**Chair: Audrey Koosmen Meeting Open:** Time: 1007

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Present* |  |  |
| Meredith | Ryan | F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) Inc |
| Ros | Irwin | Friends of the Koala |
| Audrey | Koosmen | Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF |
| Kate | Randolph | Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF - Alt |
| Sandra | Norris | Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers |
| Jacquie | Maisey | Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers |
| Leesa  | Pratt | ORRCA - Alt |
| Shona | Lorigan | ORRCA (to be confirmed) |
| Murray | Black | Port Stephens Koalas-Alt |
| Brendan  | Diacono | Snowy Mtns Wildlife Rescue-LAOKO |
| Libby | Hall | Taronga Wildlife Hospital |
| Garry  | Gnapp | Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers-Alt |
| Kerryn | Parry-Jones | Wildlife A R C |
| Linda | Stoev | Wildlife Carers Network Central West |
| Richard | Woodman | Wildlife Rescue South Coast  |
| Justine | King | Wildlife Rescue South Coast-Alt |
| *Visitors NPWS* |  |
| Ron | Haering | Senior Project OfficerBiodiversity and Wildlife Team |
| Hannah | Lewis | Wildlife Biodiversity Reforms |
| Robert | Oliver | Manager, Wildlife Biodiv. Reforms |
| Peter  | Stathis | Manager, Biodiversity & Wildlife Unit |
| *Visitor* |  |  |
| Josey | Sharrad | IFAW |
| *Apologies* |  |  |
| Don | Eagleton | Ausstralian Seabird Rescue |
| Cathy | Gilmore | Australian Seabird Rescue |
| Rod | Miller | FAWNA (NSW) Inc |
| Shirley | Lack | Native Animal Rescue Group |
| Julia | Rose | Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers |
| Carmel | Northwood | Port Stephens Koalas |
| Sonja  | Elwood | Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife |
| Jenny | Weston | Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers |
| Suzy | Nethercott-Watson | Wildcare Queanbeyan |
| Colin | Hall | Wildcare Queanbeyan-Alt |
| Meg | Pittman | Wildlife Aid |
| Lorraine | Yudaeff | Wildlife in Need of Care |

Welcome by Chair Audrey Koosmen and introduction of new representatives/alternate delegates or first time visitors to a NWC meeting: Ros Irwin, Friends of the Koala and Garry Gnapp, Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers.

**Standing orders suspended** for update briefing by R. Haering on Biodiversity Conservation Act (BCA) matters affecting the rehabilitation sector. **See separate report**. 18 11 20 NPWS Discussion Summary Report.

**Presentation of thanks to Shona Lorigan** for her work over a long time for NWC, and in particular her help to the Chair. Shona spoke of her pride in the Council’s work with Codes of Practice, submissions and reports, consultations with government and all the extensive collective knowledge shared around the table by the Council members. A gift of a metal whale wall hanging was presented.

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes: Motion:** That the Minutes of the 25 August 2018 General Meeting No. 49 are a true and correct record. Proposed: M. Ryan; Seconded: J. Maisey: **Carried**
2. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **ACTION LIST - NWC GENERAL MEETING 25-8-2018** |  |
| ***No.*** | ***Task*** | ***Result*** |
| 1 | [1] Distribute updated list |  Completed |
| 2 | [1] SNW – seek NCC Conf report from JF |  James attended no report received. [[1]](#footnote-1)AK to follow up |
| 3 | [1] SN SNW final update Grants Checklist |  Completed |
| 4 | [1] Chair discuss MOU policies currently in place with Wires CEO |  AK spoke with LTaylor with MOUs – Wires was reluctant to give details on any specific MOUs |
| 5 | [1] Woodman send analysis of goat’s milk to S. Lorigan for further action |  Goats Milk is not lactose free – therefore Goats Milk is not suitable as containing lactose. [[2]](#footnote-2)SL to send findings to Secretary to pass to WRSC enquirer |
| 6 | [1] Chair consult with groups on WWF koala data project | Email contacts have been made. Spoke with WWF and groups decided did not want to be involved. Some groups are involved – FOK advised it is not involved with providing data to WWF due privacy public and member issues. Some images have been provided to WWF by FOK.JS - IFAW and WWF are liaising on Stand Up for Nature campaign.  Wires has partnered with WWF. |
| 7 | [1] Chair consider meeting with S. Blanch and C. Northwood |  See above |

1. **Shared Resource List:** Suzi Nethercott-Watson and Justine King

This activity is awaiting recommendations from the BCAct Rehabilitation licensing “Discussion Paper”/Strategy Document. Awaiting advice of Best Practices example documents.

1. **Correspondence.** Circulated to groups as received.
* Several changes to member representation included in new membership list to be distributed
* Newsletter from Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
* Australian Meat Industry Council Email :Moved K. Parry-Jones That NWC does not join with the AMIC in the Q Fever endeavour Seconded L. Stoev **Carried[[3]](#footnote-3)**
* Update on Sea Snakes from D. Eagleton ASR
* [https://www.wild4life.org.au](https://www.wild4life.org.au/) This link was provided by R. Woodman (as an individual) to a recent collective against the keeping of native Mammals as Pets.
1. **Chair Report:** Circulated to group via email and attached to Minutes. Proposed for acceptance: A. Koosmen, seconded M. Ryan **Carried**
2. **Treasurer’s report.** Treasurer’s report was circulated to group via email and is appended to Minutes. **Proposed:** Treasurer’s report is accepted L. Stoev ; Seconded R. Woodman, **Carried**

Please send travel and expense claims direct to S. Lack for reimbursement.

1. **Insurance Officer Report – M. Ryan –**
* Two volunteer insurance claims involving loss of income and allowable medical and incidental expenses are progressing satisfactorily. One claimant has repeat surgery scheduled.
* An Associations Liability claim is current for possible defamation proceedings.

A list of insurance excess amounts on claims has been distributed to members. Insurance excesses are the responsibility of the insured members (groups), not an NWC expense.

Question whether Catch and Release licensees can use the group’s PL Insurance? If funds are kept by the Catch and Release licensees they should hold their own public liability insurance policy. This is a matter for determination by individual groups that may have authorised Reptile handler members who also hold a C&R Licence.

1. **Media Officer Report – S. Elwood:** S. Lorigan complimented S. Elwood on lots of NWC Facebook stories. Members were encouraged to pass material on to Sonja. (*Report received after the meeting will be included in the meeting summary report).*
2. **Codes of Practice Update: S. Lorigan/Chair:**  Further consultation will take place with OEH.
3. **Nature Conservation Council Report – S. Lorigan:** Conference was shortened from 2 days to 1 day. Attendance was very beneficial. Elections held. 2 speakers were Cate Faehrmann MLC from the Greens – Luke Foley the then Leader of the Opposition presented as well. 25 motions were presented and only one was controversial in regards to the Snowy Mountains Renewable Energy Scheme and the damage likely to occur. From the three workshops at the end of the day I chose habitat loss. We talked about ways to collaborate to highlight habitat loss and make the most of the expertise among the workshop participants. There was a display area at the Conference and it was recommended that NWC displays at the Conference next year. Shona was thanked for agreeing to substitute for the Chair as NWC representative at the Conference.

Recommended reading from **nature.org.au** materials handed to the Secretary:

A cleaner greener NSW – policies for the 2019 election and beyond

Fighting for nature 2018 annual report

Repowering our regions #repower NSW

and from the **Powerful Owl Coalition**: Protecting Powerful Owls in Urban Areas

1. **Biodiversity Conservation Act Stakeholders Meetings update: A. Koosmen:** mostlycovered in R. Oliver’s report.

**11a)** Agenda item added **DPI-organised** **Biosecurity Meeting** attended by A. Koosmen and S. Lorigan representing Hunter Wildlife and NWC. Very interesting to see all the facets of events and matters that affect all fauna and flora, and it was good to have NWC represented..

1. **Flying-fox Consultative Committee Report – M. Ryan :** Meeting notes submitted by M. Ryan and attached to Agenda. Flying-fox Camp Management Template was attached to Agenda for any group that may wish to comment. *(Please note this is a Template for the Managers of Flying-fox camps, e.g. Councils and other landholders on which there are existing or new flying-fox camps. It is not designed as a document for rehabilitators, however, rehabilitation groups may wish to comment and are encouraged to do so if they believe the template does not adequately address situations in flying-fox camps under their purview – MR comment).*

South East Qld Heat Stress document. Should we distribute to NWC members? A number of flying-fox rehabilitators from NWC groups do not agree with many of the recommendations regarding when to spray or mist. Reference was made to the Collins, Stanvic, McDonald Heat Stress document mainly used in NSW and preferred to the SEQ recommendations. It was decided not to distribute the SEQ document.

K. Parry-Jones [[4]](#footnote-4)tasked to compile a Heat Stress document from material currently being used in NSW (Stanvic, Collins, McDonald Guidelines).

KPJ advised of new consultative committee formed with $9 million budget for habitat work for flying-foxes Basically looking during one year in how money is to be apportioned to Councils involving what projects, whether looking at existing colony sites or places that can fill holes in habitat.

FFCC made up of 2 DPI, NSW Health, NSW Farmers, 2-3 LGA; State and Federal Enviro Agencies, Scientists Kerryn Parry-Jones and Peggy Eby, Forestry, Orchardists, NCC, HIS, WWF, Batwatch and NWC. Representation on the committee is valuable for information on what is happening and for presenting the rehabilitation sector hands-on work with the species.

**Rabies Vaccinations:**

**Move:** K. Parry-Jones That NWC [[5]](#footnote-5)investigate with the distributor of the Rabies vaccine in Australia for a discounted rate for wildlife rehabilitators. Seconded S. Norris, **Carried.**

Noted vaccines must be kept in a vaccine frig at either the doctor Surgery or at a pharmacy.

1. **IFAW / NWC Wildlife Rescue App update – J. Sharrad:** Report on App upgrade.(It is important that groups actively promote the App as IFAW budget does not allow for promotion. It has been noted by IFAW that very few NWC groups actively promoted the previous App).

**J.** Sharrad says how good it is to be back working as a Contractor for IFAW and continuing liaison with NWC. Josey thanked those involved in final testing of the App. Almost ready to go. Apologies extended for the delay in completion. The meeting agreed to go ahead with new App to get it out before the Christmas Holidays and peak holiday travel time. Any group who needs their data corrected should email details direct to Rebecca Thompson-Jones at IFAW.

Data from the back end of the App can be made available to NWC and IFAW will be advising details on that in due course.

Groups asked to promote, promote, promote. IFAW asked to prepare a Media Release template groups can use, tagged on to their own media messages.

Jacquie Maisey expressed thanks from NWC and her group to IFAW for the app and what a help it is to get our work known out in the communities in which we work.

1. **Where to from here?** Open discussion on implications from R. Haering report on progress of Rehabilitation licensing/accreditation Discussion Paper for public comment (dates?)

Waiting game still.

1. **Project Officer and Future Funding:** Theoretical at this stage? Need to have someone in part time employment to work on specific projects, seeking funding grants, responding to calls for submissions, and tasks that are beyond the workload capacity of current committee. Funds are needed for preparation of training modules. Meeting was in agreement that a Project Officer is needed.
2. **General Business items:**

**Libby Hall – Taronga Wildlife Hospital**

         **Scoopapoop project -** Michelle Power Assoc. Professor, Department of Biological Sciences at Macquarie Uni provided some Scoop a Poop kits for the NWC meeting to let the members know about a Citizen Science project co-ordinated by scientists who are studying antibiotic resistance in the environment using possum poo and other scats and to understand how antibiotic resistant bacteria are moving from humans to wildlife.   Information kits and sheets distributed to the meeting. Contact is: Dr. Koa Webster, 9850 6281 fse.scoopapoop@mq.edu.au brushtail and ringtail possum , penguins, flying-foxes, koalas, macropods, Australian sea lions. Download the App scoopapoop – you can click on the app to see progress; it will show where the sample is in the process – if it shows up red it is positive for antibiotic resistant genes.

Dr. Koa Webster is available to give presentations about the project to the meeting at a later date if required.

         What do groups do about the treatment of **sea snakes** – what is the procedure and who is treating these animals? – Sea Snakes procedures are detailed in OEH NPWS Marine Wildlife Management Manual 2013-2014 which supercedes the *Guidelines and conditions for marine reptile strandings, rehabilitation and release in New South Wales,* still used by the groups detailed below. This latter document lists only ASR, DMM-AKA Pet Porpoise Pool, Taronga Wildlife Hospital, NATF and FAWNA as holding a licence for marine turtles and sea snakes for rescue and temporary hold. All documentation needs to be reviewed by NPWS. Sea Snake MWMM pages 114-118 extract copies distributed to groups with marine reptiles on licence and to other interested parties. Taronga Wildlife Hospital advised the meeting it does not have the facilities to hold sea snakes and an appropriate protocol [[6]](#footnote-6)needs to be developed for sea snakes that require rehabilitation, posing that all sea snakes that are rescued will need some form of rehab. Secretary[[7]](#footnote-7) will obtain the most current *marine wildlife event report form* for distribution.

         Question on notice posed to NPWS about the status of pied currawongs, noisy miners and silver gulls;  Advice is they are still fully protected but may be subject to harm permits if they are proved to be impacting other species.

Garry Gnapp – [[8]](#footnote-8)Is it possible to get contact details on Telstra NBN DOT phone system?

Garry thanked everyone for the meeting which he has found very interesting.

**Chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and wishing everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas.**

**Dates of next meetings:**

**GM 51 Tue 19 February, 2019 – NPWS 43 Bridge St Hurstville Room 104 – Dr. Koa Webster to be invited to address meeting – [[9]](#footnote-9)L. Hall.**

**GM 52 Tue 21 May, 2019 - NPWS 43 Bridge St Hurstville Room 104**

**GM 53 Sat 16 August, 2019 – The Centre, Randwick**

**AGM 14 Sun 17 August, 2019 – The Centre, Randwick**

**Meeting Close 3 p.m.**

**Confirmed: 19-2-2019**

**Signed/Chair……………………………………………….Date……………………….**

NSW Wildlife Council Chair’s Report

 General Meeting No 50 - November 20th 2018

I would like to warmly welcome to the NWC Gary Gnapp from Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers – Alt. and Ros Irwin from Friends of the Koala who will be their new Rep to NWC. I do hope they will enjoy their time with us and maybe bring skills to the table that will help support NWC in its workings.

 We have lost a few members from around table at NWC.

Brad Smith from Wildlife Aid has resigned from WLA. I thank Brad for the many years and time he has given to our wildlife when he was a member and wish him well. Brad and I worked very well together while he was in WLA. I always found him very helpful and caring and always very happy to assist where he could in transferring animals in need.

Sadly we have also lost Lorraine Vass FOK and Shona Lorigan ORRCA, both of whom have been replaced in their roles as representatives for their groups on the NWC.

Lorraine Vass: well where do I start? Lorraine was a long standing member for so many years. Lorraine first represented FOK on the Steering Committee that formed the NWC. She held many positions over the years Secretary, Media officer, Newsletter Officer, Chair and NWC rep to Nature Conservation Council. Lorraine also helped with many other roles and tasks in NWC.

Lorraine who in our early days of the Steering Committee and NWC travelled some 7 hours by train to attend meetings with not a complaint . She stood alongside me in a committee position for some years in getting the NWC to where it is today, always giving her total support and help when needed. She was there when we had hard times and the good times. Lorraine has gained the respect of us all for her passion for wildlife and the work she has done for many years in fighting to save wildlife habitat… and I believe she will keep continuing that work for some time yet.

Lorraine represented her group FOK so well at the council table, her major passion was the koala and its habitat which she has fought for so many years .Lorraine will indeed be missed around the table but won’t be forgotten as she gained many good friends and that friendship will remain. I personally wish to thank Lorraine for all her support, work and help to me and to NWC. We wish Lorraine all the best and hope she will remain in touch with NWC friends.

Shona Lorigan…. Has been a gem indeed, she has brought to the NWC such talent and skills. She took on the most important role of facilitating the Codes of Practice on behalf of NWC and NPWS and did that task so well. She tells me she did enjoy doing this but I know how many unpaid hours she put into this and we all thank Shona. She pulled it all together while dealing with us all which in turn would have been somewhat of a nightmare!!... Wildlife rehabbers!!

Shona has served on the NWC for many years and has held many positions Media officer Committee member and taken on other roles and tasks in helping NWC. She has always represented her group ORRCA well and I strongly believe through Shona the profile of ORRCA has been raised to a higher level as she has promoted the group and its work to us all and given us all a much better understanding of what ORRCA does for our marine fauna. Shona has also attended NPWS Stakeholders meeting as a NWC rep, the NCC Conference on my behalf representing NWC. Shona is strong and hard worker with a passion for all fauna and its conservation. She will indeed be sadly missed around the NWC table. Shona also has found many good friends and made long term friendships in NWC. She is highly respected among us all.

I wish to personally thank Shona for her long term support and all she has done in supporting me but also for the support and work she has done for NWC. Any task asked of her she always said yes I can do that. We wish her well and she will always be a friend of us all here in NWC.

Onto business.

Over the past months I have attended many NPWS Stakeholders meetings. Other members of NWC have also attended the special species meetings, such as reptiles, birds and mammals.

In the Reptile meetings the concerns brought forwarded by wildlife groups were how many rescued pet reptiles groups are receiving. The cost of housing and holding these creatures while waiting to move them to herp groups was a major issue.

Also the processes for issue of catch and release licenses were a major problem. The pre-licence assessment process and training needed by these people are not adequate before licences are issued.

Listening to NPWS compliance officer was concerning as we found out our poor blue tongues and shingleback lizards are the animals being most illegally moved overseas in large numbers. These species bring a huge price in illegal selling in USA, and Asian countries. It was also shown a lot of illegal movements happen within keepers themselves and with people holding catch and release licenses. A major concern brought forth was that of allowing snake keepers and people with catch and release licenses to join wildlife groups as this has shown a very easy way a person can obtain reptiles. The NPWS Compliance officer said in his presentation many caught were such people; something for us all to be very aware of and concerned about. Recent investigations resulted in the seizure of some 300 native reptiles from five alleged offenders.

Mammal animal keeping: a sub group met on the 18th September 2018 and it was raised that further public consultation should occur on this issue, since the Discussion Paper did not specifically seek comments on mammal keeping and as a result, interested stakeholders had not provided submissions on this issue. This was supported by NWC, WIRES, RSPCA IFAW and other concerned animal welfare groups.

The concerned animal welfare groups have written to the Minister of the Environment expressing their concerns and strongly opposing any changes to the current OEH policy. NWC has written to the Minister requesting to address her on this matter. On writing this report there has been no word back from the Ministers office, we will follow this up.

Mammal Society of NSW noted their proposal to list 44 species is to be implemented over a period of time. NWC, Wires, and RSPCA raised concerns with any proposal to expand the private keeping of mammals, due to the welfare issues already seen in dogs and cats and other mammals kept as pets.

We further noted that native animals don’t make good pets as they will retain their natural habits and tendencies to be wild. We provided the example of kangaroos raised from young becoming unmanageable when fully grown and we could see a possible increase on more unwanted and unreleasable animals been handed into wildlife groups. Outcome from that meeting was OEH to consider further public consultation on current policy of keeping mammals, subject to the Minister’s response to the correspondence from a number of wildlife and animal welfare groups.

From all the Stakeholders meeting held the topic of an expanded list of native mammals that can be kept as pets is by far the most concerning. It is one that will indeed negatively affect our wildlife if this proposal is allowed by the Minister.

The OEH Stakeholders meeting have taken up much of my time since we last met but I feel we have to be in that room at all meetings having a voice for our native fauna. I would like thank RSPCA and IFAW for their ongoing support throughout these meetings.

I would like to wish you all and your families a Very Merry Christmas and that 2019 is a good year for you all bringing you good health and little more wealth would be nice.

I would like to thank all the wildlife groups in NSW for the great work, kindness , care and help they have all given to our wonderful native fauna; remember without us all the hard working volunteers out there our wildlife would not get that help for a second chance in life.

**Always take pride and be proud of the work we all do!**

Warm regards all,

Audrey Koosmen

18 November 2018

Chair NWC.

**FLYING-FOX CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE & STAKEHOLDERS**

**MEETING NOTES (not minutes) – Meredith Ryan, NWC**

**10am – 12pm Wednesday 24 October 2018**

**59 Goulburn Street**

**Chair: Linda Bell (OEH)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Attendees**  | **Phone** |
| Mike Roache (OEH) | Chris Slade (Forestry Corporation) |
| Peggy Eby (Scientist) | Tim McGrath (Dept of Environment and Energy) |
| Storm Stanford (Batwatch) | Peter West (Orchardist) |
| Tim Pearson (NCC) | Paul Toni (WWF) |
| Neil Franklin (DoH) | Myles Parker (DPI) |
| Vanessa Wilson (OEH) | Glenn Fahey (Orchardist) |
| Kerryn Parry-Jones (Scientist) |  |
| Evan Quartermain (HSI) Substitute | **Apologies**  |
| Matthew Mo (OEH) | Jacquie Maisey (NWC) |
| Meredith Ryan (NWC) | Keira Glasgow (DoH) |
| Debbie Roden (RSPCA NSW) Not present |  |
| Aly Bunton (NSW Farmers) |  |
| Chris Hudson (LGNSW) |  |

1. **Welcome, introductions and minutes from the last meeting**

*Attached (not) paper:*

*Draft Minutes – Flying-fox Consultative Committee, 10 July 2018*

* 1. New members:
* Debbie Roden (RSPCA NSW)
* Chris Hudson (LGNSW)
1. **Draft Code of Practice**
	1. Update on progress – *After a review of public input the document has been crafted into a revised Code subject to legal review and consideration by the Minister. Release process is not known at this stage. If a decision is made we anticipate it might be released this year but again the Minister may delay. There was some really good feedback much of which has been incorporated.*
2. **Camp Management Policy**
	1. Update on implementation – *M. Mo. Background Update: Clarence Valley - large influx of flying-foxes at Maclean. 10K plus, due to prolific flowering. Proposals submitted for tree removal and disturbance of flying-foxes. Camellia gardens – discouraged roosting. Eurobodalla CMP up for public comment. Bathurst Regional Council Level 1 action planned if ffs return. Weekly raking leaves debris and faeces and cleaning park benches.*

*We are looking to update results of Billy Roberts work with P. Eby on outcomes of dispersal actions, 91 applications to disturb, create buffers, etc. have been approved. . Need better understanding, Focussing on GHFF and Black FF. We are using 2 independent sources of info per camp.*

* 1. Review of Camp Management Plan Template
* *Attached (not) paper for information: Flying-fox Camp Management Plan Template 2016 –*
* *Need to communicate outcomes from attempts for dispersal. Feedback received that there are some required changes. Template is designed to inform land managers. Need clear instructions, and to provide more guidance on selective use and update legal provisions to the new Act. More stakeholder consultations will take place – KPJ will be included in invitation to comment. It is positive that template is being used but in some cases every area has been unnecessarily completed.*
	1. Flying-foxes Grants Program – *funded through OEH to Local Government NSW – started in 2016. Chris Hudson advises some Schools have been able to use funds to access further funds to build stronger structures – e.g. sailcloth covers are not considered suitable and have been replaced with more solid covers. Dispersal in Sutherland. Handfuls of Councils still finishing off delayed projects and we are hoping these can be all wrapped up by Dec this year. We hope to extend the program and are trying to secure funding. Programs will be reviewed (via recipients or applicants as yet unknown?) e.g. car cover. Have they been successful in mitigating impacts, have they changed community feelings? KPJ Murrurundi School was successful – this was direct funding and not via a Council grant. Council was proactive with direct contact with those affected. Working on Councils to help them communicate with affected ratepayers. Not a huge take up by Councils on offers.*

1. **Habitat restoration and modelling**
	1. Update on predictive habitat modelling projects – *M. Mo. Finalising 2 projects 1 habitat characteristics comparing sites – define what flying-foxes select for. Being close to water source, flat topography identified, but equally there are very inclined sites - KPJ . Intention is to map possible flying-fox habitat in NSW to identify potential areas for future conflict. Scope Phase 2 identifying new camps and how ffs change habitat of camps. We are trying to understand why ffs select new camps (other than food resources) – this data could feed into habitat restoration projects*

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* 1. Update on Habitat Restoration Program – *10 year program funded via Environmental Trust. $5M funds flow through to ff habitat restoration. An expert advisory group of 11 people convened with first workshop to be held 23/11 – discussion paper in final draft is about to be released to the advisory group. Contracts – habitat mapping, ground truthing. We need to make sure we are spending funds in the best possible way. Important to set up and the design to be the best program it can be – strong community engagement and education component, building on what has been done before. We would like to see it as a flagship program that we can count on: great to have for other environment programs. It is a testament to the Environment Trust allowing a project over such a length of time. Thanks given to Mike Roache for getting this project moving. Maximise result for ffs by involving other parties – bush regenerators, habitat restoration – ones that may be outside the direct scope of the project.*
1. **Draft Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting project plan**
	1. Update on draft MER project plan
* *Attached paper for discussion: Draft grey-headed flying-fox MER –* SOS
* *The project focuses on conservation, population trends, threats, MER plan drafted for comment – challenges monitoring diverse species, Want comments.* ***Q?*** *from phone – how to report new camps?* ***A*** *– through the ¼ ly CSIRO camp monitoring program we identify new camps. Also the Flying-fox land managers network. Is there opportunity to inform real time data on whether camps are active? M Roache looking to roll out this type of info collection. VW – email to report camps – need to make sure we explain what a camp is. PE Might be helpful to go to the state agencies before the quarterly camp counts. KPJ used to run a Camp Watch – looking for ways for citizen scientists to provide info. Caution needed due to time and resources. Real time monitoring, evidence you can track individual movements – Justin Welbergen exploring radar tracking of movements.*
* ***M. Mo seeking feedback by end of November****. (attach report)*
1. **Health**
	1. Update – *Info for 2017 report zoonotic diseases. Report available for* ***ABL*** *on NSW Health Website–* [*https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Reports/Publications/zoonoses-reports/nsw-zoonoses-annual-report-2017.pdf*](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Reports/Publications/zoonoses-reports/nsw-zoonoses-annual-report-2017.pdf)

***Summary:***

***Rabies/ABL:***

* *689 exposures requiring prophylaxis – 219 from Australia balance occurred overseas);*
* *23% worked in hi risk fields incl wildlife volunteers and vets.*
* *Of 124 bats submitted for testing, 4 tested positive.*
* *Post/exposure vaccinations $860,000 dollars.*
* *74% of exposures were for megabats.*
* *26% of exposures live in Northern NSW followed by 9.6% Hunter.*

***Hendra:***

* *280 reports of sick horses. 3 positives, mostly were unrelated colic.*
* *1 family with 2 children with moderate risk assessment others were low risk assessments.*
1. **Impacts on orchards**
	1. Update on shooting licences – *No update. No applications this season – so far so good. Is there a 2017 report? Not published.*
2. **National issues**
	1. Update on census program – *Nothing much has changed – funded only until mid 2019. Issue on real time data. Currently chasing up latest count data – Feb 2018 latest data shown. CSIRO presentation first up in Cairns workshop on 8/11/18.*
	2. Draft GHFF Recovery Plan – Federal – Include 8.3 in these notes. *Flying-foxes were raised by NSW to be on Agenda for Environment Ministers meetings in April 2018. Ministers agreed that conservation management requires national collaboration and all Ministers would reply to the Parliamentary enquiry report. It is positive the subject was raised to the top level. Received some helpful information from NSW Govt – 4 recommendations. Written to all other state enviro agency heads seeking similar information. Some positive feedback from ACT and NSW – Qld SA Vic have yet to respond.*
	3. Parliamentary inquiry into flying-foxes – see above – *will be finalising response distributing back to State Agency Heads for comment. As it currently stands it is unlikely to go to meeting of Enviro Ministers – hoping by end of this year to have a final Commonwealth response to the States – internal process to follow – Minister response, etc before leaving the Feds. What is being proposed is to put forward the National Recovery Plan for the GHFF to implement national co-ordination to Fed then to state Enviro Ministers. - anticipating a formal response will happen early 2019. What would national co-ordination look like in practise? National recovery plan – statutory doc under the act with support processes. There would be a funding pool with national investment for these actions. Confirmation was sought MR and given on this funding Question.*

*KPJ would import/export licences moving across borders be part of this plan or would this aspect be a State issue? No answer.*

1. **Increasing pressures on rehabilitation groups**
	1. Update – Include Heat Stress Events – *Need for guidelines of some form. Group formed to progress development of some guidelines. Not yet successful in bringing together a set of guidelines. Task was transferred back to Ecosure who said they would draft a document for comment. Jess, Ecosure, wants to get a draft doc out before 8/11/18 Bat forum. What process to follow? Who should be the responding people/agencies? Different camps may require different responses depending on humidity, veg types/layers. If people have been having success with a different strategy they will not be receptive to change. Rehabilitation point of view: In the past there has been little help from outside bodies. Experience of people who have been managing these events until now is invaluable. Need more data on temperature, mortalities, etc and volunteer person-power resources haven’t enabled this yet. What can trigger outside resources to respond to a heat stress event? KPJ’s Report on the Heat Proofing of Colony Sites details some of the outside assistance to heat-proof camps.*

*Is this the reference resource on dehydration in wildlife? A. Fowler.* www.awrc.org.au/uploads/5/8/6/6/5866843/**fowler**\_**anne**\_fluid\_therapy.pdf

*We need to explore collaborative approaches to responses without bogging down with unrealistic goals and unachievable inputs.*

1. **General Issues**
	1. Any other issues - *Cairns forum 8/11/18 update from each state on actions. M. Mo will be giving presentation on behalf of OEH.*

*Vaccination assistance for rehabbers: VW - There might be an opportunity here in responses to the rehabilitation discussion paper. SS - Has NWC approached vaccine distributor for assistance? Wires negotiated with Sanofi for a discount rate on the cost of Rabies vaccine.*

1. **Close 11.50 and next meeting** (*tentative date Wednesday 20 February 2019*)
1. Chair follow up report from James Fitzgerald [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. S Lorigan goat milk analysis to Secretary to pass on [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Secretary to inform AMIC [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. K. Parry-Jones – recommendations for heat stress actions in flying-fox camps – including current recommendations where suitable. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Secretary investigate discounted rabies vaccinations for groups [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Secretary advise NPWS of need for sea snake rehabilitation protocol [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Secretary obtain MWE report form and distribute [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Secretary to provide Telstra Digital Office Technology (DOT) details to TVWC. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. L. Hall – Invite Dr. Koa Webster to February NWC meeting. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)