



20 June 2024

With the proposed relocation of the Kawana Dolphins to the Meridan Plains Sporting Fields in 2025, Kawana Forest Residents Association has actively engaged with key stakeholders including Mayor Rosanna Natoli, committee members of the Dolphins, and Councillor Tim Burns. Two meetings have taken place to discuss the relocation project, with project officers overseeing the process to understand what the plans and potential impacts will be. KaFRA compiled a detailed list of questions and insights for the council's consideration. Below is a summary of our findings.

We have become aware that the Dolphins have now signed an agreement with Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) and we have attached Council's Fact Sheet regarding the Dolphins relocation to the Meridan Fields Sporting Complex.

1. Access to the sporting fields

The revised car parking plan will extend access to the eastern section of the current football car park from the north (Red Cedar Dive). The gate will remain locked as per the SCC planning controls.

2. School finishing hours and sporting field training hour

PLC finishing hours are between 3-3.15pm, congestion can remain until 4pm. The earliest training time for the Dolphins is currently at 4.30pm. KaFRA have asked that it be a condition of lease that training could not be changed to prior to 4pm, to avoid adding to school traffic and adjustment of the timing of traffic lights. SCC have had initial verbal discussion with the rugby league representatives. Nothing has been confirmed at this time, however SCC will investigate further when tenure discussions progress.

3. Parking

KaFRA provided photo and video evidence to SCC that the existing marked car parks on game days does not currently meet the demand, nor is it likely to meet the demand with higher player numbers. Currently, cars are already parking on the grass verges at the sporting fields. SCC have planned to use the additional overflow parking behind the AFL locked gate, where they believe 150 additional parks could be utilised. KaFRA sent video evidence that these gates are rarely open (if open, only during AFL games) and during wet weather it is only accessible to 4WD vehicles. As a result, cars then park up Red Cedar Drive and in adjoining residential streets like Tuckeroo, Wilkea, Quandong.

KaFRA suggested that Council look to making this overflow area more accessible during wet weather. SCC said they would investigate and come back to us.

11 June: SCC: "Key council stakeholders met late last week to review the informal turf car parking concerns raised by KaFRA. Initial discussions included considerations for drainage, future maintenance, aesthetics, vehicle barriers, pedestrian bollards etc. Council requires further expert design information to inform short-term and medium-term solutions and to understand associated costs. There is currently no budget allocation for car park planning or works. Any further updates will be advised."

“Council is continuing to meet with neighbouring organisations to the Meridan Fields Sporting Complex to discuss car parking matters and to ensure a broad and inclusive assessment is undertaken at this point in time. Meetings with Pacific Lutheran College and Kawana Park Eagles Junior AFL Club will be confirmed in the coming weeks. These meetings will also assist with considerations for use of the overflow car parking area within the Sporting Complex now and into the future.”

“Furthermore, a request for maintenance has been raised to review the current surface and address potholes along the overflow car parking access road. Maintenance has also been raised to address vegetation along the road and within the overflow car parking area as a short-term improvement. Further updates on car parking will follow once additional information is in hand. Please note, the proposal for new signage to indicate the overflow car parking area is currently on hold until such time as the maintenance items are addressed.”

KaFRA also raised that if sufficient parking is **not provided**, we don't want to see people who are parking on grass verges in the sporting complex grounds being fined. (e.g. we don't want to see what is happening at Fisherman's Road Sporting Complex happening here, due to lack of parking provisions provided by SCC).

4. Lights

KaFRA have compared the current hours of lights used by Caloundra Football Club against the planned use by the Kawana Dolphins. These hours remain basically the same, with the latest times being 6pm Monday & Wednesday; 8.30pm Tuesday & Thursdays and 8.30pm Fridays during the season.

The current lights will be replaced with taller poles and modern technology that reduces light spill and access to turn off remotely versus what is there now – new lights have to do an 'obtrusive light check' before operation. (*Currimundi Football club on Gothic Pde has this new lighting technology installed if you want to check it out.*)

5. Noise and Privacy

SCC will speak to their Parks team re investigating tree planting in gaps between the back fence line of Wilkea Street and the sporting grounds. This will create more of a buffer zone for lighting, noise and privacy.

KaFRA requested SCC to consider decibel ratings on sirens etc, to not disturb the surrounding neighbours.

6. Other

- QRIDE: Do not possess a permit to utilise the car parking space. Therefore, going forward, the car park will not be restricted for access to visitors using the sporting grounds.
- Bus Zone Fares & more frequent service to provide access to training and game days was raised with SCC who have raised with Translink. Translink have committed to monitor the frequency and level of demand between the Kawana State College and the sporting fields.
- OzTag only use the fields for one annual event per year. Bus zones will remain the same.
- Bike Pathway lighting under the Kawana Way bridge, is being upgraded and should be completed by July 2024.