

Draft Meeting Minutes
Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Duralie Mine Site
Thursday 8th February 2024

Attendees:

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council
Cr Katheryn Smith	MidCoast Council	Noel Smith	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Matthew Clinch	CCC Member
Graham Chase	Yancoal Australia	Brian Eastoe	CCC Member
Micheal Bird	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	James Harris	CCC Member
Paul Kellner	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd		
Ella Bullivant	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd		

Guests:

Andrew Morris – Catchment Management Coordinator, MidCoast Council
Caitlin Orr – Koala Research Project Manager, MidCoast Council

1. Site Tour

Nil due to weather. Next site tour to be held before the August 2024 meeting.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:37 pm and introduced:

Micheal Bird – Acting Operations Manager, Duralie Coal
Graham Chase – Mine Closure Project Manager, Yancoal Australia
Paul Kellner – Mine Closure Supervisor, Duralie Coal
Caitlyn Orr – Koala Research Project Manager, MidCoast Council
Andrew Morris – Catchment Management Coordinator, MidCoast Council

Apologies: Mr Rod Williams, Ms Annette Baldwin, Mr James Harris, Mr Jarrad Galvin, Mr John Cullen

3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Ms MacDonald-Hill declared that she is the Independent Chair, approved by the Secretary of the Department of Planning & Environment.

The declarations of the Duralie CCC members remain current.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10th August 2023 were confirmed.
Moved: Brian Eastoe, Seconded: Kathryn Smith

5. Guest Presentation

MidCoast Council presented an overview of Ms Orr's Koala Project, followed by Mr Morris' Beyond the Shed project and other recently completed projects, along with proposed projects for 2024 and 2025.

Mr Eastoe suggested that a future relationship between the Koala Project and Duralie Coal could be beneficial for mine rehabilitation. Mr Kirkwood agreed that there could be benefit in partnership between the projects in the future regarding the biodiversity offsets.

6. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Ongoing Action Item:** DCPL to include updates and progress of the rehabilitation and mine closure planning in the reports to the CCC.
2. **Ongoing Action Item:** The CCC's print media to be drafted following each CCC meeting and provided to the committee for comment prior to finalising and submission by DCPL.

Ms MacDonald-Hill raised the question of the relevance of releasing print media following the CCC meetings as the minutes and presentation are uploaded to the website, and that community updates are provided through the Stratford and Duralie updates. Mr Kirkwood confirmed that the updates will continue during the mine closure process. Mr Eastoe suggested that the CCC release information that they deem relevant after each meeting. Cr Smith suggested that the CCC and community information could be released in printed form as well as in public spaces such as the Gloucester Library. Ms MacDonald-Hill said she would discuss the topic with all CCC members, and for the topic of whether any media needed to be released from this meeting to be determined at the end of the meeting.

3. **Ongoing Action Item:** MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each November on the spending of the Gloucester and Great Lakes components of the Duralie contributions made to Council. Council's report was sent to the committee in early November. No questions were received.
4. **Ongoing Action Item:** DCPL to provide Mr Clinch with the number of redundancies/transfers and workforce demographics.
Mr Clinch advised he has not yet received a report on the number of redundancies/transfers and workplace demographics. Mr Bird discussed the recent redundancy rounds at Stratford Coal and explained the options for crew as the mine closes (eg. transfers, redundancies). Mr Clinch voiced concern that transfers could remove skillsets from the community, and requested more information about the workforce demographics. Mr Kirkwood proposed discussing specific details of Mr Clinch's request after the meeting and stated that data could be provided subject to privacy considerations.
5. **New Action Item 2:** Committee to sign off on Terms of Reference (TOR) and finalise all declarations and code of conduct with the Chair to meet department requirements.
Ms MacDonald-Hill confirmed that the requirements have been met and that the committee agreed to the TOR in September 2023.

7. Correspondence

Chair noted the correspondence. No further discussion ensued.

8. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

DCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities.

1. **Activities at the Mine:** (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*)

As discussed in the previous meeting on 10 August 2023, the CCC presentation format was updated to reflect focus on closure and rehabilitation rather than operations.

Mr Eastoe suggested that information within the annual review needs to be submitted to the CCC members before being forwarded on to the department. Mr Kirkwood and Ms MacDonald-Hill advised that the Annual Review is provided to the CCC following acceptance by the Department and is not required to be provided to the CCC before submission to the Department.

2. Environment & Community Activities including monitoring and community programs: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Eastoe requested a section on capacity building be added into the CCC presentation. Mr Kirkwood stated that Duralie Coal will continue to provide updates on the Community Support Program, which will prioritise applications for community socio-economic transition projects. Mr Chase provided further details on the Community Support Program, stating that applications will reopen in August giving the community an opportunity to apply to receive funding for specific projects.

Mr Eastoe stated as the RMP risk assessment lists capacity building within its attached risk assessment, it should be included in future presentations. Mr Kirkwood acknowledged that the RMP Risk assessment includes the term capacity building and added that Yancoal would be continuing to update the CCC with regards to socioeconomic transitional support within the Community Support Program updates.

Ms MacDonald-Hill raised a question on behalf of Ms Baldwin regarding communication between Duralie Coal and the CSP grant recipients and follow up procedures after the allocation of funds. Mr Kirkwood confirms that successful applicants are required to provide a plan of project updates at the time of application and at the times designated.

Mr Eastoe asked about the final void water level and the purpose of geochemical testing. Mr Chase described that the mine closure planning was on-going and iterative, with closure studies to be finalised to confirm the expected final void water level. Mr Chase explained that geochemical testing intends to validate the waste material within the Duralie waste emplacements. Mr Eastoe asked which areas are being tested and how many dams will remain on site, to which Mr Chase replied that drill hole locations representative of the entire waste emplacement are being tested. Mr Chase noted that the detailed mine closure plan will confirm the final dams.

Mr Eastoe questioned high EC levels in early 2023 for the South Drain monitoring site and whether it is being investigated. Mr Kirkwood explained that the particular monitoring site tests water that is diverted to the Main Water Dam which is retained on site. Mr Chase added that some of the groundwater springs in that area had naturally high EC which contribute to the elevated results.

9. General Business

Mr Clinch asked Ms MacDonald-Hill for clarity regarding the government Royalties for Rejuvenation fund, questioning whether there was potential to access part of the \$25M in funding. Ms MacDonald-Hill confirmed she was aware changes had been made in the Government budget last year and committed to seek further information.

New Action: Ms MacDonald Hill to seek further information surrounding the Royalties for Rejuvenation fund.

Mr Clinch raised a discussion surrounding the proposed Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH), requesting to receive further information.. Mr Clinch suggested the Business Chamber could host an open meeting.

Mr Clinch raised further concern regarding visual amenity, property prices and impacts to potential regional tourism. Mr Kirkwood stated that these concerns would be provided to the SREH team. Mr Chase informed the group that the Scoping Report included an indicative timeline, and that there is a SREH contact details on the website.

Mr Clinch questioned as to whether it has considered Minerals X (or other coal companies) as an option for post mining land uses. Mr Chase responded that the CHPP is currently listed for sale online through a third party. Mr Kirkwood and Mr Bird advised that at a site level, they are not aware of any purchase proposal by Minerals X.

Ms MacDonald-Hill read an email from Mr Plain following his departure from Duralie Coal and on behalf of Rod Williams requested an appreciation letter be sent to Mr Plain. Ms MacDonald-Hill confirmed that she will write a thank you letter to Mr Plain on behalf of the Duralie CCC.

Ms MacDonald-Hill asked the group if there was any relevant media to be produced from this meeting, to which Mr Eastoe confirmed there was not and the group agreed.

10. Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

2024 proposed Meeting dates:

- Thursday 8th august

Meeting closed at 2:55 PM.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. **Ongoing Action Item:** The CCC's print media to be drafted following each CCC meeting and provided to the committee for comment prior to finalising and submission by DCPL under review by Chair.
2. **Ongoing Action Item:** DCPL to provide Mr Clinch with further information regarding redundancies/transfers and workforce demographics.
3. **New Action Item:** Ms MacDonald Hill to seek further information surrounding the Royalties for Rejuvenation fund.

Project goals

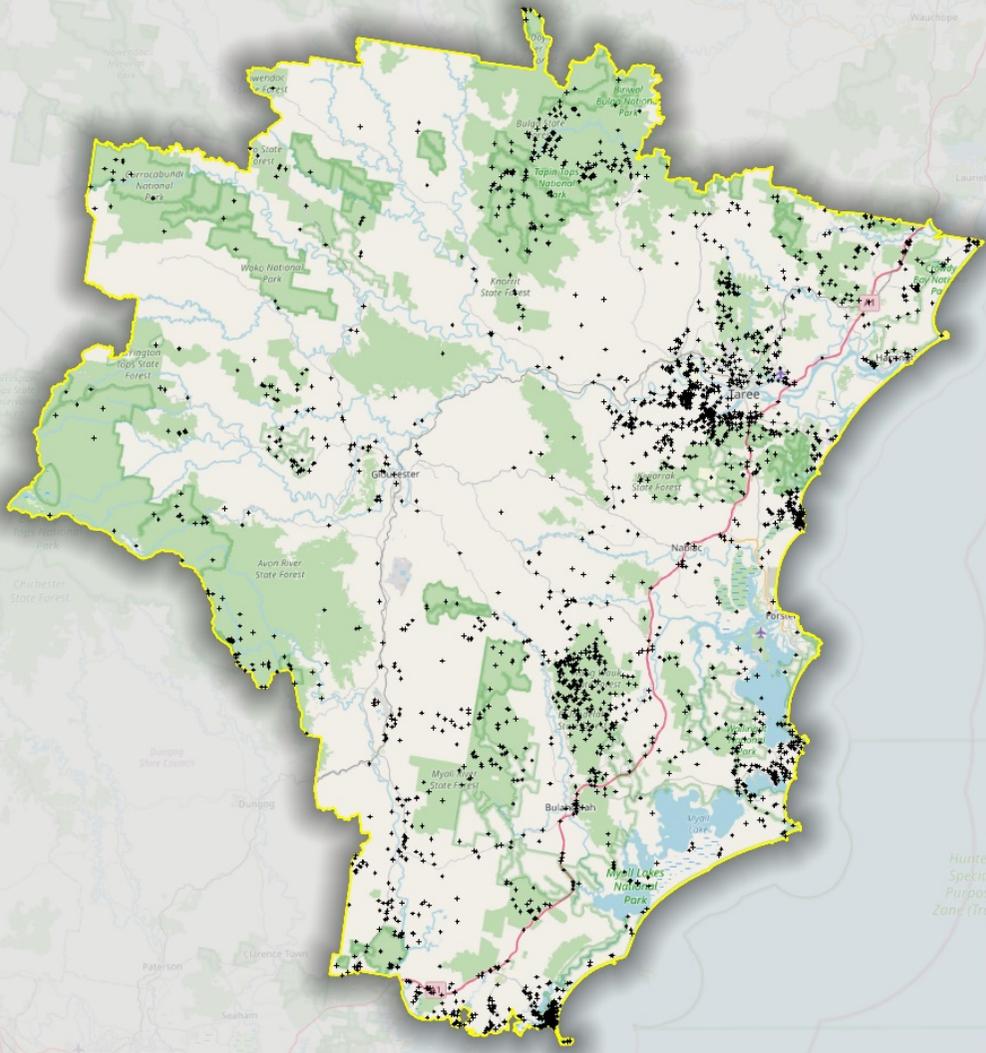
NSW Koala Strategy pillars

1. Habitat conservation
2. Supporting communities to conserve koalas
3. Improving the safety and health of koalas
4. Building knowledge

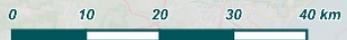
Long-term benefits for all wildlife



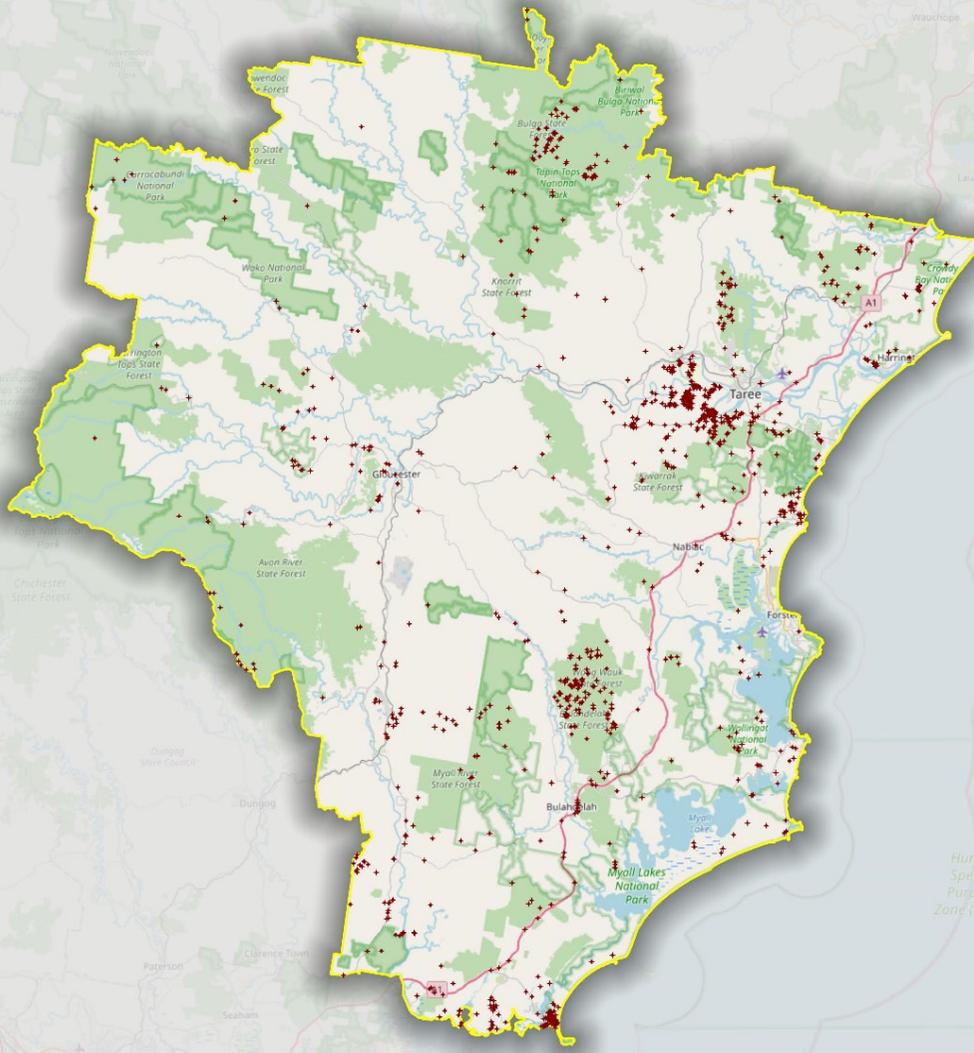
Koala sightings in MidCoast LGA
data source NSW BioNET - all records



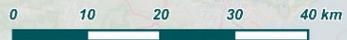
Legend
+ Koala sighting
(total count = 6821 - NSW BioNET - Aug 2023)
MidCoast LGA boundary

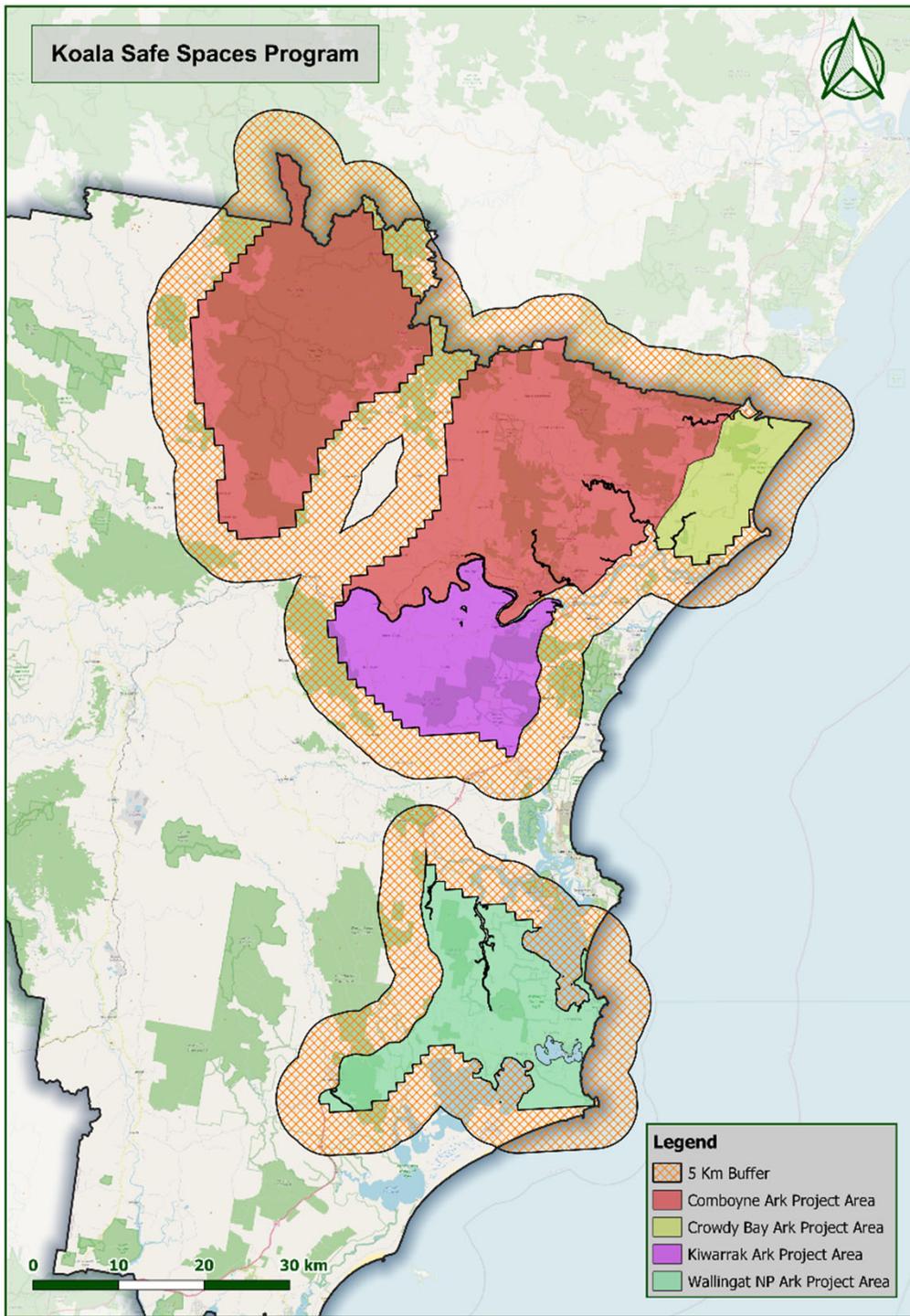


Koala sightings in MidCoast LGA
since Jan 2013 - data source NSW BioNET



Legend
+ Koala sightings for the past 10 years
(total count = 2360 - NSW BioNET - Aug 2023)
MidCoast LGA boundary





Habitat improvement funding

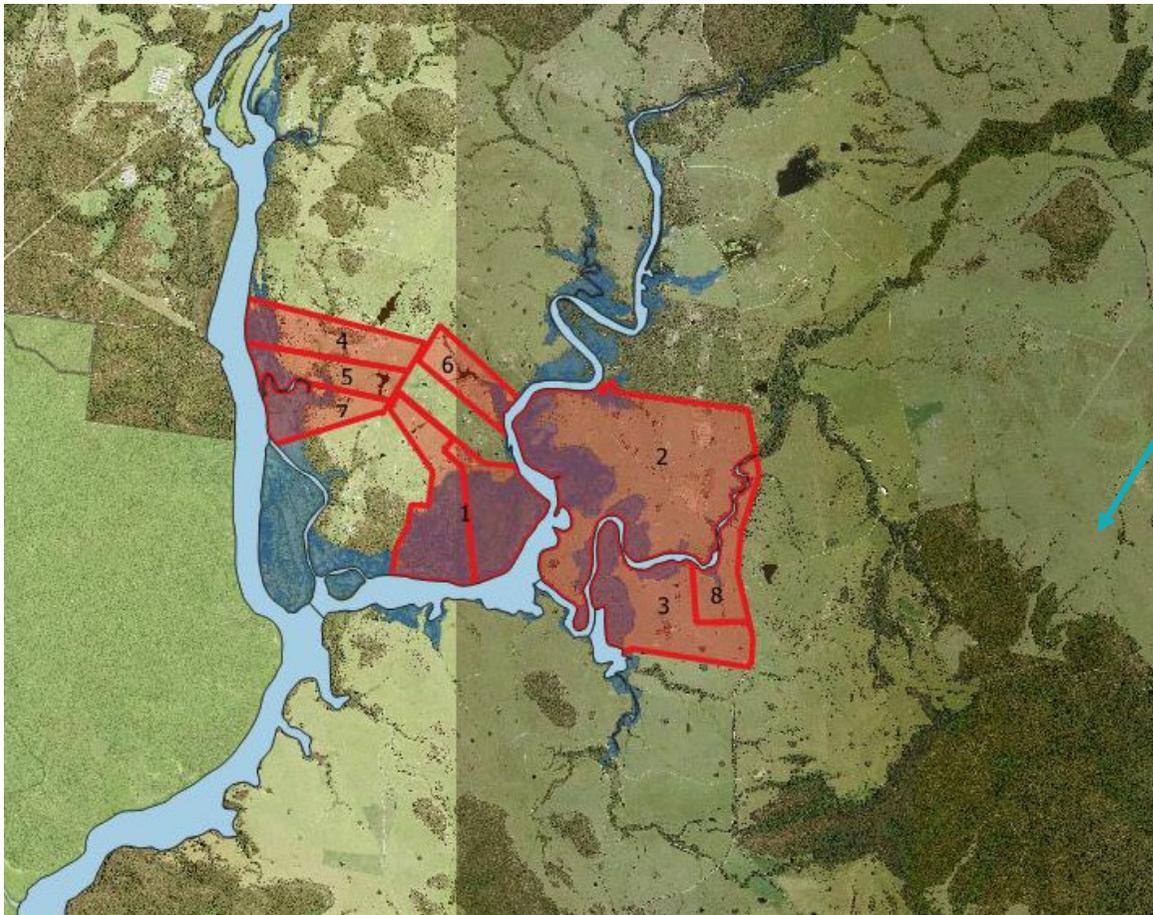
Questions?





1. Karuah Catchment Management Grants Program

2. Major demonstration project



- 8 neighbouring properties
- 270 hectares of wetlands protected
- 30 hectares of riparian land protected
- On-farm land-management outcomes



Fig.1 Active gully erosion occurring on Ford Property



Fig.2 Active gully erosion occurring on Ford Property



Fig.3 Active gully erosion on Ford Property



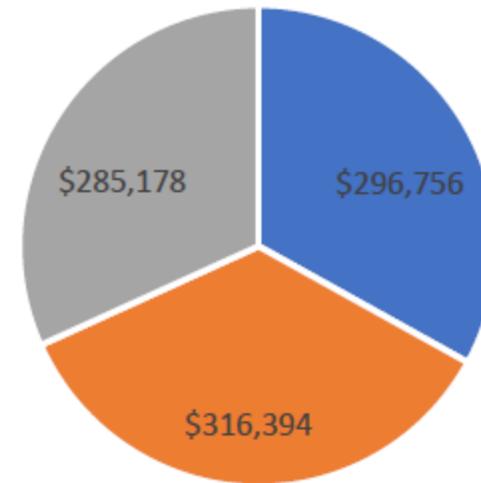
Fig.4 Construction of the rock cascade drop structure

- 4x bed control structures
- 1 x stable rock crossing at end of works
- 1.27 km fencing
- 3.54 Ha enclosed
- 880 plants

3. Beyond the Shed



Beyond the Shed Stages 1 & 2 onground investment



- Government contribution*
- Farmer's cash contribution
- Farmers labour contribution**

Beyond the Shed



Soil sampling

34 operating intensive poultry farms in Karuah/ Wallis/ Myall Lakes area



Nutrient mapping

- Agronomic advice
- Compost advice
- Farm planning advice
- Advice around value and sale of litter

27 farms have done nutrient mapping and discussed the results onsite with LLS, MCC and agronomist



On ground works

27 on ground projects across 19 farms such as fencing, off stream watering and guttering of sheds (to redirect water away from nutrient-rich ranges).

4. Landscape and Bushfire Program



4. eDNA testing of upper Karuah and community workshop



Upcoming

1. Beyond the Shed Stage 3
2. Birds on Farms (Commenced)
3. Private Land Conservation Officer (Commenced)
4. Sustainable farming program with Landcare & LLS
5. Karuah fauna studies and community engagement (focus on prioritising locations and interventions)
 - Giant-barred Frog (Commenced)
 - eDNA



24/25 – On ground works program targeting private landholders:

- Riparian corridors – Platypus and Giant-barred frog habitat
- Birds on farms – protecting natural assets on farm incl native veg, waterways, dams.
- High-nutrient pastures (BtS Stage 3)





