

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
DIRECTOR-GENERAL BRIEFING NOTE

SUBJECT: Agile Wallabies at Mission Beach

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Director-General Comments: Date/...../.....
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RECOMMENDATION

Action Required by: DG – Minister's meeting on 29 January 2014

- It is recommended the Director-General:
 - note** the information provided regarding the South Mission Beach wallaby problem for discussion with the Minister.

BACKGROUND

- The management of a problematic population of agile wallabies in South Mission Beach became a more prominent public issue in January.
- The situation is reported to have started after Cyclone Yasi in 2011, possibly as a result of wallaby habitat being significantly impacted in other areas.
- Residential areas and vacant lands in South Mission Beach are providing the animals with easy access to food, water and shelter.
- Damage Mitigation Permits have been issued to rural landholders in the area to shoot wallabies causing damage to crops and pasture.

ISSUES

- The community is divided on this issue and the council has so far not accepted responsibility for managing it. It has publicly flagged that it will call a public meeting in February to allow management options to be explored but has not committed to leading the debate nor applying for a Damage Mitigation Permit, if required as part of the solution.
- The available options for managing wallabies in this situation is attached (**Attachment 1**)

RISKS

- If the department steps in to address the Mission Beach wallaby issue, it will set an ongoing precedent regarding the level of staff on-ground involvement in general wildlife management.
- Media reports have suggested that EHP and the Council are 'at war' over whose responsibility the wallabies are. A public meeting is not the appropriate forum to resolve these issues with council and the department would recommend a pre-meeting to endeavour to work through council concerns and position.
- Non-action by the state could elicit criticism from advocates favouring removal. EHP could be accused of abrogating its responsibility for the animals.
- Direct action by the department is likely to set a precedent regarding the level of on ground involvement in broader wildlife management issues, such as flying foxes or other problematic wildlife. The department's role has been limited to dangerous wildlife (crocodiles and cassowaries) or specific animals posing an imminent threat.
- It is unlikely the state can compel a local government to act or to apply for a DMP, nor can the state act ostensibly on behalf of, and in absence of council's direct action, and then bill it at a later date—legal advice would need to be sought should the state wish to consider these matters further.
- There is a risk that the residents of South Mission Beach will take matters into their own hands with consequences for animal welfare and human safety and increasing tension and hostility between community members.
- NOTE:** The Mission Beach Wallaby issue is likely to gain additional prominence given announcement that the next community cabinet (23-24 February 2014) is in Tully and Mission Beach

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

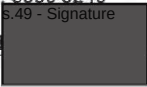
- Using EHP's capacity, or paying a contractor to complete the work will have financial implications.

CONSULTATION

- North Region staff have liaised with Cassowary Coast Council and members of the public regarding this issue.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1. Options for managing wallabies

Author Name: Sally Egan Position: A/Director, Wildlife Management Tel No: 3330 5512 Date Drafted: 20 January 2014	Branch Endorsement Name: Geoff Clare Position: ED, NCS Tel No: 3330 5390 Date Endorsed: 22 January 2014	DDG Endorsement Name: Tamara O'Shea Position: DDG, CCS Tel No: 3330 6240 Signed  .. Date <u>28.01.14</u> .
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RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Options for managing wallabies in this situation include:

- Lethal take of animals in town – shooting. This has occurred in town centres in western Queensland over the years with police assistance. In this case, the police don't want to be involved. N.B. Under our legislation a macropod cannot be shot from a moving platform (any sort of vehicle that is moving).
- Tranquillising of animals with a dart gun and removing from town for either release or euthanasia. Similar issues with discharging a firearm in a built up area.
- Trapping animals, tranquillising and removing from town for release. Trapping is likely to attract public interest and animals may prove difficult to trap. N.B. It is not permissible to provide an authority for trapping or mustering of a macropod for the purpose of taking, so animals would need to be released. At this stage, we don't know if there are suitable areas for release, particularly for a significant number of animals. As it is generally acknowledged that the population is overabundant, this is an unlikely option.
- Catching animals (using nets, not traps), tranquillising and removing or euthanizing. There are 500 odd wallabies in the count from yesterday, so this would take some time and attract public attention.
- Driving animals from town – it is lawful for someone to drive macropods, however not for the purpose of trapping or taking. So animals would need to be dispersed from the town area without killing or harming them. If the animals return to agricultural areas and are subsequently shot under DMP, this is not illegal as the purpose of driving them was not specifically to allow them to be killed.
- Luring animals from town using some sort of food attractant (carrots, sweet potato, pony pellets etc.) – this constitutes take under the Act (just the activity of luring) but can be authorised along with euthanasia once the animals are outside built up areas. This would take time and trials on suitable food attractants would be required.
- Driving, luring or trapping and removal, release of animals and fencing of the areas that are attracting the animals to town.
- EHP staff will continue to liaise with Cassowary Coast Council to establish the best solution to the wallaby problem and encourage the council to address the issue at least on council land.
- The preferred method of addressing the issue is to gently drive the animals out of the town area. Negotiations will need to occur with rural landholders who will experience an increase in numbers.
- Residents should be informed regarding their options to use sound, light and noise to deter wallabies from gardens and lawns and encouraged to fence land to exclude animals.

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
DIRECTOR-GENERAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Director-General

Approved	Not Approved	Noted
Further information required		
DG: <i>[Signature]</i>		
Dated 21/8/13		

SUBJECT: Overabundance of agile wallabies at Mission Beach

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the Director-General:
 - **approve** the proposed strategy to encourage Cassowary Coast Regional Council and local landowners to apply for a Damage Mitigation Permit for lethal take of agile wallabies at Mission Beach. (Please refer to locality map of Mission Beach – Attachment 1.)
 - **note** that this approach takes the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the department) outside its usual role as a regulator and monitor of wildlife activities under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.
 - **note** the strategy puts the health and wellbeing of the community as the central consideration of the decision.

BACKGROUND

2. The department estimates there are around 1200 agile wallabies in the South Mission Beach area with a large number of these in the urban area. This is considered an excessively high number for the area.
3. This population has increased in the last five years, which the department believes is likely due to unusually favourable weather conditions leading to abundant grazing opportunity.
4. There are three Damage Mitigation Permits (DMPs) authorising destruction of agile wallabies held by farmers in the local area.
5. The department's role with respect to nuisance wildlife is principally to assist in supporting others in managing it via issuing necessary approvals. There are, however, two long standing and notable exceptions, being cassowaries and estuarine crocodiles, where the department directly manages these dangerous animals in the wild for human safety reasons.
6. Minister Cripps as the local member has raised this matter with Minister Powell in five letters.

CURRENT ISSUES

7. The wallabies are being aggressive causing a nuisance to local residents and causing damage by overgrazing.
8. The department believes that the local council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, is best placed to manage the public amenity impacts from these animals. Councils around Queensland already play a leading role in this regard, through their work to manage nuisance flying-fox roosts and other problem species, such as ibis and magpies.
9. However, council does not want to address the matter and believes that this matter falls within the state's jurisdiction. The Cassowary Coast Regional Council has not applied for a DMP to manage the impact of wallabies within the residential area of Mission Beach. Mr Terry Brennan, CEO, Cassowary Coast Regional Council wrote to Minister Powell on 5 June 2013 (CTS 13514/13) requesting the department to take the lead to resolve this issue (Attachment 2).
10. There is the potential to set an unintended and unwanted precedent for similar situations around the state, both with macropods (e.g. Croydon), and other species (e.g. ibis in south east Queensland), if the department was to take the lead in removing these animals.
11. The options:
 - i. Pro-actively approach council and local landowners with a plan for them to apply and carry out the DMP. The department would recommend that council lead the DMP co-ordination and consider adopting one of the two strategies in Attachment 3. The preferred option, this

Rec'd - ODG
1 AUG 2013

Author Name: Christine Ambruster Position: Administration Officer, WMU Tel No: 3330 5820 Date: 12 July 2013	Cleared by Name: Rebecca Williams Position: Director, WMU Tel No: 3330 5512 Date: 18 July 2013	Cleared by Name: Geoff Clare Position: Executive Director, NCS Tel No: 3330 5390 Date: 30 July 2013	Recommended: Name: Tamara O'Shea Position: DDG, CSS Tel No: 3330 6240 Date: 31/07/13
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- reinforces the department's role in advice, but not responsibility, for the on-ground implementation.
- ii. Take no action – the department's role under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* is to monitor and regulate wildlife management in Queensland. Criticism from Minister Cripps, council and landowners will continue.
 - iii. As per option i, but with the department leading and paying for operation. Least preferred option, as it not only has a high immediate financial cost, it would set a precedent reversing the strategies that are evident with flying-fox roost management and species management such as magpies and ibis.

CONSIDERATIONS

12. *Budget*: The preferred option has been developed to have no department involvement in the implementation. The department may choose to audit carcasses for compliance with the code. Compliance action will be undertaken with existing resources.

13. Consultation:

- The Premier's office has received two letters outlining a resident's concern of aggressive behaviour of the wallabies. (CTS 09659/13 and CTS 16868/13)
- Minister Cripps, as the local member, has received numerous reports of aggressive behaviour and health and safety concerns and over-population - (CTS 08903/13; CTS 05772/13; CTS 11037/12; CTS 14139/13, CTS 16931/13, and CTS 17768/13). Minister Cripps released a media statement outlining his preferred option – Attachment 4.
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council to be involved in consultation (CTS 13514/13).

14. Legislation:

- The department does not carry out culling of problem macropods other than in exceptional circumstances and in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service. An example of exceptional circumstance is an aggressive male kangaroo that is an imminent threat to people in an urban environment.

15. Key Communication Messages:

- The department's media message that has been conveyed highlighted the following:
 - i) Health and Safety of residents, not to approach wallabies;
 - ii) If possible, to regularly mow lawns, and use appropriate fencing;
 - iii) Take care when driving vehicles on dawn and dusk; and
 - iv) The agile wallabies at Mission Beach are not a subspecies.
- There is an online petition against the department with 2,385 signatures as at 10 May 2013 (2755 as of 9 July 2013). The petition is being organised by the Cassowary Coast Wildlife Shelter, which also has a Facebook site with a link on the Australian Society for Kangaroo Facebook with over 107 comments against this cull.

The following media coverage of this issue has occurred.

- 1 April 2013 Townsville Bulletin 'Petition against farmers' wallaby cull'
<www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2013/04/19/379675_news>
- 1 April 2013 Townsville Bulletin editorial 'Wallabies taking over'
<www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2013/04/30/380356_talknorth>
- 27 April 2013 Townsville Bulletin 'Cull or cuddle row gets dirty'
- 30 April 2013 ABC News 7.30 Report 'Mission Beach wallaby cull underway'
<www.abc.net.au/news/2013-04-30/mission-beach-wallaby-cull-underway/4659584?section=qld>
- 10 May 2013 ABC Blog 'Beach loving wallabies thrive at South Mission'
<http://blogs.abc.net.au/queensland/2013/05/beach-loving-wallabies-thrive-at-south-mission.html?site=northqld&program=north_queensland_mornings>
- 8 June 2013 ABC News 7.30 Queensland 'Invading wallabies targeted at Mission Beach'
<www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-07/invading-wallabies-targeted-at-mission-beach/4741644>

Author Name: Christine Armbruster Position: Administration Officer, WMU Tel No: 3330 5820 Date: 12 July 2013	Cleared by Name: Rebecca Williams Position: Director, WMU Tel No: 3330 5512 Date: 18 July 2013	Cleared by Name: Geoff Clare Position: Executive Director, NCS Tel No: 3330 5390 Date: 30 July 2013	Recommended: Name: Tamara O'Shea Position: DDG, CSS Tel No: 3330 6240 Date:
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16. *Election Commitment*: An election commitment to put the health and wellbeing of the community as the central consideration of the decision.

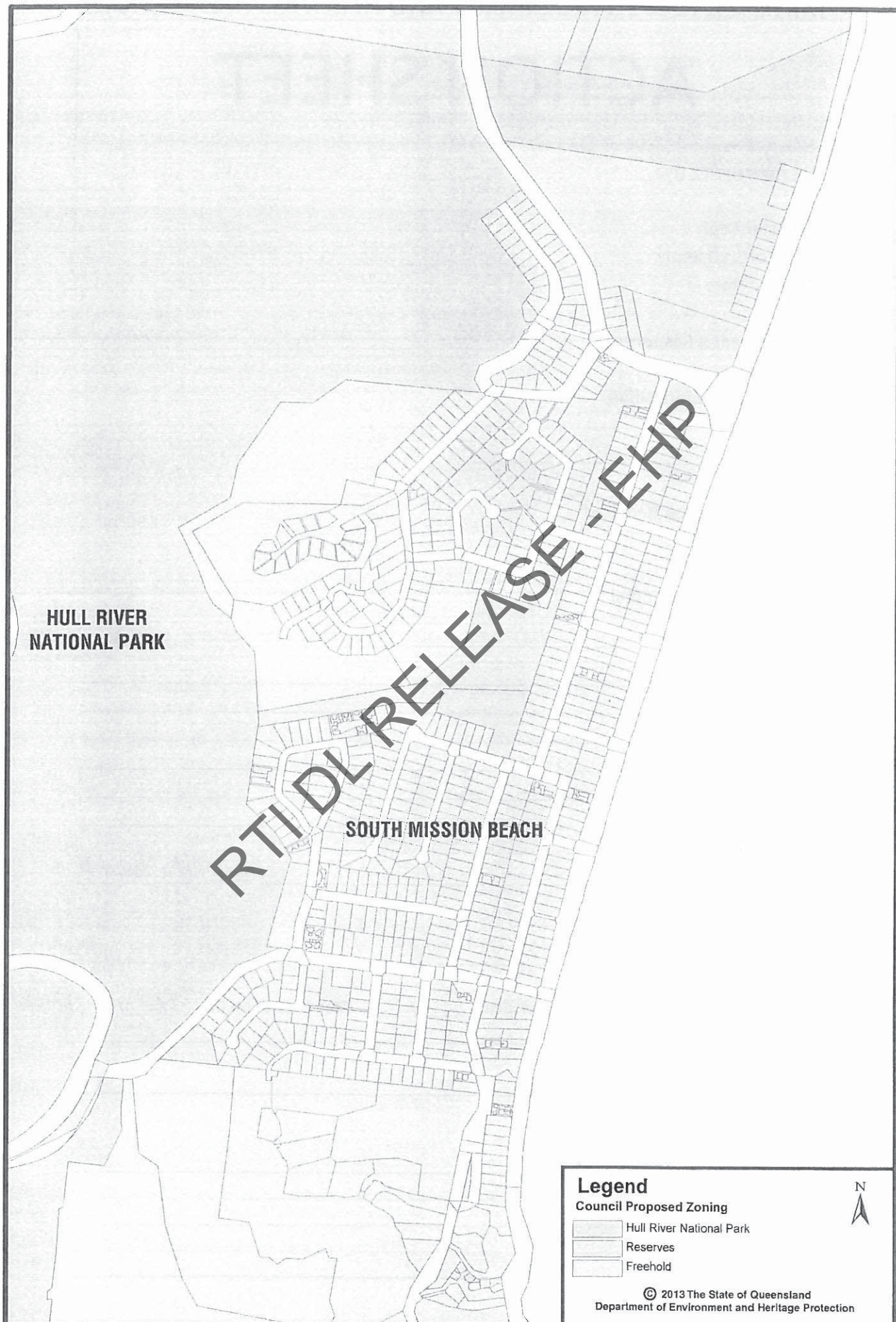
DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S COMMENTS

Plum prepare a note to min
outlining the approved strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 - Map of South Mission Beach
- Attachment 2 - Letter from Cassowary Coast Regional Council dated 6 June 2013 requesting that the department takes the lead in managing this issue.
- Attachment 3 - Strategies for management of agile wallabies in South Mission Beach
- Attachment 4 - Media statement from Minister Cripps

Author Name: Christine Armbruster Position: Administration Officer, WMU Tel No: 3330 5820 Date: 12 July 2013	Cleared by Name: Rebecca Williams Position: Director, WMU Tel No: 3330 5512 Date: 18 July 2013	Cleared by Name: Geoff Clare Position: Executive Director, NCS Tel No: 3330 5390 Date: 30 July 2013	Recommended: Name: Tamara O'Shea Position: DDG, CSS Tel No: 3330 6240 Date:
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MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION

ACTION SHEET

MINISTER'S OFFICE USE

- ☒ Minister Reply
☐ Chief of Staff Reply
☐ Briefing Note

- ☐ Departmental Response
☐ Department Action
☐ Department Information

☐ Refer to: _____

☐ No Further Action Required

☐ Copy to
 ○ Director-General

Comments:

Signature: _____ Date: 11/6/13

MECU USE

TO: _____ Dept Ref: CTS _____/_____/_____ Due Date to MECU _____/_____/_____

RELATED CORRESPONDENCE: _____

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER COMMENTS:

13514/13

PLEASE QUOTE

YOUR REFERENCE:

OUR REFERENCE: DS:lb LB1305301104

ENQUIRIES TO: Damon Sydes (07) 4043 9176

5 June 2013



Hon. Andrew Powell MP
Minister for the Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

Agile Wallaby Population in the South Mission Beach Residential Areas

South Mission Beach has historically had a resident population of the Agile Wallaby, *Macropus agilis*, a species native to Australia and protected under the *Nature Conservation Act (1992)*. Over recent years favourable conditions have led to a large increase in numbers in the area and resulting concerns over private property damage, road safety and the welfare of these animals.

This matter was discussed at the Local Government Meeting held on 23 May 2013 and a recommendation endorsed that Council request the Wildlife branch of your Department to take the lead in managing the Agile Wallaby population in the South Mission Beach residential areas from a whole-of-community perspective on the basis that:

- The wallaby population is mainly affecting private landowners and residents;
- The affects of the wallaby population on Council Land are of a lesser nature;
- Council cannot apply for Damage Mitigation permits on private land unless it first develops an Area Management Plan; and
- If Damage Mitigation permits were issued to private landowners:
 - (a) Council does not have the resources to monitor individual actions taken by permit holders; and
 - (b) Such action could result in community polarisation
- Your department is already issuing Damage Mitigation Permits to affected landholders in the area.

As Cassowary Coast Regional Council staff does not have the resources, relevant qualifications or experience in Native Wildlife Management, Council is now seeking your Department's assistance in leading the management of the Agile Wallaby Population in the South Mission Beach residential areas.

Yours faithfully

Terry Brennan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MANAGEMENT OF WALLABY NUMBERS IN SOUTH MISSION BEACH AREA

AIM: To provide management strategies that would result in a reduction of the agile wallaby population within the South Mission Beach urban foot print by 70%.

STRATEGY 1

Overview

The plan is to dart the agile wallabies with tranquiliser within the urban zone over a two-week period and transport the animals to a safe location for euthanasia.

Project Details

A central command post will be established on the outskirts of the urban zone in South Mission Beach. This post would be manned by an incident controller and a team of three people.

Two teams of shooters will be on site. Each team will be made up of one police officer, and at least one RSPCA officer, and one council ranger. Each team will require a covered truck with driver to assist with the collection of animals after the tranquiliser has been administered via the dart gun.

Each team will be responsible for an area of open grass land identified as the largest cleared areas within the urban zone. (Assessment has shown that these sites currently hold up to 100 animals and there are at least four sites).

The shooter will identify the target. The other officers will be stationed around the cleared area and will all give an all clear signal to the shooter before the shooting of darts commences. (This procedure needs to be expanded to be effective and safe, so this is a general outline only).

Animals will be collected and transported via a covered truck to an identified facility within 30km of the area. A veterinarian and RSPCA officer and three others will be stationed at this location where euthanasia will be carried out. It would be helpful if the dump site could be within the same area.

The on-ground activity should only occur for approximately 2–3 hours every third day for two weeks. The veterinarian site will likely require longer staffing hours and is estimated to be anywhere up to six hours. Multiple vets maybe required—this would need to be discussed with vets to clarify timing and process.

Communications

To be via UHF handheld radio between each team and a central command post. SES should be able to assist with this aspect of the operation.

More personal communications should be via mobile phone.

Project Considerations

The dart guns will only hold tranquilisers, therefore reducing the risks to any person in the area.

There is a high likelihood of protesting by a local group of wildlife carers. This group should be informed of the project and the police should be able to assist with the management of this group.

Officers that are not part of the two main groups should be in attendance in the main command post to help with the interactions with the community and media if required.

Safety Considerations

Within an urban zone the chance of interaction with the general public will be high. We need to make sure that each dart gun shooter is accompanied by at least three other officers, including one police officer, and that before each shoot, the area is visually cleared of people and that shots can be made with clear objectives.

By using tranquilisers and groups such as the Queensland Police Service (QPS), SES and council staff and rangers, the site should be able to be kept safe and secure while the operation is occurring.

Stakeholder engagement

Local QPS officers will need to be in attendance and will need to approve the plan.

The local community will need to be informed of the plan and asked to stay indoors during the active periods of the plan.

The management of the area and the closure of roads and other safety barriers could be manned by the SES.

STRATEGY 2

Project Plan

The plan is to use groups of officers on quad bikes and on foot to drive the wallabies out of the urban zones towards a nearby farming area. This process will take place between 1700 to 1900hrs for three nights a week for three weeks.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) would issue a DMP to the local farmer for 700 agile wallabies on his property. It is recommended hiring a number of professional licensed macropod harvesters to carry out the task of shooting these wallabies.

This operation will be carried out over three nights a week for three weeks.

The shooting will comply with the current National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes 2008.

Inspection each day after the culling will be carried out by EHP staff in conjunction with RSPCA staff. The department may audit the carcasses for compliance with the code.

Safety Considerations

After night one, if protesters are detected, police should be engaged to prevent access to the farm.

Project Considerations

A small excavator would be needed to dispose of all carcasses each day.

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Mission Beach wallaby cull underway

By Aliyson Horn

Updated Tue Apr 30, 2013 11:36am AEST

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-04-30/mission-beach-wallaby-cull-underway/4659584?section=qld>

Map: Mission Beach 4852

Hinchinbrook MP Andrew Cripps has defended a State Government decision to allow wallabies to be culled at Mission Beach, south of Cairns in north Queensland.

Mr Cripps says four mitigation permits have been granted to landholders in the area and culling has started.

He has also asked the Cassowary Coast council to also apply for a permit.

Mr Cripps says the animals are posing a safety risk to residents.

"The huge increase in the number of wallabies is having a real impact on the community, damage to property," he said.

"They're becoming a significant road hazard in the area and a number of them have been unfortunately hit on the roads and I think that people really need to consider that in the future, there'll be a situation where the availability of food reduces."

Mr Cripps says the council should do its part to reduce the safety threat of the wallabies.

"There's no doubt that the wallabies are causing problems for residents at Mission Beach," he said.

"The department is quite prepared to work with the local council through this process and I would encourage the council to give consideration to applying for a DMP [damage mitigation permit] given the increase in the wallaby numbers."

However, Cassowary Coast Mayor Bill Shannon says the control of the wallabies should not be a council responsibility.

He says he is against council applying for a culling permit.

"Now to be told that council's got something to do with culling wildlife in South Mission Beach astounds me," he said.

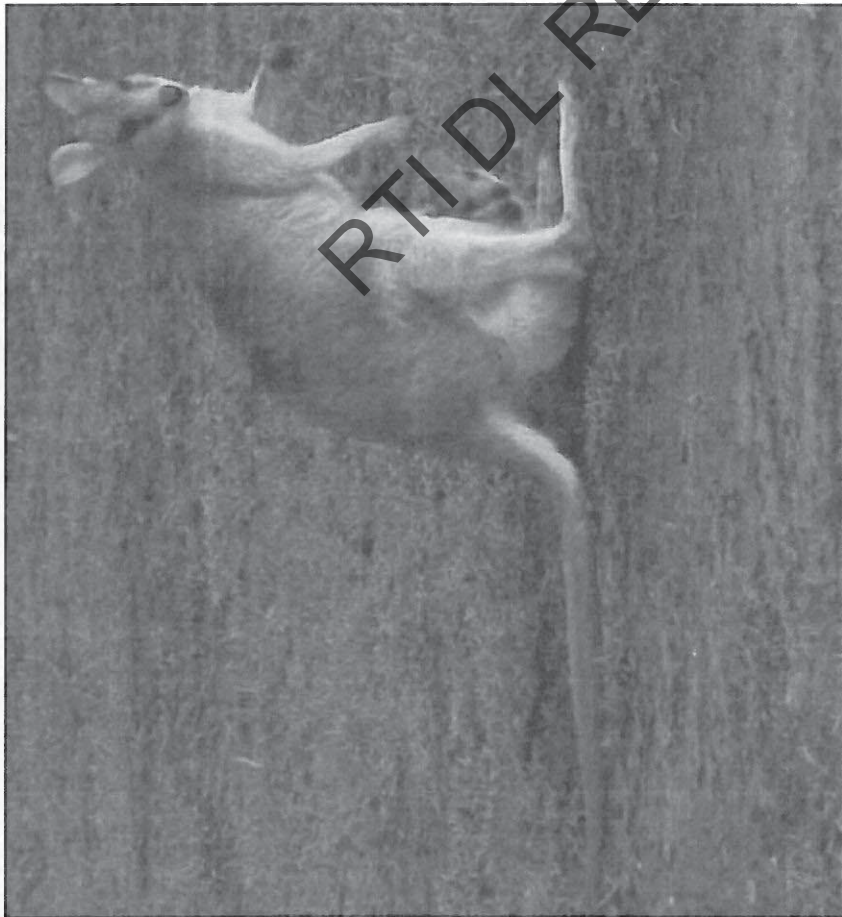
"The numbers of wallabies in South Mission Beach are quite high, very high but how to control them I believe is a responsibility of Queensland Parks and Wildlife.

"Council is not interested in taking out a control measure against wallabies in South Mission Beach for the simple reason that discharge of firearms in a residential area is completely inappropriate.

"Now the only thing that we would consider would be some sort of move-on mechanism and anyone who knows a little bit about wallabies and kangaroos would probably come to the view that that would be pretty ineffective."

Topics: endangered-and-protected-species, local-government, community-development, regional, environmental-management, mission-beach-4852, cairns-4870, townsville-4810

First posted Tue Apr 30, 2013 9:43am AEST



Cassowary
Coast
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT
"AGILE WALLABY - *MACROPUS AGILIS*"

Draft Document For Discussion

Possible Options for Management

Theme	Possible Action	Risk (High, Med, Low)	Estimated Cost	Comments
Awareness Raising	Prepare information kits covering Ecology, Health and individual actions that can be undertaken.	Low	Minimal	Could be developed by Community, Environment, Wildlife Carer's Group or Research Institution.
Research	Invite research institutions to research current population and dynamics.	Low	Unknown	Could be part of a postgraduate programme.
Habitat Modification	Improve maintenance of urban areas i.e. increase in mowing to reduce cover provided from broadleaf weeds.	Low, potential increase in foraging habitat	Low	May require enforcement approach for absentee or non compliant landholders. Needs to be sustained.
	Corridor repair – replanting open spaces.	Low, transfer problem onto remaining open spaces.	Medium	Potential management of CCRC Reserves and National Parks to provide more suitable habitat for wallabies to move into. Increase shade cover on public land would have multiple landscape and amenity benefits.
Infrastructure (Public)	Increased vegetation cover on private blocks (reduce lawn size and grazing comfort).	Low	Low	Landscape design for deterring ability would have to be ascertained. Increase in landscape amenity in residential areas.
	Speed controls (humps/chicanes, coarse road cover) to slow traffic to reduce road strike.	Low, increase in vehicle noise.	High	Generally not a popular option in urban areas with low speed zones.
	Advisory signage i.e. Advisory speed limits, contact numbers (injured wildlife).	Low	Medium	Alert visitors to area of presence and risk of vehicle strike.

Theme	Possible Action	Risk (High, Med, Low)	Estimated Cost	Comments
Infrastructure (Private)	Reflectors on guide posts – scatter light.	Low, only work at night with car headlights.	Low	Possibly trial on road network in identified hotspots
	Street lighting in hotspot areas.	Low	High	intrusion into residential areas with increased light pollution.
	Fencing all or part of house yards, under high set/raised houses	Low, Solves individual problems only	Low	Higher costs dependent on style
	Sonic deterrents (vehicular fitted, wind driven or electronic).	Low, Unknown effectiveness.	Low	Potentially reduce chance of vehicle strike.
	Sonic deterrents (household devices).	Low, Unknown effectiveness, impacts on domestic or native wildlife unknown.	Medium	
Direct Management	Security lights (motion activated) may deter night time grazing.	Low, increase in light pollution.	Low	
	Relocation	Transfer problem, still require darting or other capture techniques.	High	Relocate outside release exclusion zone.
	Sterilisation provided in either feed or water points.	Ongoing costs, slow response time.	Medium	Long term approach to reduce fecundity, ongoing.
	Sterilise dominant males (dart or vasectomy).	Ongoing costs, slow response time.	High	
	Lethal control (shooting/lethal injection via darting).	Sensitive issue, high safety risks.	High	Short term improvement, repeat in consecutive years.

Pages 18 through 20 redacted for the following reasons:

s.48 - Parliamentary Privilege

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP



Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Ref CTS 28523/13

09 DEC 2013

Mr Terry Brennan
Chief Executive Officer
Cassowary Coast Regional Council
PO Box 887
INNISFAIL QLD 4860

Level 13
400 George Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3239 0844
Facsimile +61 7 3224 2496
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Brennan *Terry*

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2013 concerning your request for a representative of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to attend a managing agile wallabies community meeting at Mission Beach on 5 December 2013.

Unfortunately, I do not believe a community meeting to be the best course of action, especially in light of the division of views within your community. A community meeting of this type would potentially bring greater division. I understand that officers of the department have expressed this view to council officers in previous meetings and I concur with it.

However, I reiterate from our prior correspondence that departmental officers are able to provide council with advice on an effective strategy for the management of agile wallabies in South Mission Beach. Departmental staff are also available to discuss the different management techniques you could employ and advise on the Damage Mitigation Permit process that would enable actions to be taken to manage the agile wallaby population.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have further enquiries, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Troy Collings on 3719 7330.

Yours sincerely

ANDREW POWELL MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION

ACTION SHEET

MINISTER'S OFFICE USE

- ☒ Minister Reply
☐ Chief of Staff Reply
☐ Briefing Note

- ☐ Departmental Response
☐ Department Action
☐ Department Information

☐ Refer to: _____

☐ No Further Action Required

☐ Copy to
 ○ Director-General

Comments:

Signature: GS Date: 21/11/13

MECU USE

TO: _____ Dept Ref: CTS _____/____ Due Date to MECU _____/____/____

RELATED CORRESPONDENCE: CTS 13514/13

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER COMMENTS:

Frangi Spilsbury

From: Sands, Joanne <Joanne.Sands@ccrc.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 November 2013 4:58 PM
To: Environment
Subject: Managing Agile Wallabies - South Mission Beach
Attachments: AGILE WALLABIES.PDF

Dear Minister Powell

The **attached** letter is in reply to your correspondence dated 26 July 2013.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying to your correspondence in relation to Managing Agile Wallabies in the South Mission Beach area.

Should you require any further information regarding the community information session proposal please contact Damon Sydes, Coordinator Natural Environment on (07) 4043 9176 or e-mail at damon.sydes@ccrc.qld.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Sands | Community Services Secretary | Cassowary Coast Regional Council

P: (07) 4030 2202 | F: (07) 4061 4258 | E-mail: joanne.sands@ccrc.qld.gov.au

PO Box 887 Innisfail Q 4860 | <http://www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au>

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28523/13



PLEASE QUOTE

YOUR REFERENCE:

OUR REFERENCE: DS:lb LB1311060948

ENQUIRIES TO: Damon Sydes (07) 4043 9176

19 November 2013

The Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

Managing Agile Wallabies - South Mission Beach

I refer to your correspondence dated 26 July 2013 wherein you offered assistance from the Department to provide advice and potential strategies to address the management of the agile wallaby population at South Mission Beach.

Council's Special Projects and Planning section is planning an information session to provide the community with clear and factual information regarding Agile Wallabies.

The following topics have been identified in the development of a draft agenda:

1. Welcome and Council perspective on management (Mayor).
2. Agile Wallaby - population dynamics, ecological and reproductive information (EHP Wildlife Ranger).
3. Disease risk - urine and faeces.
4. Council statistics on road-kill collection data.
5. Australian Insurance Institute - insurance data for vehicle strike by post code.
6. QPWS - traffic management issues (QPS Representative).
7. Department of Environment and Heritage protection - overview legal framework for management of Native wildlife (EHP).
8. Discussion/closing remarks (Mayor).

The preferred date for the Community Information session is 5 December 2013, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at South Mission Beach; however, I understand that this is short notice for the Department. Would you please advise if a representative would be able to attend this session or alternatively nominate a more suitable date in the New Year?

Council would now like to accept your offer of assistance and requests that Environment and Heritage Protection officers attend the community information session to discuss:

1. Agile wallaby population dynamics and ecological information; and
2. The legislative framework surrounding the management of Native Wildlife protected under the Nature Conservation Act.

Would you please advise the contact details of the EHP officers nominated to assist with the community information session so that an Agenda can be distributed when plans are confirmed?

If further information should be required regarding the community information session proposal please contact Damon Sydes, Coordinator Natural Environment on 4043 9176.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours faithfully



Terry Brennan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP