

Noosa on Weyba to protect and increase koala population

The proposed Noosa on Weyba project has received strong support from leading koala expert, Dr Frank Carrick, for delivering a program, which will protect and increase the local koala population.

Dr Carrick - who is the ex-Professor of Zoology at Queensland University and one of the most highly respected koala experts in Australia - endorsed the project following his detailed review of the development application, which is now on public exhibition.

Dr Carrick said Noosa on Weyba will deliver a “modest net benefit” to the koala population, and has praised the proposed Community Title Scheme (CTS).

The CTS will deliver a number of measures including a yearly environmental levy, which would be used to provide better education about koalas for the broader community and assist with the control of feral animals.

These funds would also go towards the maintenance of the existing uncompleted koala exclusion fence along Walter Hay Drive.

This fence will be extended a further 2.5 kilometres by the developer to protect koalas from traffic. There will also be strict rules to police pet ownership with all residents and visitors required to register their pets to ensure owners take responsibility for their animals.

Noosa on Weyba development director Steve MacRae, the person behind the renowned Koala Beach project at northern NSW, said he has worked extensively with the team to ensure that the environmental levy, strongly supported by Dr Carrick, remains affordable so that the community will be able to attract a wide range of residents.

“We understood from the first day that we had to deliver a project that achieved world’s best practice environmental standards, while ensuring that the cost of achieving and maintaining those standards could be met by our future residents.” he said.

“We certainly believe we have achieved that goal given that we have achieved accreditation from EarthCheck for Triple Bottom Line Sustainability.”

The project will also provide and maintain fenced leash-free dog parks within the estate to ensure a safe environment exists for exercise and play away from native wildlife.

The body corporate will also have the ability to exclude particular breeds of dogs that are known to be predators of koalas and other native animals, and eject any animal which is not kept under strict control by residents or visitors.

Mr MacRae’s comments come after the Noosa on Weyba team acted earlier to correct some incorrect

myths and rumours that key individuals and groups have been spreading about the project.

“One of the misnomers out there is that our project is not koala friendly,” Mr MacRae said. “This could not be further from truth. Our project has a comprehensive Koala Management Assessment, which through a number of innovative and proven programs will not only enhance but increase the local koala population.

“This is further cemented by Dr Carrick’s support.”

Mr MacRae said another inaccuracy out there is the claim that the development is all in Noosa which is just plainly wrong.

“The majority of the development is actually in Sunshine Coast Council,” he said. “The draft community master plan is for 876 dwellings of which 490 are in Sunshine Coast Council and 386 are in the new Noosa Shire.

“All of the dwellings on the lake front and the main amenities will be in Sunshine Coast Council. No homes will be built within 60 metres of the shoreline and we’ll have strict building covenants in place.

“Our project will protect and improve the water quality of the lake by diverting run off into Lake Weyba to natural vegetation filters within the property while also providing much needed protection for koalas and koala habitats,” he said.



Australia’s leading koala expert Dr Frank Carrick.

The master planned community will only account for around 58 hectares of the total 303.3 hectare site and it will retain more than 240 hectares of green open space.

Noosa on Weyba remains the only project in Queensland to have received a Biodiversity Development Offset Area (BDOA) approval - a singularly difficult accreditation to

achieve and subject to rigorous examination.

The foundation of the BDOA is a declaration from the State to reserve 139.5 hectares of the site for koala habitat protection in perpetuity and expand the Noosa National Park.

For more information about the Noosa on Weyba project please visit our website at noosaonweyba.com.au