

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

Attendees:

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
Cr Katheryn Smith	MidCoast Council	Philip Greenwood	CCC Member
Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council	Norm Bignell	CCC Member
Micheal Bird	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Richard Clarke	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Anthony Berecny	CCC Member
Graham Chase	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd		
Ella Bullivant	Stratford 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.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:01 am and introduced:

Micheal Bird – Acting Operations Manager, Duralie Coal
Caitlyn Orr – Koala Research Project Manager, MidCoast Council
Andrew Morris – Catchment Management Coordinator, MidCoast Council

Apologies: Mr John Cullen, Mr Jarrad Galvin

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 Stratford CCC members remain current.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 23rd November were confirmed.
Moved by Mr Greenwood; seconded by Mr Bignell.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Action	Status
Annual Action Item: <i>MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each November on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.</i>	Next to be completed in November 2024
New Action Item 1: <i>SCPL to include groundwater monitoring results in CCC presentations.</i>	Completed
New Action Item 2: <i>SCPL to liaise with MCC regarding placing offset areas into LEP.</i>	Internal progress, will liaise with MCC further moving forward.

Ms MacDonald-Hill confirmed that an appreciation letter on behalf of the Committee has been sent to Mr Plain, following his departure from Stratford Coal.

6. Correspondence

Chair noted the correspondence log – no further discussion from committee.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at the Mine: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)
SCPL presented the Overview of Activities.
2. Environmental Management and reporting: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Lowrey questioned the fluctuation in pH at W3 monitoring location. Mr Kirkwood explained that this monitoring result was the product of semi-stagnation and farming interference. Mr Kirkwood noted that W3a is a supplementary monitoring location installed nearby to demonstrate water quality within Dog Trap Creek without the potential farming contaminate, Site W3a displayed no elevated results during this period. Mr Lowrey noted that the elevated results explanation should be included within the presentation.

Mr Lowrey stated that he had not received the blasting notification text messages for the January blasts. Mr Kirkwood stated there had been an internal error that resulted in the blast notification text messages not being distributed to Mr Lowrey and one other individual for the two blasts which occurred in January. Mr Kirkwood stated that notification distribution had been rectified following Mr Lowrey notifying SCPL of this in January.

Mr Greenwood raised concerns about the 5-string barbed wire fence along Glen Road and requested that Mr Kirkwood consider fencing options that are safer for wildlife. Mr Greenwood noted that he was specifically concerned about the possibility of Koalas getting injured. Mr Kirkwood agreed and explained that all new fencing being installed within biodiversity areas have a plain wire on the top and bottom to allow for safer wildlife passage.

3. Mine Closure Planning: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Cr Smith asked about the crew that would be working during mine closure and rehabilitation. Mr Chase explained that excavator and truck crews would be used for bulk material handling and that

staffing would likely remain consistent through that bulk earthworks, with a potential variation of contractors for specialist civil works. Mr Berecny asked about the number of shifts that would be run and how noise monitoring would proceed after mining ceases. Mr Kirkwood confirmed that noise monitoring will continue during earthmoving and reshaping works and Mr Chase added that two shifts would likely continue to run.

Mr Berecny asked about whether the CHPP will be sold, scrapped or reused by Yancoal. Mr Chase stated that Yancoal doesn't have approval to use the CHPP in the future and it is currently for sale. Mr Chase added, ideally the CHPP would be sold and reused, and that there had been multiple expressions of interest.

Mr Berecny questioned if the rail loop will remain after closure and Mr Lowrey inquired as to whether a new party could have access to it. Mr Chase stated that there is potential for the rail loop to remain, but it is not yet decided.

4. Stratford Renewable Energy Hub: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Lowrey raised concern over the location of the solar panels and questioned how much planning had gone into it as it was going to have a large visual impact in its current position. Mr Lowrey suggested that this visual impact would have a negative impact on privately owned land and was concerned as to whether rehabilitated land would also be covered by the solar panels. Mr Kirkwood informed the group that any rehabilitated land would need to be approved by the regulator and Mr Chase added that the SREH approvals are separate from the rehabilitation approvals.

Mr Greenwood inquired as to how the community has been reacting to the SREH. Mr Kirkwood confirmed that there has been a range of feedback from the community. Mr Lowrey clarified that he has an overall positive opinion on the SREH project, his concern is about the location of the solar panels and their visual impact on the community. Cr Smith and Mr Chase stated that the EIS has yet to occur and that it will include a visual impact assessment. Mr Lowrey expressed that he hopes Stratford Coal will assess the negative impact before it gets to that stage and Mr Chase noted his concerns.

8. General Business

MidCoast Council presented an overview of Ms Orr's Koala Project, followed by Mr Morris' Beyond the Shed project which is part funded by Duralie Coal Contributions in conjunction with grower and other contributions. Mr Morris also presented on other recently completed projects, along with proposed projects for 2024 and 2025. Mr Greenwood requested for carbon farming information discussed by Ms Orr and Mr Morris to be distributed to the CCC members. Ms Orr confirmed she can supply this information.

Mr Greenwood questioned whether any further consideration regarding allowing the RFS to access Stratford water sources during dry periods had taken place. Mr Fenning stated that MidCoast Council could provide Stratford Coal with some useful documents and advised that they had put together a plan. Mr Greenwood requested that it be confirmed as soon as possible, raising concern that it needed to be approved before the next dry period and Mr Lowrey agreed.

9. Proposed Meeting Schedule

2024 proposed meeting dates:

- 2nd May 2024
- 8th August 2024
- 14th November 2024

A site tour is proposed to be held prior to the next meeting.

Meeting closed at: 11:05 am

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. **Annual Action Item:** *MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each November on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.*
2. **New Action Items:** *MidCoast Council to provide relevant documentation and plan regarding the use of SCPL water sources during dry periods.*

Project goals

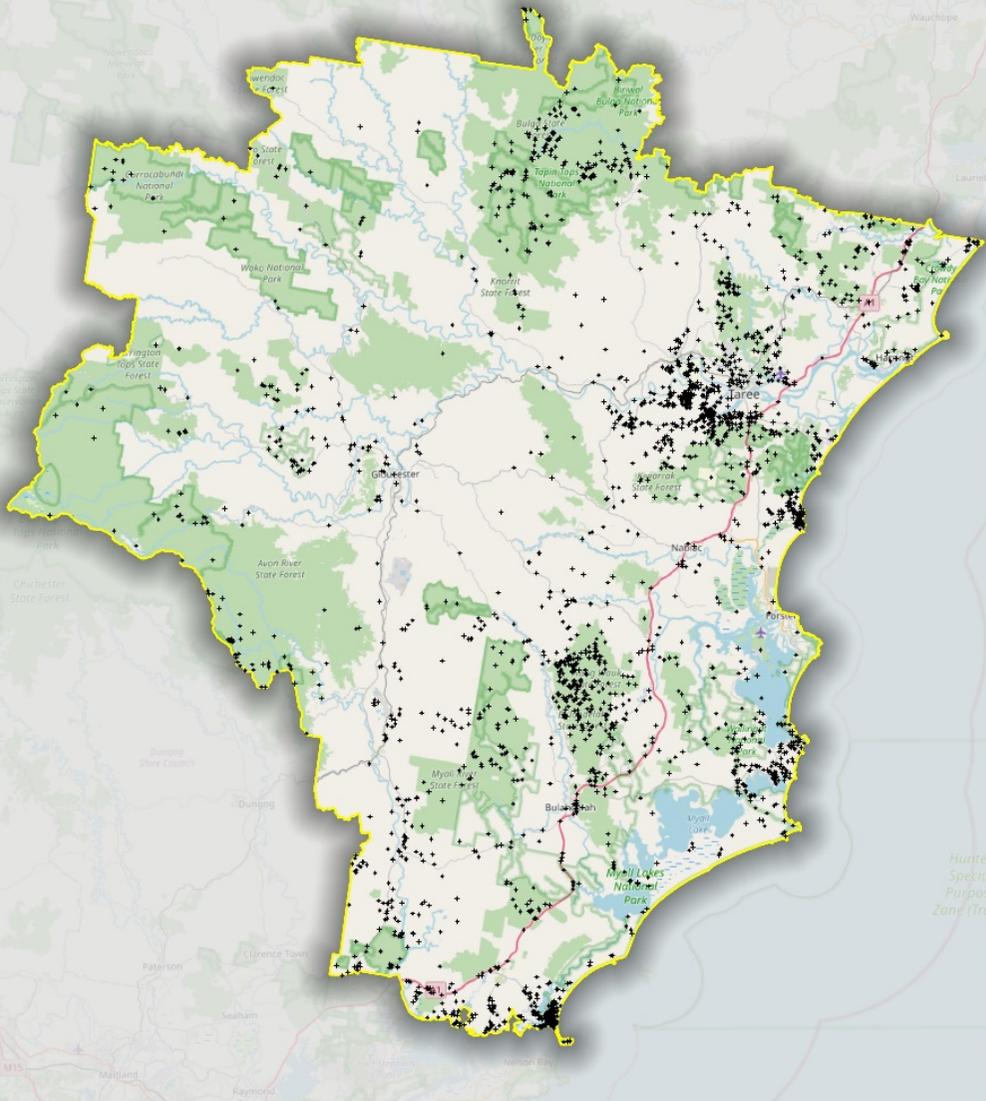
NSW Koala Strategy pillars

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



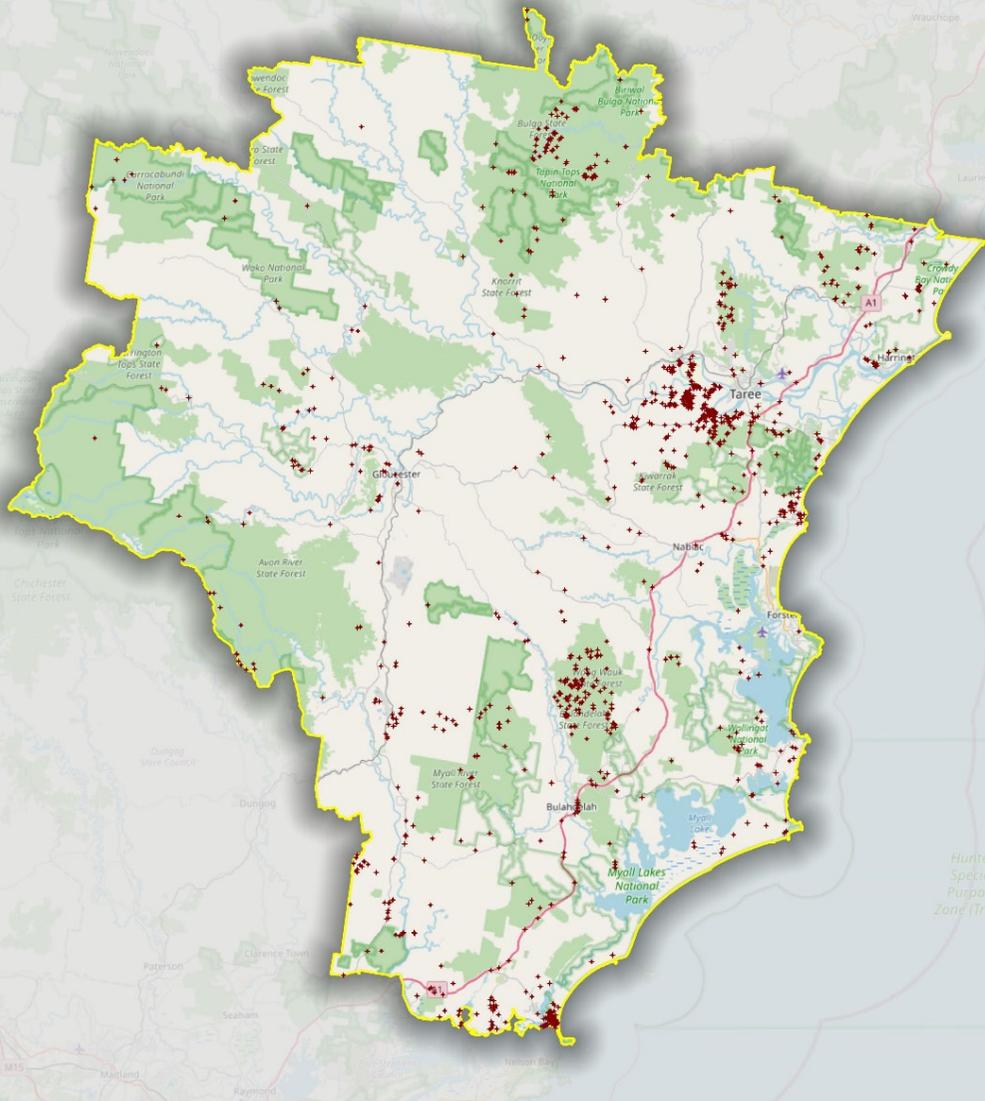
Koala sightings in MidCoast LGA
data source NSW BioNET - all records



Legend

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

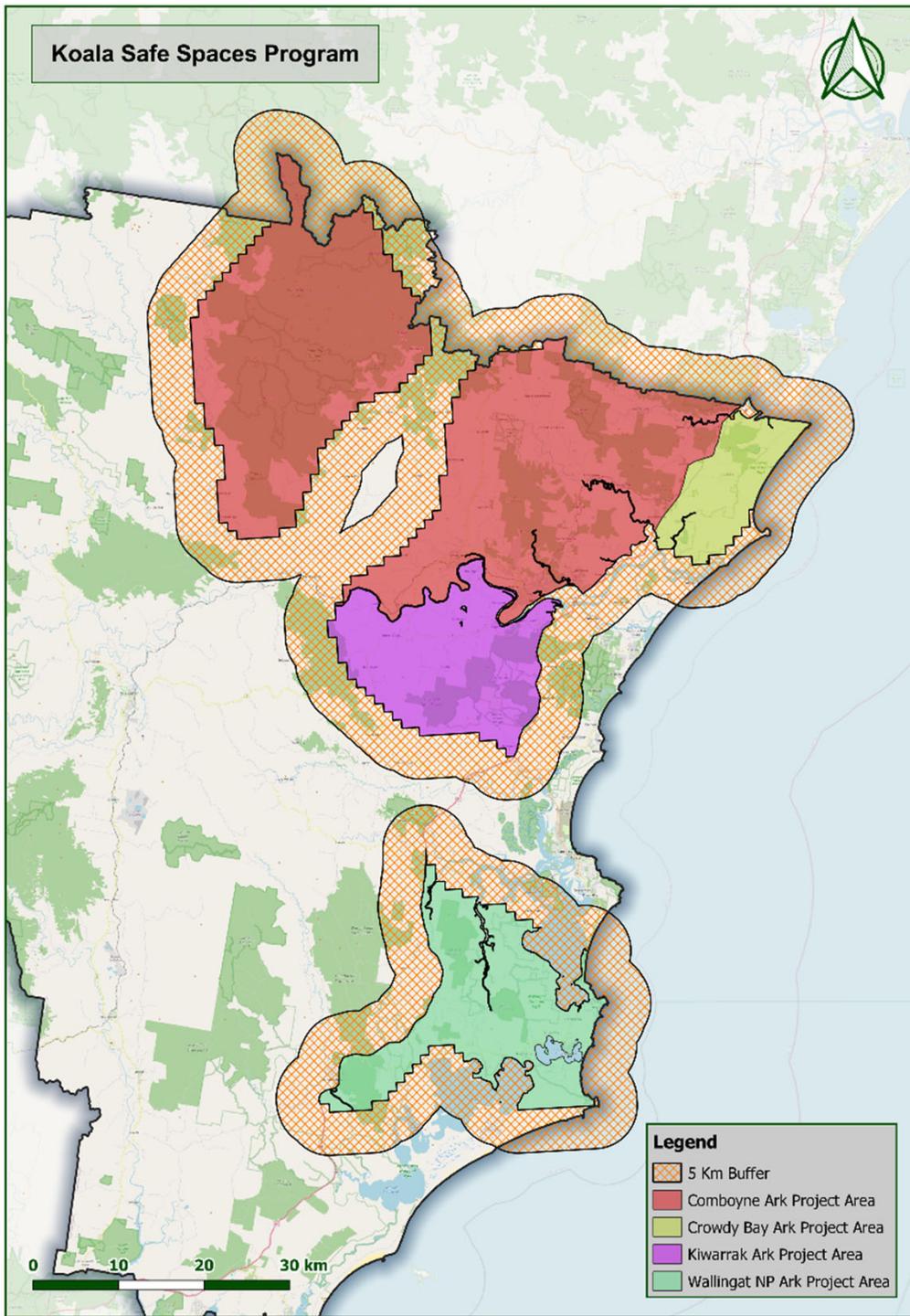
Koala sightings in MidCoast LGA
since Jan 2013 - data source NSW BioNET



Legend

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





Habitat improvement funding



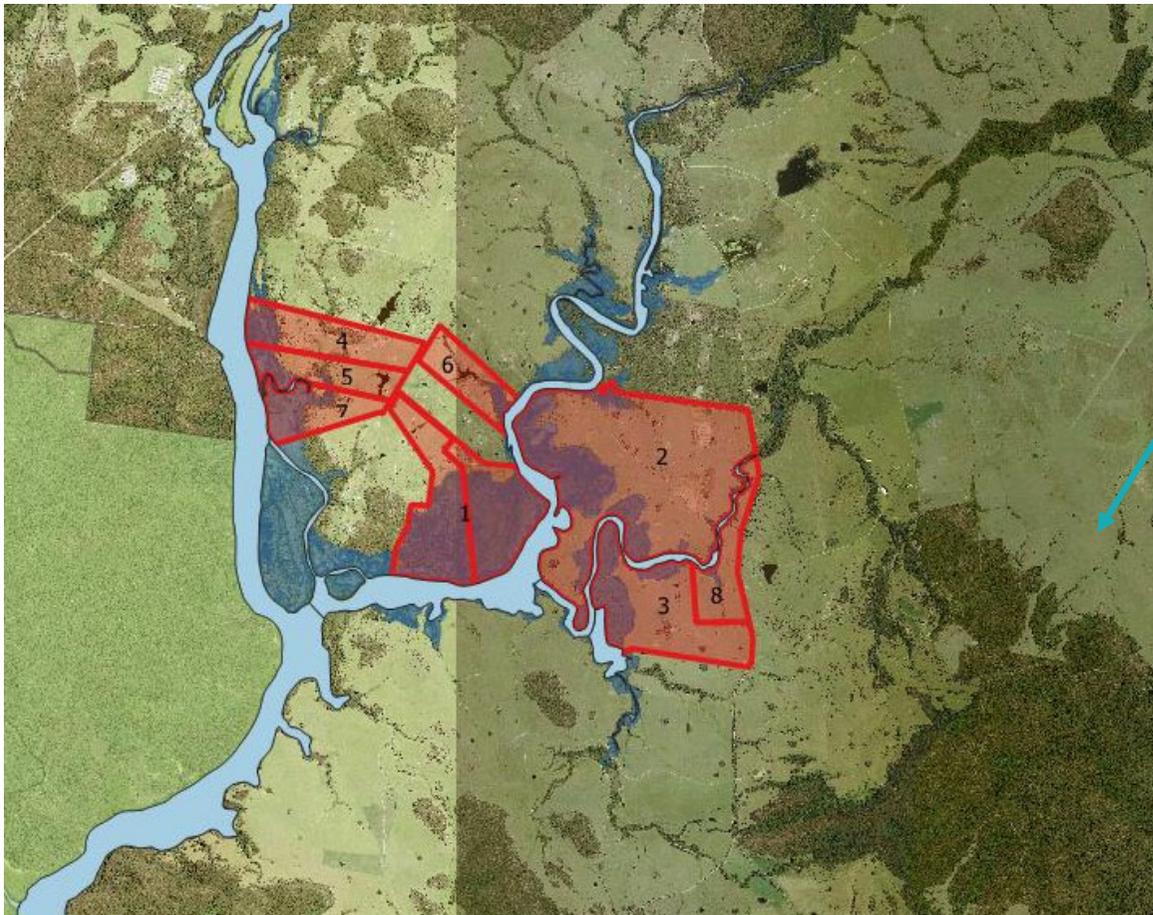
Questions?





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



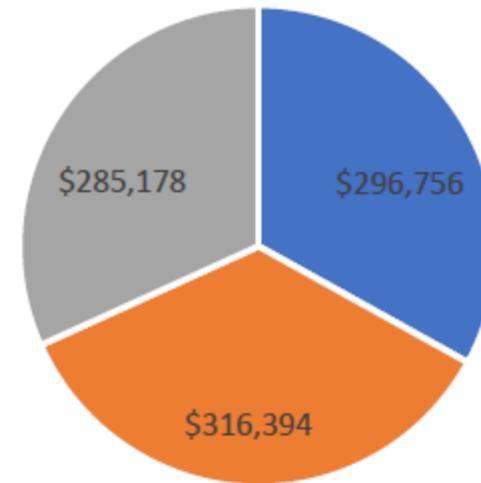
Fig.4 Construction of the rock cascade drop structure

- 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)





