

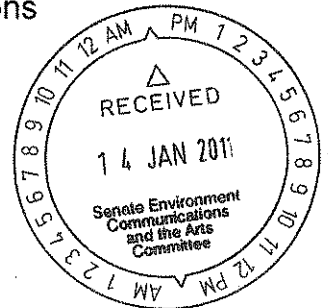
Conservation of North Ocean Shores

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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

11 January 2011



Re: National Koala Conservation Strategy Review

Conservation of North Ocean Shores (CONOS) is a voluntary, non-profit group formed 18 years ago.

Our aims and objectives have been,

- a) the conservation of an area known as North Ocean Shores/Yelgun, located in the north eastern locale of the Shire of Byron on the the far north coast of New South Wales, and
- b) the protection of this area's natural and cultural significance.

We have recorded Koala and its movements in our area since 1982, which have been progressively passed on to the Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change for their data base in Sydney and Alstonville, NSW.

CONOS also wishes to acknowledge and support Friends of the Koala Inc., Lismore, in their submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications for inquiry and report. CONOS has had a long association with this organisation over 18 years in the rescue of Koala and protection of their habitat.

Over these years we have witnessed critical Koala habitat blatantly removed and destroyed (including Core Koala Habitat, NSW SEPP 44). There are a further 49 Threatened Fauna Species located at North Ocean Shores/Yelgun. There is inadequate protection of these remaining remnants so crucial to these species survival, e.g. the last remaining eastern wildlife corridor on the Australian mainland, connecting the Mt. Warning caldera to coastal reserves, is at this very moment under threat of further development.

It is most important to note that the majority of our Koala records are along this wildlife corridor. The observations we have made are based on our knowledge and experience over that time. We have also been encouraged by correspondence from UWS Macarthur (Feb. 2000) of which we have also attached to our submission.

It is crucial to secure at least some form of effective protection from the Federal Government for this declining species and their habitat. The community does not want to witness the local extinction of Koala located within this particular area on the coastal fringe. What remains of Koala habitat here will totally depend on urgent Federal Government intervention now.

With the current threat of development, i.e. residential, industrial and other, at present looming in this immediate locale, the future of this precious Australian icon looks bleak.

We trust that this Review will treat the threat to this species and its habitat loss seriously and strengthen, as well as enforce protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment.

Please Note: This submission could not be forwarded electronically because of our Maps pertaining to such.

sincerely,

Stan Scanlon per CONOS

The following list comprises of records and sightings of Schedule 12 (NPWS) species in the Wildlife Corridor, Jones Rd (Marshall's Ridge) North Ocean Shores. (see Map 1 - Appendix 1)

FAUNA SPECIES - No. 1.

KOALA (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

A. 1983 - 1990.

During this time Mr. A. Benwell was a resident of Jones Rd, and spent a considerable amount of time in the field studying and surveying the North Ocean Shores site.

He recalls the following :

On a number of occasions, Mr. Benwell heard male Koalas fighting in the Ironbark and Redgum trees located directly to the north of his residence (Lot 2) (adjacent to Scarlons).

Mr. Benwell recalls several sightings of Koala located north of Jones Rd in the location near "slow down" sign.

In late 1990, Mr. Benwell sighted two small Koalas (possibly a female and juvenile) in swamp mahoganies located approx 100 metres north of the palm stand.

N.B. This palm stand is located south-east of the wildlife corridor.

Mr. Benwell consistently found Koala scats in an area of Swamp and Red Mahoganies located west of the old sand-mining dam.

N.B. This area is also located south-east of the wildlife corridor.

In Sept 1993, Mr. Benwell accompanied by Mr. S. Phillips (Australian Koala Foundation, AKF) found Koala scats under a Swamp Mahogany located near an old dam east of Lot 2.

Other KOALA records and sightings in the Wildlife Corridor are as follows :

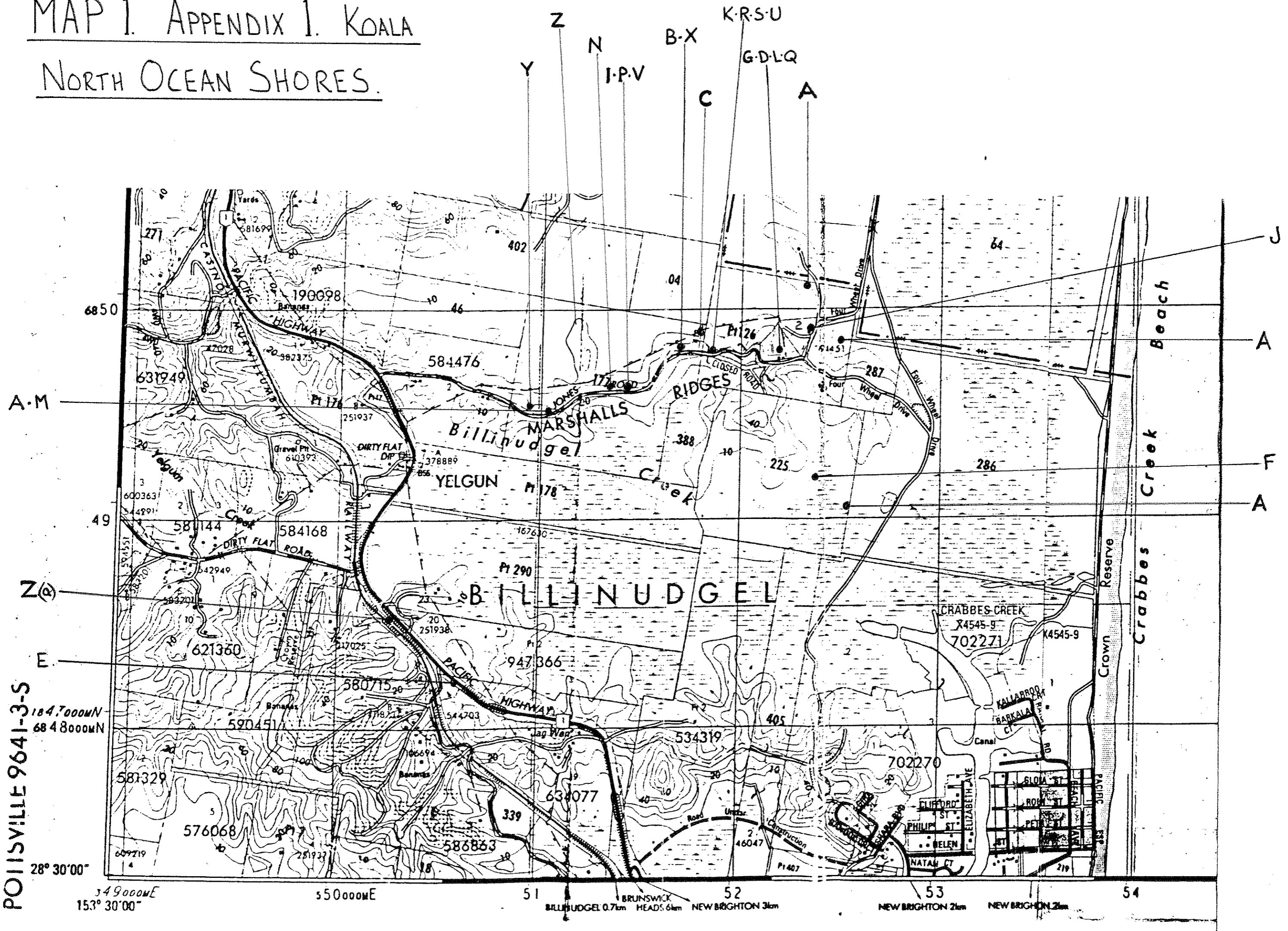
- B. 1985 June / July. Sighted crossing Jones Rd from north to south by C. Daoud & A. Finch.

- C. 1986 February. Recorded (Forest Red Gum, Grey Ironbark & Blackbutt) North of Jones Rd in Wildlife Corridor by Gilmore et al.
- D. 1987 May. Sighted on Scanlon property (Lot 1) (Tallowood) & was collected by J. Hunter (NPWS) (refer photo. D)
- E. 1988 June/July. Sighted road-kill on Pacific Highway, near Stock route Yelgun by S. Scanlon (refer photo. E)
- F. 1989 Sept. Sighted in flying fox colony (paperbark) by G. Opit, A. Benwell & S. Scanlon.
N.B. This colony is located south of the wildlife corridor.
- G. 1990 March. Sighted on western ridge of Scanlon property (Lot 1) (Tallowood) by V. & S. Scanlon (refer photo. G)
- H. 1990 April. Recorded on Wide Spur south from Jones Rd, Marshall's Ridge by BEACON. (locality 3. Simpson Hearing 1990)
- I. 1991 July. Sighted north of Jones Rd. approx half way down, near tree with hollow by S. Scanlon.
- J. 1992 July. Sighted on Lot 2, Jones Rd., (Forest-red gum) by T. Osgood, and S. & V. Scanlon (refer photo. J)
- K. 1992 October. Sighted on a number of occasions on Jones Rd by V. & S. Scanlon and J. Chaplin. This specimen was collected by Mr. N. Ralph. (Koala carer) (refer photo. K)
- L. 1992 October. Sighted on Scanlon property (Flooded gum) by V. & S. Scanlon (refer photo. L)
- M. 1992 November. Sighted north of Jones Rd., near "Slow Down" sign by S. Scanlon.
- N. 1993 January. Sighted mother & baby crossing north to south of Jones Rd approx. half-way down by J. Chaplin.
- O. 1993 June. Sighted sitting in middle of Jones Rd., by V. Scanlon.
- P. 1993 August. Sighted north of Jones Rd., by L. & V. Scanlon.

- Q. 1994 November. Sighted on Scanlon property, (Flooded gum) by Mr. G. Opit, C. Daoud & V. Scanlon.
- R. 1994 November. Sighted north of Jones Rd., near known Koala food tree (Forest red gum) by R. Oehlman
- S. 1995 January. Sighted north of Jones Rd. near known food tree (Forest red gum) by V. & S. Scanlon and R. Oehlman. (refer photo. S)
- T. 1995 February. Sighted north of Jones Rd (Blackbutt) and later noted it feeding on Ironbark, (not known as primary food species) by Mr. G. Opit.
- U. 1995 April. Sighted north of Jones Rd., near known food tree (Forest red gum) by Mr. R. Oehlman & Mr. S. Scanlon.
- V. 1995 June. Sighted north of Jones Rd., by Mr. R. Oehlman & V. Scanlon.
- W. 1995 July. Road-kill on Pacific Highway, male, approx. 50 metres south of Wooyung turn-off, north of the wildlife corridor, sighted by Mr. N. Ralph & Hon. R. Jones (MLC).
- X. 1995 August. Koala scat found on Jones Rd., identified by Mr. R. Oehlman.
- Y. 1995 September. Approx 10 Koala scats found on Jones Rd., adjacent to bulldozed site north of Jones Rd., identified by Mr. R. Oehlman. (film footage available)
- Z. 1995 September. A female and a male Koala was sighted and approx 40 scats found in bulldozed area of wildlife corridor, north of Jones Rd., by D. Milledge.
(Refer to Milledge Report 13/9/95. Film footage available)
- Z(a). 1995 September. Road-kill Pacific Highway, South Marshall's Ridge, appx. 100 metres south of Yelgun turn-off, separately sighted by Mr. D. Milledge, Mr. D. Bradbury and Mr. S. Scanlon.
(refer photo Z(a), film footage available)

It is most apparent that the majority of Koala sightings within the wildlife corridor have been recorded NORTH of Jones Rd.

MAP 1. APPENDIX I. KOALA NORTH OCEAN SHORES.



POISSVILLE 9641-3-S

Marshalls Ridges (Jones Road Wildlife Corridor)

Koals Records Continued.....refer attached Map

	1996	Nil records located
May	1997	J & B Crowthorne / S.Scanlon
Sep	1997	C Daoud
Oct	1997	W Reynolds
Feb	1998	R Oehlman
Sep	1998	S & B Scanlon = Koala with cub
Sep	1998	S Palmer / S Scanlon
Jan	1999	S & V Scanlon
Jan	1999	S & B Scanlon
Jan	1999	J Crowthorne / H Artup
Mar	1999	S & B Scanlon
Apr	1999	J Crowthorne
July	1999	Australian Museum Reps / W Reynolds / G Opit / R Oehlman / S Scanlon
July	1999	R Crowthorne = Pair
July	1999	Australian Museum Reps
Oct	1999	J Crowthorne
Oct	1999	J Crowthorne
Nov	1999	J Crowthorne
Feb	2000	J Crowthorne
Mar	2000	J Crowthorne
Mar	2000	J Crowthorne = Pair
Mar	2000	J Crowthorne / S Scanlon
Aug	2000	R James = Roadkill
Apr	2001	J Crowthorne
May	2001	J Crowthorne = Pair
Sep	2001	J Crowthorne / W Reynolds
Oct	2001	R Crowthorne
Jun	2002	V Scanlon
Sep	2003	V Scanlon
Sep	2003	S & V Scanlon
Oct	2003	S & V Scanlon
Mar	2004	V Scanlon
Aug	2004	S & V Scanlon
Sep	2004	R Oehlman = Koala with cub
Nov	2004	H Artup
Feb	2005	H Artup
Mar	2005	V Scanlon
Dec	2005	S & V Scanlon
	2006	Nil records located
Jun	2007	M Parratt

References:

Current and past residents,
J & B Crowthorne / S V B Scanlon / H Artup / C Daoud / G Opit

Wildlife Carer, Field Naturalist
R Oehlman

Koala Carers,
W Reynolds / R James

Australian Museum Representatives,
R Close / L Gibson & two associates

Visitors,
M Parratt / S Palmer

21.7.99 FEMALE (AUSC. MUSEUM / REYNOLDS / OPHI / OELLMAN / SCANLON)
 28+29.4.01 (S. CROWTHORNE)
 5.5.01 = 2 KOALA (S. CROWTHORNE)
 14.9.04 = KOALA W/ CUB (R. OELLMAN)

18.11.99 (S. CROWTHORNE)
 10.7.99 = 2 KOALA (S. CROWTHORNE)
 11.10.01 (S. CROWTHORNE)

25.1.99 (S. CROWTHORNE / H. ARUP)
 AUG 10 OCT 99 (S. CROWTHORNE)
 21+22.3.00 = 2 KOALA (S. CROWTHORNE)
 28.9.01 MALE (W. REYNOLDS / S. CROWTHORNE)

5.9.98 = KOALA W/ CUB (B+S SCANLON)
 5.97 (S+B. CROWTHORNE / S. SCANLON)
 21.7.99 = MALE (AUSC. MUSEUM)
 ALL 2.00 (S. CROWTHORNE)
 10+11.3.00 (S. CROWTHORNE)

27.9.98 (S. PALMER / S. SCANLON)

11.10.99 = 2 KOALA (S. CROWTHORNE)
 3.6.07 (M. PARRATT)

15+21.7.99 (AUSC. MUSEUM / REYNOLDS / OPHI / OELLMAN / SCANLON)

21.11.01 (H. ARUP)

CALLS:
 26.1.99
 24.9.03
 7+11.10.03
 16.8.04
 11.12.05
 (V+S. SCANLON)

11.2.05
 (H. ARUP)
 CALLS:
 28.6.02
 19.3.05
 (V+S. SCANLON)
 CALLS:

12.9.03
 23.3.04
 (V. SCANLON)
 20.1.09
 (V+S. SCANLON)

31.3.99
 (B+S. SCANLON)

28.2.98
 (R. OELLMAN / S. SCANLON)

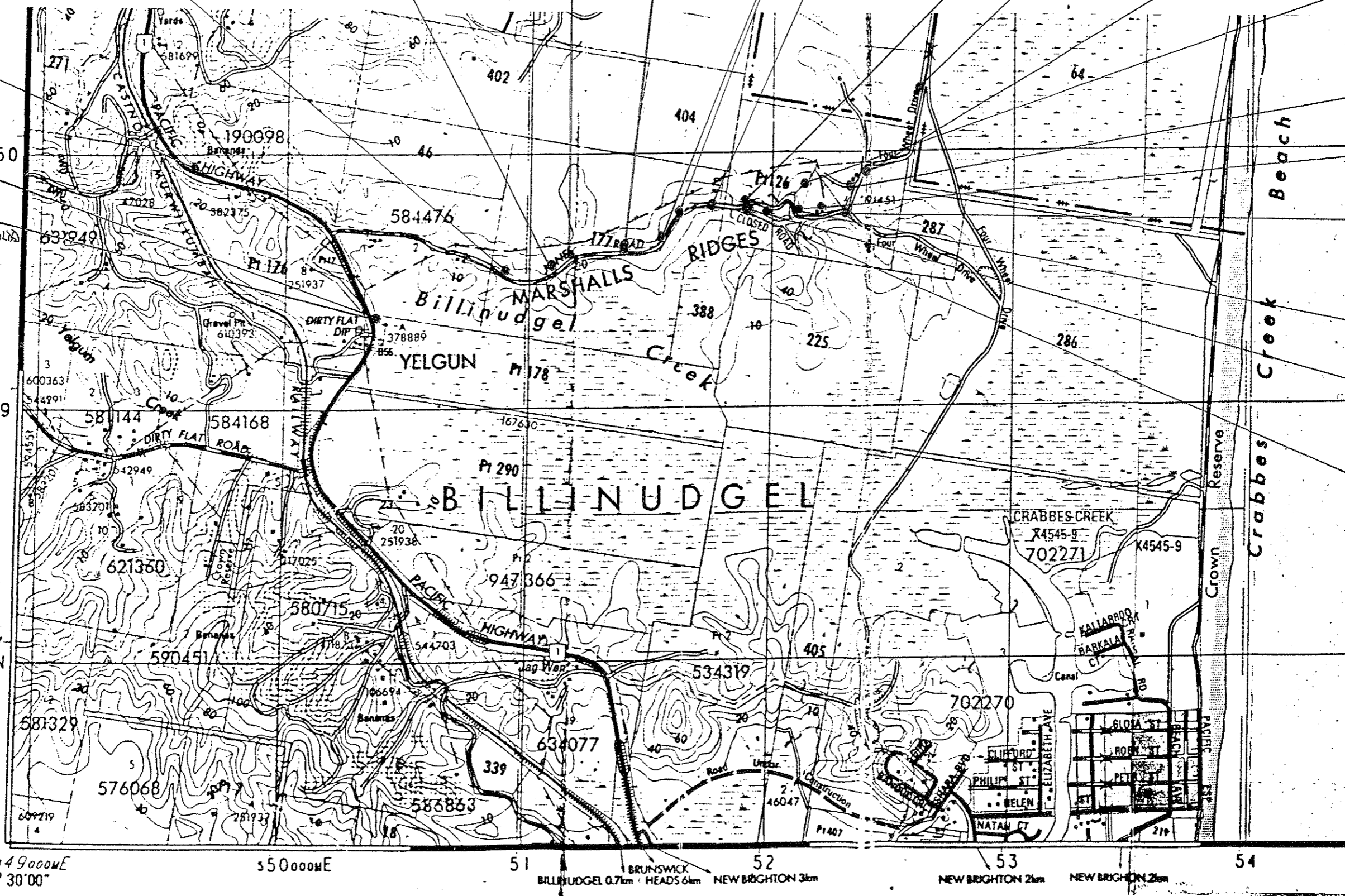
OCT. + NOV. 99
 (S. CROWTHORNE)
 7+18.3.00
 (S. CROWTHORNE / S. SCANLON)

28.8.00 MALE
 ROAD W/ (R. JAMES)

9.97 MALE
 (C. DRAWD)

31.10.97 FEMALE
 ROAD INSUR (W. REYNOLDS)

POISSVILLE 9641-3-S
 184.7000M
 68.48000M
 78° 30' 00"
 349000E
 153° 30' 00"



KOALA SIGHTINGS MARSHALLS RIDGES (JONES ROAD - WILDLIFE CORRIDOR) MAP 2.



UWS Macarthur

Faculty of Informatics, Science & Technology

PO Box 555, Campbelltown NSW 2560 Australia

Stan Scanlon
PO Box 828
Billinudgel
NSW
11/2/2000

Dear Stan,

Linda passed on your letter re Progress Report:1. A few of our points obviously need clarification. Although we consider that the home-ranges of the established animals on Jones Rd don't contact the existing road, the studies do not down play the importance of Jones Rd as a corridor. In fact, all offspring produced by the Jones Rd resident koalas are in danger from both the existing and planned roads when they move west out of the parental territories. It is also likely that animals produced from further east and south will also disperse along Jones Rd. Likewise all the young animals moving down the ridge from the population that we located to the west of the road will also be at risk.

The records that you supplied us demonstrate that risk. Later this year we wish to put eartags on as many young animals as possible from either side of the road in the Jones Rd vicinity. Hopefully that tagging will indicate what movements are occurring. We estimate that the animals from your records would have been killed when less than 4 years old. Skull analysis would test that notion; hence, we need as many skulls from road-kills as possible.

The Report did not intend to suggest that dispersing young animals are not important. They are in fact the most vital component of the entire project. Provided the habitat is maintained there will always be resident koalas to the west of the highway, but if the upgrade prevents dispersal of young, then we cannot be so sure about populations to the east.

As far as our radio-tracking was concerned, however, it appeared that near Jones Rd, resident animals were established on either side of the present road but not in contact with it. Dan Lunney has found, in fact, that any koala whose home-range includes a busy road will eventually be hit. Another study followed a koala which made 26 safe crossings before it perished. We decided that it was more effective to concentrate our limited radio-tracking resources into areas where the upgrade will actually penetrate existing home-ranges or come very close to high density populations.

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Rest assured, however, that we believe that Jones Rd is an important corridor. You'll see us tramping up and down the path for a while yet!

Regards,

Rob Close