

# Koala strikes spark boost in council action

By PETER GARDINER

ANOTHER koala strike on Eenie Creek Rd – the latest in a spate of fatal and serious run-ins with cars – has highlighted the urgent need for more fencing along this koala habitat bitumen divide.

Koala campaigner Carolyn Beaton, of the Noosa-based Koala Diaries said Roberta – a koala rescued back in 2005 from Sunshine Beach – was hit near the Girraween sports complex, which was a noted migration corridor hot spot for this dwindling species.

Roberta, who was found looking “lost” in Pacific Ave six years ago, suffered head injuries and was bleeding from the mouth when found last week by the roadside.

After receiving care overnight from the Eumundi Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre,

Roberta was transferred to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital where she was last reported to be in a stable condition.

Back in 2005 she was assessed by koala-caring vet Dr Mark Powell as being healthy and was released back into nearby bushland.

Ms Beaton said Sunshine Coast Council reacted positively to the car strikes by erecting a new koala rescue sign which has been placed near where this latest road hit took place.

And Ms Beaton hoped council environment staff would mount a favourable case for more road fence maintenance along the Eenie Creek Rd section with the wire barrier.

And ideally she would like to see council tap into any available funding grants for more fencing to extend past the sports complex to the end of the Eenie Creek

Stage 2 section.

“When the road was built it divided known koala populations,” Ms Beaton said.

“It was a bit of a surprise to have a koala hit on Eenie Creek Rd outside the Civic, but because of that we’d also like to see fencing along that stretch as well.”

Ms Beaton said the road fauna tunnels along the road were not all that koala friendly and there were trials of overhead passes being conducted with the Transport Department and the koala wildlife hospital, which may be rolled out in Brisbane “hot spots”.

“Their natural tendency is to go up rather than go down,” Ms Beaton said.

If these passes were proven, then she believed the Noosa road would be a great trial location to help save the remnant population.



DO MORE: Koala campaigner Carolyn Beaton is pleased the council is helping the koala.

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