



Queensland Government
Environmental Protection Agency

SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES PERMITS APPLICATION

**PROJECT ASSESSMENT FOR A THREATENED SPECIES
OR COMMUNITY**

APPLICATION DETAILS

Applicant Name : John Callaghan – Gold Coast City Council
Project Title : Experimental translocation and monitoring program for the Eastern Coomera area in Gold Coast City
File Reference : TWB
Completion Date : July 2012
Permit Processing Officer : Jacqui Brock
Referral Officer : David Baker / Paula Peeters
Referral Date : 11 June 2008
Deadline for TSEU Assessment : Would you please arrange for an assessment to be conducted on the attached application form within **10 working days** (please contact the processing officer if this is not possible)

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

Please provide a statement of evidence to support any negative response.

Question	Response
1. Does the project conflict with any regulation, conservation plan, management program or recovery plan for the wildlife or community? Subject to clarification of the matter highlighted in "Assessment Result", the project is in accord with the <i>Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016</i> (the Koala Plan). In particular, <i>Policy 5: Requirements for the translocation and release of koalas</i> of the Koala Plan states that "The translocation of koalas to other existing habitat is prohibited, except under: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an approved scientific purposes permit; or• approved recovery program. Any application for a scientific purposes permit must be supported by a minimum three-year research and monitoring program. The elements of the research and monitoring program must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• monitoring the status of the animal before and after translocation, including health and reproductive status, movement patterns and habitat use; and• determining the impacts of translocation on koala populations as well as other wildlife and habitats at the release site".	No.
2. Is the project likely to cause the status of the wildlife or the community to decline?	Currently unknown.

<p>It is clear that the local koala community will decline with the translocation of up to 100 koalas. However, it is also clear that the Coomera Town Centre development will either substantially or completely remove the habitat relied upon by that local koala community, resulting in a high probability of increased mortality in that community. As a consequence, should translocated koalas successfully settle in the new habitat, the project would mitigate koala mortality to a currently unknown degree.</p>		
3. If the project involves the permanent take of threatened wildlife can the samples be obtained from other sources?	N/a	
4. Is the project likely to provide information to assist with the management of the community, wildlife or its habitat?	Yes.	
<p>The project has the potential to provide further information on the success of koala translocation and to improve translocation techniques.</p>		
5. Are community attitudes to the project likely to be adverse?	Possibly both adverse & supportive	
<p>There is significant community interest in the conservation and welfare of koalas in South-East Queensland. It is possible that some groups and individuals will oppose the project on the grounds of its linkage to the loss of habitat in the Coomera area. It is also possible that other groups and individuals will support the project on the grounds of either/both valid scientific research or animal welfare considerations.</p>		

ASSESSMENT RESULT

Recommendation : Conditional Approval

Comments :

The habitat clearing associated with this proposed translocation project has commenced. It is my view that the Agency should take the opportunity to support valid scientific research in a real situation to determine the effects of translocation on a SEQ koala population whose future survival in its current location is under threat.

I have not been able to locate information in the application relating to "determining the impacts of translocation on ... other wildlife and habitats at the release site" (Policy 5). I recommend that Mr Callaghan be requested to clarify this matter before a final decision is made.

Should adequate information be made available, I recommend the project be approved.

ASSESSING OFFICER DETAILS

Assessing Officer : David Baker

Manager, Koala Conservation Unit

Signature :

Date : 8 July 2008

Please return the completed signed assessment to :

Jacqui Brock
Project Officer (Scientific & Educational Permits)
Tourism and Visitor Services Branch
Environmental Protection Agency
PO Box 731
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Email: jacqui.brock@epa.qld.gov.au
Ph: 4699 4366
Fax: 4699 4388

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APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

Please provide a statement of evidence to support any negative response.

Question	Response
1. Does the project conflict with any regulation, conservation plan, management program or recovery plan for the wildlife or community?	Yes
The project is in conflict with Policy 5 of The Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006 – 2016 that identifies that translocation projects ‘will not be considered for non-scientific endeavours such as the removal of animals from land undergoing development’, as is the intent of this project. Translocation of koalas has been identified as a tool to primarily manage the restocking of koalas in an area, or as a means of supplementing genetic diversity in an area, which is for genuine scientific purposes.	
2. Is the project likely to cause the status of the wildlife or the community to decline?	Yes
Koalas in the Coomera/Pimpama community will undergo a decline with the removal of approximately 100 animals from the estimated regional koala population.	
3. If the project involves the permanent take of threatened wildlife can the samples be obtained from other sources?	N/A
4. Is the project likely to provide information to assist with the management of the community, wildlife or its habitat?	Yes

The benefit of this project will be to:

1. Potentially enhance the survival of those Coomera koalas directly impacted by habitat loss through translocation to other secure habitat areas. Although, as there is little scientific data on which to gauge the success of translocation, the benefit may be great or, in fact, detrimental to koala survival;
2. Provide scientific data on which to assess the success of koala translocation and in doing so, provide data on which to base future management decisions regarding the translocation of koalas.

5. Are community attitudes to the project likely to be adverse?	Yes
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The continuing destruction of koala habitat in SE Qld is a hot topic in the community and in their eyes this project promotes the removal of koalas so that further koala habitat can be destroyed.

ASSESSMENT RESULT

Recommendation :

Comments :

This project is based on a 'non-scientific endeavour' and as such, is in conflict with the Koala Conservation Plan's Management Program Policy 5. However, the project will deliver valuable scientific data on which to base future management decisions regarding koala translocation

The mostly negative responses to the above assessment questions suggest that this application be refused.

ASSESSING OFFICER DETAILS

Assessing Officer : Deidré de Villiers

Signature :

Date : 7 July 2008

Please return the completed signed assessment to :

*Jacqui Brock
Project Officer (Scientific & Educational Permits)
Tourism and Visitor Services Branch
Environmental Protection Agency
PO Box 731
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Email: jacqui.brock@epa.qld.gov.au
Ph: 4699 4366
Fax: 4699 4388*



SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES PERMITS APPLICATION

PROJECT ASSESSMENT FOR A THREATENED SPECIES OR COMMUNITY

APPLICATION DETAILS

Applicant Name : John Callaghan – Gold Coast City Council
Project Title : Experimental translocation and monitoring program for the Easter Coomera area in Gold Coast City
File Reference : TWB
Completion Date : July 2012
Permit Processing Officer : Jacqui Brock
Referral Officer : David Baker / Paula Peeters
Referral Date : 11 June 2008
Deadline for TSEU Assessment : Would you please arrange for an assessment to be conducted on the attached application form within **10 working days** (please contact the processing officer if this is not possible)

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

Please provide a statement of evidence to support any negative response.

Question	Response
1. Does the project conflict with any regulation, conservation plan, management program or recovery plan for the wildlife or community?	Yes.
The project conflicts with the <i>Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016</i> (the Koala Plan). In particular, <i>Policy 5: Requirements for the translocation and release of koalas</i> of the Koala Plan states that “Translocation will not be considered for non-scientific endeavours, such as the removal of animals from land undergoing development.” Whilst the potential positive outcomes associated with the proposed translocation research are recognised, the primary aim of the project is to move koalas from land undergoing vegetation clearing and development.	
2. Is the project likely to cause the status of the wildlife or the community to decline?	Yes.
The immediate local koala community will decline with the translocation of up to 100 koalas. As the success rate of the proposed translocation is not yet known, the impact on the status of the koala in the bioregion cannot be estimated.	
3. If the project involves the permanent take of threatened wildlife can the samples be obtained from other sources?	-
4. Is the project likely to provide information to assist with the management of the community, wildlife or its habitat?	Yes.

The project has the potential to provide further information on the success of koala translocation and to improve translocation techniques.

5. Are community attitudes to the project likely to be adverse?	Yes.
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There is significant community interest in the management of koalas in South-East Queensland and the Koala Plan clearly states that translocation is not supported on the grounds of removing animals from future development sites.

ASSESSMENT RESULT

Recommendation : Refusal

Comments :

Although the future habitat clearing associated with this proposed translocation project is approved regardless of the outcome of this SPP application and there is potential for this project to result in positive outcomes for the koalas involved in the translocation and contribute valuable information on the management of koalas, there is direct conflict with the Koala Plan.

On the basis of this conflict, it is recommended the project be refused.

ASSESSING OFFICER DETAILS

Assessing Officer : Michelle Sauter
A/Principal Biodiversity Planning Officer

Signature :

Date : 7 July 2008

Please return the completed signed assessment to :

Jacqui Brock
Project Officer (Scientific & Educational Permits)
Tourism and Visitor Services Branch
Environmental Protection Agency
PO Box 731
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Email: jacqui.brock@epa.qld.gov.au
Ph: 4699 4366
Fax: 4699 4388

SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES PERMITS APPLICATION**KOALA CONSERVATION UNIT****PROJECT ASSESSMENT****APPLICATION DETAILS**

Applicant Name : John Callaghan
Project Title : Experimental koala translocation and monitoring program for the East Coomera area in Gold Coast City
File Reference : TWB1292
Permit Processing Officer : Jacqui Brock
Referral Officer : Deidre de Villiers
Referral Date : 21 December 2011
Deadline for TSEU Assessment : Would you please arrange for an assessment to be conducted on the attached application form by **COB Friday 13 January 2012** (please contact the processing officer if this is not possible)

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

Please provide a statement of evidence to support any negative response.

Question	Response
1. Does the project conflict with any regulation, conservation plan, management program or recovery plan for the wildlife or community?	YES / NO
No	
2. Is the project likely to cause the status of the wildlife or the community to decline?	
Yes it will result in the decline of the local koala population, however the aim of the project is to remove koalas from the current population and monitor their fate.	YES / NO
3. If the project involves the permanent take of threatened wildlife can the samples be obtained from other sources?	YES / NO
N/A	
4. Is the project likely to provide information to assist with the management of the community, wildlife or its habitat?	YES / NO

Yes, the translocation of koalas is an ongoing issue and is a contentious issue with stakeholders. The project will provide much needed information to assist with the future management of koalas threatened with habitat loss.

5. Are community attitudes to the project likely to be adverse?	YES / NO
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No, as this project is continuing and is now well established.

ASSESSMENT RESULT

Recommendation: (please tick)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Conditional Approval (list conditions below) <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal (list reasons below)
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Comments/conditions:

To fully investigate the translocation of koalas, the following changes to treatment groups/methodologies are recommended for this stage of the project:

1. Koalas are released into the LBCA into habitat currently occupied by previously translocated koalas to determine if there is any impact to resident animals:
- koalas are released in groups of approx. 20-25 animals to ensure that any environmental factors/site issues that will affect the establishment or survival of animals are identified and managed before the introduction of further animals.
2. A group of 10-15 koalas are translocated into an area in the eastern coastal part of the East Coomera region with known higher density koala populations to assess:
- the ability of koalas to establish home ranges within an area with a higher koala occupancy
- the distance that koalas can be translocated without wanting to return to previous home ranges, based on some evidence that the translocation of koalas within 5km can be successful.
- translocation success of animals into high habitat quality areas.
A group of 6-8 resident animals in this coastal area are also monitored as a control in situ group.
3. Koalas are released into WCA dependent on the management of the wild dog population to a point where they will have minimal/no impact on the introduction of translocated koalas.
Ongoing assessment of the survival of the reintroduced animals at this site should determine the number of koalas that are released at this site, to a suggested total of 20 animals.

Recommended breakdown of numbers of koalas in each group:

In situ total = approx 40

East Coomera (town centre region) = 20

Eastern/coastal East Coomera = 6 to 8

LBCA = 6

WCA = 6

Translocated total = approx 90

Eastern/coastal East Coomera = 10 to 15

LBCA = 55 to 60

WCA = 20

Overall total of 130 animals.

The above recommendations will allow questions with regard to translocation success based on habitat quality and koala density, the impact on resident animals and home range fidelity to be addressed. These management questions are an important part of the translocation picture.

Note:

1. The increase in number of koalas approved in this application takes into account the recommendation that a further group of animals is included in the project – those koalas that are resident and translocated to the eastern coastal area of East Coomera.
2. The use of koalas for a vaccination trial is the subject of a separate SPP application.

ASSESSING OFFICER DETAILS

**Assessing
Officer : Deidré
de Villiers**

Signature :

(not required if
sending via email)

Date : 2/4/2012

Please email this form to jacqui.brock@derm.qld.gov.au

Or fax to 4699 4366

Thank you for your assistance.

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

Assessment Report to the Delegate

Nature Conservation Act 1992

NOTES:

1. Each assessment report prepared to support recommendations made for decision is to be structured in the format shown below.
2. Double click on the box to check / Click once on grey area to type in.
3. The assessment report is to be completed, to confirm conclusion of supervisory review/endorsement, and decision stages of the process.

Scientific Purposes (protected species off protected land)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Plants <input type="checkbox"/> Other
PROJECT NO: 325728	PERMIT NUMBER: WISP13423213
DATE RECEIVED: 10/9/2013	FILE NO: TWB1292
DATES EFFECTIVE: 1/12/2013 – 30/6/2014	IS THIS AN AMENDMENT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
APPLICANT NAME: MR JOHN CALLAGHAN	
ADDRESS: THE CITY OF GOLD COAST, PO BOX 5042, GOLD COAST MAIL CENTRE QLD 8729	

This application has been assessed as a Level 1 Level 3

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the proposed project should be:

- Approved
 Approved with conditions
 Refused

Assessing Officer: Jacqui Brock	Signed: sch4p4(6) Personal information	Date: 24/9/2013
Delegate's comment (if any):		
Delegate: Sally Egan	Signed: sch4p4(6) Personal information	Date: 24/9/2013

Assessment Report to the Delegate

1) Project Title

Experimental koala translocation and monitoring program for the East Coomera area in the City of Gold Coast. Please note that this application relates to the period between the current amended completion date for WISP05591008 of 30-Nov-2013 and the previous approved completion date of 30-June-2014. The translocation component has been completed and this application does not seek approval for additional koalas. Rather, the application seeks approval for completion of monitoring, final health examinations, collar removal and release of all koalas currently in the project, as well as completion of analysis for DNA tissue samples, Chlamydia swab samples, blood samples, and fur and faecal pellet samples.

2) Project Aim

This application pertains to the final phase of the current research and conservation planning project established by the City of Gold Coast to minimise impacts on koalas from habitat clearing and displacement associated with approved developments in the new East Coomera urban area. The East Coomera area has been identified for major urban expansion by Commonwealth, State and local government over the past two decades. The new Coomera Town Centre and surrounding area was mapped as an Urban Koala Area under the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016 and the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005-2026. The presence of a substantial local koala population was confirmed by research commissioned by Council in 2006-07. It was not possible for Council to preclude major development in the East Coomera area due to the long-established planning intent and commitments for development. However, Council remains committed to minimising the loss of koalas and to taking a leadership role in koala conservation planning for the East Coomera-Pimpama area and for the City of Gold Coast. Given the planned intensity for the new urban area, protection and long-term conservation of the local koala population could only be achieved through a comprehensive strategy incorporating a monitoring and translocation program. The project provided an opportunity to undertake scientific research to increase knowledge on the effectiveness of koala translocation, enabling the refinement of protocols for other situations where translocation may be considered essential to protect or re-establish a viable local population. Key aims for the final phase of the current research project:

- 3) 1. To complete the monitoring, final health examinations, radio-collar removal, sample analysis and reporting for translocated and in-situ control group koalas established under the current SPP (WISP05591008).
- 4) 2. To provide for long-term koala conservation through preparation of a conservation plan for koalas that remain in the East Coomera-Pimpama area and for the overall City of Gold Coast.

5) Species of Focus

Koala

6) Location(s)

Non-protected areas Gold Coast LGA

7) Proposal Justification

Without affirmative action, the koala population in the East Coomera-Pimpama area was predicted to decline severely and was considered likely to be lost over the medium term. This would not only be an undesirable outcome from the perspective of conservation biology, but would also fail to meet community expectations for ensuring the protection of threatened species through innovative approaches to conservation planning.

The predicted koala displacement posed a significant planning issue given the historical planning intent and the development commitments for the East Coomera area. The significant koala evidence challenged previously held views on the conservation importance of this area. However, it was not realistic to withdraw this area from urban development that had been planned for decades. The only feasible solution involved intervention to protect koalas during the development process, investigation of options for securing compensatory habitat, and a koala translocation and monitoring program aimed to re-establish members of the local population on protected and restored habitat areas in other parts of the City. This application pertains to the final phase of the research project that has been underway since November 2008 under SPP number WISP05591008. This phase will involve the final monitoring of both translocated and in-situ control group koalas, final health assessments and release at the end of the project. This final period of the project is essential for the completion of research data collection, sample analysis and reporting and to allow adequate time to remove all koalas from the research program. The final phase of data collection will improve knowledge on the movements of translocated koalas and their response to their new surroundings, as well as the movements and interactions of the in-situ animals. Additional information on the East Coomera in-situ koalas will enable more comprehensive evaluation of their health status and movements in response to ongoing development.

8) Regional/ Specialist Reviews

This application has been assessed and approved by:
Andrew Mullens
Manager, Koala Conservation Operations, EHP

Assessment Report to the Delegate

9) Assessment Report Considerations

The application has been assessed in a manner consistent with the statutory provisions outlined below.

(a) Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006

Considerations under S25 Relevance to the proposal	
In considering an application for a relevant authority, the chief executive must <u>have regard</u> to each of the following	
(a) the impact the activities that may be carried out under the authority may have on the conservation of the cultural or natural resources of a protected area or native wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(b) the effect the grant of the authority will have on the fair and equitable access to nature, having regard to, in particular, the ecologically sustainable use of protected areas or wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(c) any contribution the applicant proposes to make to the conservation of nature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(d) any relevant Australian or international code, instrument, protocol or standard or any relevant intergovernmental agreement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(e) the precautionary principle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(f) public health and safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(g) the public interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(h) for an application for a relevant authority other than a camping permit—whether the applicant is a suitable person to hold the authority, having regard to the matters mentioned in schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Refer to 7b – Considerations under NC(WM) Reg 2006 S218
(i) for an application for a relevant authority for a national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land)—the indigenous management agreement for the protected area;[s 26] NC(A)R 2006	N/A
(j) any recovery plan for wildlife to which the authority applies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(k) any other matter stated in a management instrument as a matter the chief executive must have regard to when considering an application for the authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Comments – This permit is an extension of an ongoing project. The applicant has requested an additional 7 months to complete the project. As the original permit had already been issued for 5 years (expires 30/11/2013) a new SPP was issued.	

Assessment Report to the Delegate

Division 6 Scientific purposes permit – Protected Animals	
Subdivision 1 Purposes	
Considerations under S217 – Purpose of permit	
The purpose of a scientific purposes permit for animals is to allow a person to take, keep or use a protected, international or prohibited animal for conducting scientific research for a genuine scientific purpose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Subdivision 2 Restrictions on grant of permit	
Considerations under S218 Restriction about persons to whom permit may be granted	
(1) The chief executive may grant a scientific purposes permit to a person only if—	
(a) the person is, or is associated with, any of the following—	
(i) a tertiary or other institution administered by the Commonwealth or a State;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(ii) an entity that is involved in scientific research; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(b) if the person is an individual—the individual—	
(i) is receiving, or has completed, postgraduate training in scientific research relevant to the activities the person proposes to carry out under the permit; or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(ii) has achieved a satisfactory level of competence in scientific research relevant to the activities the person proposes to carry out under the permit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(2) Also, the chief executive may grant a scientific purposes permit to a person associated with an institution or entity only if the chief executive is satisfied the way the scientific purpose is to be achieved is consistent with the requirements of the institution or entity	
Considerations under S219 Restrictions on grant of permit authorising animal to be taken	
(1) The chief executive may grant a scientific purposes permit for a protected animal authorising the holder to take the animal only if the chief executive is satisfied —	
(a) the animal is to be taken, kept, used or processed for research that will, or is likely to, make a significant contribution to community knowledge about the matter for which the research is carried out; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(b) the animal is not intended to be taken, kept, used or processed for a commercial purpose; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(c) it is necessary to take the animal from the wild, including, for example, because there are no animals of the same species in captivity that are available or appropriate for the research that is to be carried out under the permit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Subdivision 4 Carrying out activities under permit	
Considerations under S222 Giving return of operations	
(1) The holder of a scientific purposes permit for an animal must give the chief executive a return of operations for the permit – <u>Have returns been submitted?</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Comments --	