations

Paramedics | Firefighters | Marketing and Communications specialist
Psychologists | Social Workers | Human service professionals
Board members



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Thank you

Meeting:	MNCJO Board
Date:	3 July 2020
Title:	Office of Local Government
Reporting Officer:	Anita Gambhir

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board accepts this update for information.

REPORT:

Local Government election date

The Minister has announced that the next Local Government Election will occur on 4 September 2021. Joint Organisations still need to have their Chair's election two years after their first meeting.

- Current councillors and popularly elected mayors will continue to hold their civic offices until council elections are held on 4 September 2021.
- Councils will not be required to hold by-elections to fill vacancies or to apply to the Minister to dispense with the requirement to hold a by-election.
- Mayoral elections must be held for mayors elected in September 2018 when their two year-terms expire in September 2020.
- Mayors elected in September 2019 will continue to hold office until council elections are held on 4 September 2021.
- The composition of joint organisation boards may need to change in September 2020 if mayors of member councils elected by councillors are not re-elected.
- The postponement of the next ordinary local government elections will not affect the timing of future council elections, and the subsequent ordinary local government elections will still proceed in September 2024.

COVID-19

The minister appreciates the work councils are doing to keep staff and communities safe and functioning. A range of further relaxation measures commenced on 13/14 June 2020. The next significant scheduled amendment to the Public Health Order (PHO) is due to occur on 1 July 2020. Councils have worked hard to meet all the requirements of the gradual relaxation of the measures to reduce the chance of a second wave of COVID 19. A range of support materials have been available to Councils during this time including template COVID Safe Plans and FAQs to assist them to interpret the PHO.

Financial Assistance Grant advance payment

The Federal Government has announced an advance payment of approximately fifty percent of councils' entitlement. The advance payment amount was paid to councils on 26 May 2020. The balance of the grants will be paid with a corresponding reduction to the quarterly instalments during 2020-21.

The first quarterly instalment is expected to be paid to councils in mid-August 2020, with subsequent instalments in November 2020, February 2021 and May 2021.

Delayed of rates notices – A COVID 19 response

On 17 April 2020 changes were announced to section 747B of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Councils were provided with the option to delay issuing rates notices to ratepayers until 1 September 2020. The collection of the first quarter rates instalment (whether a single or quarterly instalment) is due by 30 September 2020. Councils electing to take up the extended period of time can issue their rates notices by 1 September, with the single instalment or first quarter rates instalment payable by 30 September 2020.

For those councils that do not take up the extended period of time to issue their rates notices and issue them as normal, ratepayers can pay their rates by the normal due date, however under the temporary provisions all ratepayers have the ability to delay making payment of their rates instalment until 30 September 2020.

When issuing the 2020-21 first quarter rates notices, councils should encourage ratepayers who have the capacity to pay their rates early to do so, while acknowledging that many members of the community have been affected by COVID-19 financial pressures and that first quarter rates instalments are now due by 30 September 2020.

Bushfire Recovery Support Group

The Local Government Bushfire Recovery Support Group, a joint undertaking between the OLG, City of Sydney, Sydney Resilience Office and Local Government NSW is beginning to ramp up operations as COVID-19 restrictions ease across the State. There are still many requests for assistance and opportunities for those councils not affected by the bushfires to help. Affected Councils are encouraged to continue to reach out for assistance.

Webinars

The Minister for Local Government has hosted a number of webinars to provide an opportunity for Mayors and General Managers to connect with a range of her Cabinet colleagues during COVID 19. These include the Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, Minister for Health, Minister for Customer Service and the Minister for Finance and Small Business. Further webinars are planned for July with the Minister for Youth and Women, Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation and the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services.

Also, there is an upcoming webinar on 25 June at 6pm for small businesses that focuses on workplace legislation, getting a better understanding of wellbeing, how to access resources, and information on looking after your business and other Government programs of interest. I would encourage all my councils to promote this webinar to small businesses in your area. I can send you registration details.

Accelerated planning program

Local councils can now tap into the tools, guidance and support of the NSW Government's Planning System Acceleration Program to fast-track council-led planning projects to help boost jobs and investment in their communities.

Eleven councils have already agreed to develop a Council Accelerated Assessment Program with the Government to help their communities rebound from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic faster.

Councils that agree to run their own accelerated assessment program will receive:

- Key tools and documents from the State's Planning System Acceleration Program that will enable councils to implement a transparent and robust fast-tracked assessment process at a local level;
- Access to the Government's new 'One Stop Shop' that has been set up to manage complex planning projects and coordination between government agencies;
- Training and support from senior planners within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to establish local accelerated assessment programs; and
- Direction from the NSW Government to State and regional planning panels to support efforts by councils to get shovel-ready projects out the door faster.

For more information visit: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Council-AcceleratedAssessment-Program

Pound funding

A \$500,000 funding boost for council-run pounds to help cover veterinary, staff and food costs as well as minor capital works. Councils should now have received this funding.

Introduction of annual permits for non-desexed cats and dangerous/restricted and dogs

The NSW Government is introducing annual permits for non-desexed cats and restricted and dangerous dogs as part of its commitment to promoting responsible pet ownership and improving animal welfare standards.

From 1 July 2020 owners of cats not de-sexed by four months of age will be required to pay an \$80 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee.

Exemptions are in place for cats that are registered by 1 July 2020, those kept for breeding purposes by members of recognised breeding bodies, and cats which cannot be de-sexed for medical reasons. From 1 July 2020 owners of dogs of a restricted breed or formally declared to be dangerous will be required to pay a \$195 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee.

New Guidelines for Registration Agents have been issued recently and partially replace the Guidelines on the Exercise of Functions under the Companion Animals Act.

Supporting local businesses to comply with COVID-19 restrictions

As restrictions ease and the focus moves towards recovery, the NSW Government is requesting that councils build on their community safety role by engaging with local businesses that need assistance in complying with COVID-19 Public Health Orders.

The NSW Government has developed the COVID Safe Check app, which provides a way for customers to give feedback in real time to businesses and to regulators for action where necessary. In some cases, feedback about businesses who may not be fully complying with the Public Health Order may be provided to councils through the Office of Local Government (OLG). Councils will be asked to engage with identified businesses through targeted site visits, the primary purpose of which will be to guide and assist business operators towards compliance with the Public Health Orders. All enforcement action will remain a matter for the NSW Police Force.

To assist councils, an information pack including a standardised site visit checklist and an online training presentation will be available on the OLG webpage in the coming days. This will include links to relevant information which councils can provide to businesses as part of the education and engagement process.

Councils need to provide a point of contact in council to ensure consistency in the referral process.

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

The Tribunal has determined that there will be no increase in mayoral and councillor fees for the 2020/21 financial year. The Tribunal has undertaken a review of categories this year. For the Metropolitan group the Tribunal has determined to retain the existing categories and has amended the population criteria applicable to Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium.

For the Non-Metropolitan group, the Tribunal has determined to:

- create two new categories - Major Strategic Area and Regional Centre
- rename one category - Regional City to Major Regional City, and
- revise the criteria for some of the existing categories to account for the new categories.

Emergency Cleaning Stimulus Scheme

Councils are eligible to use the NSW Emergency Cleaning Stimulus Scheme to engage cleaning providers to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 at lower cost than individual council procurement.

Councils are encouraged to purchase from Australian Disability Enterprises, Aboriginal businesses, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), regional suppliers and social enterprises where possible to boost the local economy and help create jobs.

More information on how to access the scheme can be found by contacting NSW Procurement Service Centre.

Tendering threshold exemption

The Regulation was amended in January 2020 to temporarily increase the tendering exemption threshold to \$500,000 for contracts that are entered primarily for the purpose of bushfire-related response and recovery work before 1 July 2020.

A further amendment has been made to the Regulation to extend this period to 31 December 2020.

Destination North Coast – North Rivers Joint Organisation of Councils Update

Crisis Management

The focus for stakeholders has shifted significantly over the last month from crisis management to recovery, with the majority increasing their operational capacity in reaction to the reopening of regional travel. Due to the unexpected speed in which the restrictions have been lifted many operators have been caught off guard and unable to reopen in time to capitalise due to having commenced renovation work or restructuring operations.

The Queen's Birthday long weekend marked the start of the most significant easing of travel restrictions for NSW and most other states. Anecdotal feedback received, indicates that visitor numbers increased significantly over this weekend with caravan and camping operators in particular, experiencing high occupancy rates.

Business Events

We are delighted to announce two pieces of positive news for the DNC Business Events program. Firstly, we have had a great result in these trying times with the Business Event team securing the Consulting Surveyors NSW Annual Conference to be held in the Tweed from the 8th-10th October 2020. The event will host up to 100 delegates delivering over \$60k in economic impact to the region.

The DNC Business Events program was the winner of both the state and national awards, for Regional Destination Marketing Organisation or Bureau, at the Meeting and Events Australia annual national awards. Our application focused on the achievements of the program over its first year of operation and is a tremendous recognition of the value of the program, the economic impact it has had thus far and its ability to unite stakeholders throughout our region.

A funding application was submitted through the Business Events Australia's Advance Program. The funding if successful would be used to launch the North Coast program into the New Zealand market which will be a key market for this sector for the next 12-24 months and one which our region has natural appeal to. The application was for \$25k of matched funding.

Future Demand and Accommodation Reinvestment Projects

The first phase of this research that focused on projected future demand and our regions capacity to accommodate it is nearing completion. The report contains a product audit and gap analysis of accommodation and experiences across the region, projected changes in market mix and proposed developments to capitalise on these opportunities.

The research outlined above has been key in informing the second phase of the research focused on Accommodation Reinvestment Best Practices. The final report will outline the current mix of accommodation against projected demand for both style and quantities of accommodation required. In addition, it identifies opportunities per LGA for accommodation development and best practice in securing such investment.

The third phase of the research will see the compilation of an investment prospectus highlighting the opportunities identified throughout the region. All three reports have been compiled firstly at an LGA level then at a regional level. A meeting will be established with each LGA to discuss the findings and opportunities identified across the three reports.

