

Council acts on koala kill

By PETER GARDINER

AS THE toll on Noosa's dwindling koala population continues to mount, local campaigner Carolyn Beaton has received assurances from the Sunshine Coast council that they will assist with measures aimed at reducing a spate of road kills.

This piece of good news for Ms Beaton, co-founder of the Koala Diaries, was tempered by the death of an elderly male koala killed by a dog at Verrierdale last Thursday.

Two Saturdays ago a koala called Bedford was struck and killed on Eenie Creek Rd and just days later another koala named Prince Valiant – a former road victim released in December at Noosa Springs – was hit again on Eenie Creek Rd.

Ms Beaton was relieved Prince Valiant was discharged from the intensive care unit at the Australia Zoo wildlife hospital last Saturday.

"He is now doing better and is in a regular enclosure," Ms Beaton said.

However Ms Beaton is still anxious about the fate of other koalas in the area, after one was spotted close to the road.

They spotted a koala in a tree very close to the road – about 10m from the eastern side of Monks Bridge.

– CAROLYN BEATON

"On Friday afternoon I received a call from a (Sunshine Coast) council

crew that was inspecting the fence along Eenie Creek Rd," Ms Beaton said.

"They had spotted a koala in a tree very close to the

location."

The koala was captured with the help of the Sunshine Coast Koala and Wildlife Rescue and relocated to a safer spot.

"He was a feisty young koala – keen to evade capture. We named him Rocky on account of his fighting spirit. He will inevitably go back to where we found him."

Ms Beaton said she hoped key koala protection issues discussed by council would be resolved in the near future.

A council spokesman on

Tuesday said council parks and gardens staff has been tasked with removing a tree growing against a road protection fence to help keep koalas off the road.

Ms Beaton has also sent council a photograph of an animal underpass overgrown with Singapore daisy, which council's work force will be acting on. Ms Beaton said there was uncertainty over who was responsible for fence line maintenance along Eenie Creek Rd Stage II – council or the nearby private developers.