

Koala Expert Advisory Committee - Terms of reference

To provide advice to the Minister for Roads and Freight about:

- The adequacy of the Koala Management Plan prepared for Section 10 in the context of the requirements of the Commonwealth approval conditions.
- Recommendations to improve the Koala Management Plan.
- Any other advice the Committee considers relevant to improve the management of koalas for future road upgrades.

In providing this advice it is expected the Committee will be supported by the RMS and, as necessary, will draw on expertise wider than the RMS for appropriate advice on:

- The appropriate framework to consider the acceptability of impacts on koalas.
- The validity of the scientific methods proposed to undertake population viability modelling for the Ballina koala population.
- Any proposals to manage and mitigate potential impacts on koalas in Ballina as presented in the Koala Management Plans, including the Ballina Koala Plan for the populations as per condition D9 of the NSW Government approval.

Chair and Membership:

The Committee will comprise:

- Professor Mary O'Kane, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer (Chair)
- Mr Peter Duncan, Chief Executive, Roads and Maritime Services (or delegate)

Two independent experts

- Professor Katherine Belov, the University of Sydney.
- Associate Professor Jonathan Rhodes, University of Queensland.

[The Chair of the committee retains the right to engage additional independent advice to support its considerations.]

Observers

The Committee may invite observers from relevant agencies to attend its meetings.

Quorum

A majority of members of the Committee must participate in Committee meetings.

Meeting frequency and milestones

The Committee is expected to meet to discuss all major milestones in the review process and at other times as decided by the Committee.

Major milestones are the:

- review of the population viability analysis undertaken on behalf of RMS for Section 10 of the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade; and
- review of the Koala Management Plans including the Ballina Koala Plan

Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by Ms Julie Ravallion, Senior Environmental Specialist (Biodiversity).

Reporting timeframes

It is expected that the Committee will report to Minister at the completion of each major milestone and provide a final report before 30 December 2015.