



## **COASTAL OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

**18 July 2023**



# COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028

**ONE – CENTRAL COAST IS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) FOR THE CENTRAL COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA**

**ONE – CENTRAL COAST DEFINES THE COMMUNITY'S VISION AND IS OUR ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE**

**ONE – CENTRAL COAST BRINGS TOGETHER EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO SET KEY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES**

One - Central Coast will shape and inform Council's business activities, future plans, services and expenditure. Where actions are the responsibility of other organisations, sectors and groups to deliver, Council will work with key partners to advocate on behalf of our community.

Ultimately, every one of us who live on the Central Coast has an opportunity and responsibility to create a sustainable future from which we can all benefit. Working together we can make a difference.

## RESPONSIBLE

**WE'RE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY, COMMITTED TO BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND DELIVERING A GREAT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE IN ALL OUR INTERACTIONS.**

We value transparent and meaningful communication and use community feedback to drive strategic decision making and expenditure, particularly around the delivery of essential infrastructure projects that increase the safety, liveability and sustainability of our region. We're taking a strategic approach to ensure our planning and development processes are sustainable and accessible and are designed to preserve the unique character of the coast.

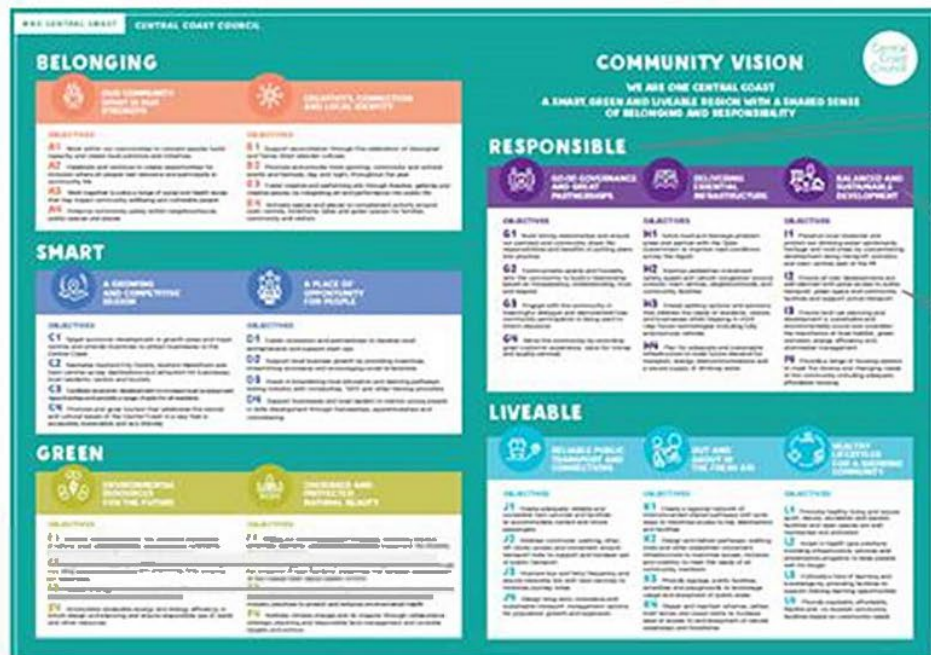


**G2** Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making

There are 5 themes, 12 focus areas and 48 objectives



All council reports contained within the Business Paper are now aligned to the Community Strategic Plan. Each report will contain a cross reference to a Theme, Focus Area and Objective within the framework of the Plan.



- Theme
- Focus Area
- Objective

# Meeting Notice

**The Coastal Open Space System  
of Central Coast Council  
will be held  
Online,  
on Tuesday 18 July 2023 at 2.00pm,  
for the transaction of the business listed below:**

## **1 Procedural Items**

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1.1 | Introduction: Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Disclosure of Interest..... | 4 |
| 1.2 | Previous business: Confirmation of minutes, review action log.....                        | 5 |

## **2 Reports**

- |     |  |    |
|-----|--|----|
| 2.1 | Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation .....                                | 17 |
| 2.2 | Update on Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund and the draft Central Coast Conservation Fund Policy ..... | 42 |
| 2.3 | Update on proposed trial of COSS in the former Wyong LGA (Action 149) .....                              | 43 |
| 2.4 | Update on visit to Wambina (Action 158).....   | 56 |
| 2.5 | Update from External Representatives (Standing Agenda Item) .....  | 61 |
| 2.6 | Update from Community Representatives (Standing Agenda Item).....  | 62 |
| 2.7 | General Business.....  | 63 |

Luke Sulkowski  
**Chairperson**

**1.1 INTRODUCTION: WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY,  
APOLOGIES, DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Chairperson – Luke Sulkowski

**Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Receipt of Apologies**

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play.  
We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging and recognise their continued  
connection to these lands and waterways.  
We acknowledge our shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.*



## 1.2 PREVIOUS BUSINESS: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES, REVIEW ACTION LOG

Luke Sulkowski  
Chairperson

### Attachments

- |   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | Approved minutes from 7 March 2023 meeting  | D15580168 |
| 2 | Approved minutes from 27 March 2023 meeting | D15638730 |
| 3 | Action Log                                  | D15694071 |



Central Coast Council  
Coastal Open Space System  
Held Remotely - Online

07 March 2023

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## MINUTES

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### Attendance

#### Members

	<b>Status</b>
Paul Links	Apology
Deb Holloman	Apology
Daniel Keating	Apology
John Andrews	Present
Stephen Aitkins	Present
Peter Draper	Absent
Barbara Wills	Absent
Douglas Williamson	Absent
David Holland	Absent

#### Staff

	<b>Status</b>
Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager, Environmental Management	Present
Larry Melican – Section Manager, Natural Assets and Biodiversity	Present
Andrew Robinson – Technical Officer, Environmental Infrastructure	Present
Jessica Parkes – Personal Assistant to Unit Manager, Environmental Management	Absent
Rochelle Lawson (optional) – Senior Ecologist – Natural Assets and Biodiversity	Absent
Lisa Martin – Civic Support Officer, Civic Support	Present
Rachel Gibson – Team Leader, Civic Support	Present

#### Guest

	<b>Status</b>
Gary Chestnut	Present

There were insufficient voting non-Councillor representatives present for the meeting, so quorum could not be achieved in accordance with Section Three of the Terms of Reference.

The Chairperson, Luke Sulkowski, advised those present that in the absence of a quorum the meeting could not continue and that another more suitable time would be arranged with invitations at a later date.



Central Coast Council  
Coastal Open Space System  
Held Remotely - Online

27 March 2023

## MINUTES

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### Attendance

#### Members

Paul Links	Present
Deb Holloman	Present
Daniel Keating	Apology
John Andrews	Present
Andrew Bayley/Stephen Atkins	Apology
Peter Draper	Apology
Barbara Wills	Present
Douglas Williamson arrived 3:20pm	Present

#### Staff

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager, Environmental Management	Present
Larry Melican – Section Manager, Natural Assets and Biodiversity	Present
Andrew Robinson – Technical Officer, Environmental Infrastructure	Present
Rochelle Lawson (optional) – Senior Ecologist – Natural Assets and Biodiversity	Apology
Lisa Martin – Civic Support Officer, Civic Support	Present

#### Guest

Gary Chestnut	Present
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**Minutes of the Coastal Open Space System of Council 27 March 2023 contd**

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**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**1.1 Introduction: Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Disclosure of Interest**

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The Chairperson, declared the meeting open at 3:01PM

The Chair read an Acknowledgement of Country statement.

Apologies received were noted.

The Chair called for any disclosures of interest. No disclosures were received

**REPORTS**

**2.1 Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund**

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***Recommendation: That the committee have reviewed the presentation of the Central Coast Conservation Fund Policy Development and provide feedback.***

Presentation by: Larry Melican

Background provided by Luke Sulkowski:

Attendees flagged that there may be alternative opportunities to fund the acquisition of the wetlands other than through Council. The chair advised that he understood that the negotiation for the purchase of the Davistown Wetlands did not fail due to not enough money, but that purchase was being pursued in accordance with Council's Policy for Land Acquisition, and that independent valuations for the land, which Council's offers were based on, were not accepted by the vendor. Ultimately the vendors expectations for sale price of the land did not align with how much Council was prepared to pay.

Council staff advised the Committee that if the Davistown Wetlands Acquisition funds were to go into the new proposed Conservation fund that theoretically there will still be an opportunity for the money to be spent on the Davistown Wetlands, but that application of that fund towards specific projects, tasks and actions, would ultimately be prioritised based on net benefit regardless of location within the LGA. This would include the approach taken in regards to Council's Environmental Land Acquisition Program (ELAP).

There has been a meeting with the Davistown Progress Association to obtain their input.

Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Environment Management) asked the following questions to the group to gain their feedback:

1. **What should the funds be spent on?**
2. **Should the funds stay restricted only for Davistown or should it be spent more productively and go into the conservation fund?**

**Minutes of the Coastal Open Space System of Council 27 March 2023 contd**

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Gary Chestnut (non-voting member) requested for the interest generated by the Conservation Fund to be quarantined within it, and not the general fund. Also requested that the funds remain separate in its own account.

The committee agreed that alternate application of the funds within Davistown could be for such projects as habitat enhancement and protection for the Bush Stone Curlew and other threatened species in the area. It was understood that Council staff had engaged an ecologist to undertake further studies in regards to conflicts between off leash dog exercise areas and wildlife habitat at Pippi Point, and pending the outcome of those studies and further Council decisions in relation to the site, that the funds may be applied at that location for more beneficial conservation outcomes.

Some other feedback from the Committee members included:

- Would like to see the funds used at Davistown on other Conservation Outcomes where possible. Stating that it would be a good environmental use and it would keep the people of Davistown happy.
- Other advice also said that they would be happy to have the funds go into a general conservation fund.
- Another suggestion was that funds could be used for Wetlands within a certain radius, feels it is too restricted just using Davistown. Possible future developers may think it is only for Davistown.

**Action:** The Chairperson requested any additional feedback to be sent to Advisory group inbox by 11 April 2023.

**The Meeting** concluded at 3.53pm

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
132	9/6/2021	The Committee request the Project Manager provide a briefing on the airport masterplan, plan of management and subdivision plan at the next meeting.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	Airport Masterplan update emailed to members 14 February 2022. Verbal update provided on 15 March 2022 meeting.	Complete
139	21/9/2021	Luke Sulkowski to confirm whether the letter sent from Council to National Parks is able to be distributed and will review what information has previously been provided to the COSS Committee regarding this matter.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	The Land Transfer Council to National Parks Chronology was discussed at the 13 December 2021 COSS meeting. Amy Walpole to double check, it seems we may have already provided a copy of the letter to the Minister/National Parks. 16/02: LM to reconfirm that a copy of the letter was circulated to the committee Update as at 07/06/2022 meeting: Follow up regarding letter and circulation to Committee. Update as of 13/09/2022 meeting: Distributed and complete	Complete
140	21/9/2021	Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning to obtain more information regarding the two Conservation areas and provide feedback to Gary Chestnut.	Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning	Peter Sheath currently liaising with Gary Chestnut on this matter.  9/08: An update has been provided to Gary via the AG	Complete
141	21/9/2021	Staff to provide a presentation to the Committee at a future meeting on the way these property sale negotiations are carried out and possible new ways of thinking for Council negotiating on land that has high environmental values.	Unit Manager Economic Development and Property	Item to be pushed back to early 2022. Economic and Property development to take the lead on this action. EMU to provide advice and input as required.	Complete



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				Update as of 13/09/2022 meeting: Complete	
143	21/9/2021	Staff to investigate the unauthorised clearing activities at Matcham and report back to the next COSS meeting advising what action has been taken against people who undertook the clearing.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	<p>A registered surveyor was engaged by Council to carry out a boundary survey to ascertain the extent of clearing on Council land reserve, R0056 Wambina/Matcham Road Reserve. This survey was undertaken on the 26 October 2021.</p> <p>On the 8 December 2022 an onsite meeting was held with Council officers Rhys Richards, Team Leader, Development Control, Brent Evans, Project Officer, Natural Assets and Biodiversity and Chris Ross a representative of the owners of 293 Matcham Road.</p> <p>The representative was asked to provide a Vegetation Management Plan which is to outline how they are to revegetate/regenerate/manage the area that they have admitted to clearing. It is understood that the representative has sourced three quotes from qualified ecologists to carry out the investigation and provide the Vegetation Management Plan and have now engaged Travers Bushfire and Ecology to provide the consultancy services. This plan is to be reviewed</p>	Complete

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				<p>by Council before it is accepted. Once accepted the representative has stated that they will then carry out the recommendations of the report.</p> <p>It is expected that the draft plan will be available for review in the next few weeks.</p>	
144	13/12/2021	Regarding previous action 124, Council to send a follow up letter to the Minister advising of the significant community concerns regarding the clearing of land (public and private) and request that if the legislation isn't going to be changed, that regulatory control of deferred matters zoned land be given back to Council as opposed to DPIE and LLS.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	<p>At the 8 February 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved:</p> <p>That Council send a follow up letter to the Minister advising of the significant community concerns regarding the clearing of land (public and private) and request that if the legislation isn't going to be changed, that regulatory control of deferred matters zoned land be given back to Council as opposed to DPIE and LLS. Letters sent 2 March 2022 to Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Planning and Homes.</p>	Complete
145	13/12/2021	The Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee members would like to express to Council their rejection of any mountain biking trails being established in COSS land or being identified for inclusion in COSS land as part of the Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan which will be reported to Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 14 December 2021.	The Committee / Meeting Support Officer	<p>At the 8 February 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved:</p> <p>That Council note the COSS Committee's rejection of any mountain biking trails being established in COSS land or being identified for inclusion in COSS land as part of the Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan that was reported to</p>	Complete

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 14 December 2021.	
147	13/12/2021	Staff to follow up with the Economic Property Development Team request that they meet with the COSS Sub-Committee to discuss property sale negotiations and the acquisition process, prior to presenting to the Committee in the new year.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	Update as of 13/09/2022 meeting: Complete	Complete
148	13/12/2021	The Committee request that Council write to the Minister noting concerns about lots that were left off the list for potential land transfer to NPWS and request that further consideration be given to private land, not just public land. Furthermore, representations should be made to local members requesting support of this.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	At the 8 Feb 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved:  That Council write to the Minister noting concerns about lots that were left off the list for potential land transfer to NPWS and request that further consideration be given to private land, not just public land. Furthermore, representations should be made to local members requesting support of this. Letters sent 2 March 2022 to Minister for Environment and Heritage, The Member for Terrigal, The Member for Gosford, The Member for The Entrance and The Member for Wyong.	Complete
149	13/12/2021	Staff to arrange a further meeting with Gary Chestnut with a view to identifying some existing conservation reserves in the former Wyong LGA that may be considered for trial under the COSS branding and to	Unit Manager Environmental Management	9/08: Due to scheduling conflicts, a meeting will be scheduled for early October 11/11: Meeting yet to be arranged 6/12: Noted meeting scheduled for Thursday 8/12	Pending

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
		identify likely tasks required in order to proceed with such a project.			
150	15/03/2022	Staff to collate a list of initiatives taken by Council regarding QR codes and provide an update to the Committee at the next meeting. Consideration to also be given to other possible applications software (e.g., Hovr).	Unit Manager Environmental Management	Update provided at 07/06/2022 Committee meeting and outcomes included in meeting minutes	Complete
151	15/03/2022	Committee members are invited to provide any suggestions or feedback on the plan (Environmental Education Strategy) to <a href="mailto:advisorygroups@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au">advisorygroups@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au</a> by Friday 25 March 2022	The Committee	COSS Committee - NAB Environmental Education Strategy emailed to members 18/3/2022  Update provided to Carlita Dhillon and Nick Carson via email 30/3/2022 – final confirmation of all feedback received – one email from Gary Chestnut.	Complete
152	15/03/2022	Copies of the letters sent to Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Planning and Homes regarding Deferred Matters Land to be sent to Adam Crouch Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast and Member for Terrigal, for his information	Unit Manager Environmental Management	9/08: Larry to follow up and confirm if and when these letters were sent to the Members of Parliament  Update as of 13/09/2022: Larry to draft correspondence to Adam Crouch MP (including letters to Ministers) to Director for Approval  5/10/22: Letter sent to Adam Crouch MP	Complete
153	15/03/2022	A copy of all presentations from today's meeting to be provided to Committee Members	Meeting Support Officer	COSS Committee Presentations emailed to members 16/03/2022	Complete

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
154	07/06/2022	A copy of all presentations from today's meeting to be provided to Committee Members.	Meeting Support Officer	9/08: AG to update	Complete
155	07/06/2022	Refresher regarding opportunities for committee members to become involved, suggestions and feedback welcomed, please send via AdvisoryGroups email address.	COSS Committee members	9/08: AG to update	Complete
156	07/06/2022	Chair will seek advice from Team Leader Landcare and SM Natural Assets and Biodiversity regarding whether this is to be re-introduced.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	9/08: Update to be provided during the Action Log item. This program is not being re-introduced at this stage. Current resourcing levels for the nursery only allow for plants to be supplied to environmental volunteering program groups for restoration of their worksites. Further consideration will be given to the potential for plant giveaways to be incorporated as part of the 2023 National Tree Day	Complete
157	13/09/2022	Chair to convene a workshop with staff from Environment Management Unit, Economic and Property Unit and Finance as well two to three Committee members consider acquisition process and report back to committee	Unit Manager Environmental Management	Workshop organised for 1/12/22	Complete
158	13/09/2022	Larry Melican and Andrew Bayley coordinating visit to Wambina with Committee members	Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity	As of 11/11: Inspection yet to be arranged. Update 6/12 – rescheduled to Feb 2023	Ongoing
159	13/09/2022	Presentations to be distributed to Advisory Group members.	Meeting Support Officer		

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
160	13/09/2022	That the COSS Advisory Group support for the dedication of the C2 Environmental Conservation Zoned land at 39 Dell Road, West Gosford, pending the determination of the Planning Proposal, be noted by Council.	COSS Committee members	Council noted COSS minutes of the 13 September meeting. This was not specifically noted by Council.  Update 6/12 – Query regarding if advice is provided to Planning staff. Proposed action to convey this information. To be discussed in meeting at item 5?	
161	13/09/2022	Chair to provide update on website improvements at next meeting and master plan regarding mountain bike riding.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	Agenda Item for 6 December meeting  Update 6/12 – to be postponed until the New Year	Ongoing
162	13/09/2022	Civic Support Team to update Terms of Reference and call for new members	Meeting Support Officer		
163	27/03/2023	Additional feedback requested in relation to the Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund	Civic Support Staff	No feedback was received.	Complete





**Item No:** 2.1  
**Title:** Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation  
**Department:** Environment and Planning

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18 July 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099-002 - D15662339  
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity  
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management  
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

## **Recommendation**

*That the information be noted.*

## **Report purpose**

To provide information to the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee on projects related to the *Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy* that was adopted by Council on 28 September 2020.

## **Executive Summary**

This report to the COSS Committee provides information on the following projects:

- Establishment of Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements on four Council reserves
- Management of the loggerhead sea turtle nest at Shelly Beach
- The outcomes of the little tern breeding season at Karagi Point, The Entrance North.

## **Background**

Council adopted that *Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy* on 28 September 2020. Of the six themes of the Biodiversity Strategy, the projects outlined in this report align closely with:

Theme 1: Planning and Managing Biodiversity in Council's Natural Areas  
Theme 3: Promoting community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation

## **Current Status**

Council has responsibilities as land managers for the management of biodiversity including threatened species. Council participates in the NSW Government's Biodiversity Offset Scheme that provides funding for managing land protected under a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement. Council also undertakes on ground works, often in conjunction with NSW

## 2.1 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)

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Government stakeholders, local experts and the community. The report provides a status report on biodiversity stewardship agreements and two threatened species being managed by Council.

### Report

#### Biodiversity stewardship agreements over Council reserves at Tumbi Umbi and Blue Haven

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* sets out a mandatory biodiversity offset scheme under which proponents of developments or land clearing activities generate a credit obligation that must be retired to offset their activity. Landholders who establish a biodiversity stewardship site on their land generate credits that can be sold to developers who require those particular credits. Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements provide funds in perpetuity to implement a land management action plan to restore and maintain biodiversity values.

On 22 November 2022 Council resolved:

1. *That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into proposed Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust over the lots detailed in Appendix 1 that make up the Blue Haven Wetland Reserve and the Tumbi Umbi Wetland.*
2. *That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and proceed with the sale of biodiversity credits that are generated by the two Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements.*
3. *That Council note that the sale of biodiversity credits will fund the ongoing management of the land that they apply to for conservation purposes, and that this land will remain in Council ownership.*
4. *That a report be prepared for Council following the sale of any biodiversity credits associated with either of these Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements.*

The reserves that are the subject of this proposal are in Blue Haven and Tumbi Umbi and are:

- R0391 – Blue Haven Reserve
- R0314 – Tumbi Umbi Wetland South
- R0315 – Sir Joseph Banks Bushland
- R0419 – Eric Malouf Close Reserve
- R0428 – Tumbi Umbi Wetland North
- R0429 – Tumbi Umbi Wetland Beaverdale

Two biodiversity assessments have been undertaken that identify the vegetation communities on the reserves and have calculated the ecosystem and species credits generated by those communities. Two detailed management plans have been prepared for

## 2.1 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)

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the reserves, including the 20-year costs for implementation. The agreements are drafted and under final review prior to execution by the Chief Executive Officer.

### Proposed Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements on four Council reserves

Preliminary assessments are being undertaken on four COSS reserves. If considered viable, a report to Council will provide approval to enter into agreements. The reserves are known as:

- R0057/R0087 Tumbi Road Reserve/Carbeen Road Reserve;
- R0096 Wells Morella Close Reserve; and
- R0101 Kenmare Road Reserve.

### Loggerhead sea turtle nest at Shelly Beach

In mid-January members of the community reported turtle tracks on Shelly Beach. The community members contacted local wildlife carers who in turn contacted NSW Turtle Watch. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) officers attended the site and confirmed that the tracks were the nesting crawl of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*). The NPWS officers confirmed that a clutch of eggs had been laid near the toe of the dunes above high tide mark. The Shelly Beach site is the most southerly record of a loggerhead nest.

NPWS is the lead agency in monitoring and protection of the nesting site, and supporting the successful hatching of the eggs, but contacted Council for support as the land manager of the beach. Working together, Central Coast Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Turtle Watch, members of the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and volunteers formed a working group to best manage the nest of this endangered species.

Management of the site has included establishing an exclusion zone and fencing, installing signage and fox monitoring and control. Support from the beach users and broader community was seen as being very important, including to minimise inadvertent damage to the turtle nest. Council has worked with the other stakeholder groups on social media posts and media releases. A high level of interest in the turtle nest has been expressed by members of the community.

Given that the loggerhead turtle nest is southward of its usual breeding zone, there was concern that the sand at Shelly Beach will not naturally retain the temperate required for incubation.

Sea turtle nests need an average sand temperature of above approximately 25 degrees to allow the hatchlings to develop. A temperature data logger had been placed near the nest at the same depth to allow the temperatures to be monitored. Turtle eggs cannot be moved in the first three to four weeks after being laid, as the embryos are very sensitive to movement. When the temperature of the nest dropped below 25 degrees, black sand was placed over the top of the nest to increase heat absorption and attempt to increase the temperature. This was successful raising the temperature of the nest by approximately 1 degree.

## 2.1 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)

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The contingency plan identified that should the sand temperature fall below the optimal temperature was to transfer the eggs to an incubator at Taronga Zoo.

Loggerhead sea turtles will generally lay approximately 120 eggs per clutch and can generally lay around 1 to 5 clutches of eggs per season. This sea turtle usually lays its nests in tropical and sub-tropical beaches of Queensland – they are usually not found this far south.

Sea turtles have temperature dependant sex determination, where the sex of the hatchling is determined in the middle third of incubation. Warmer temperatures produce females and cooler temperatures produce males. Climate change is resulting in the generalised warming of nests, potentially producing more females. Nests laid in more southern latitudes, such as this one and others in NSW, are important as they are likely to produce male hatchlings.

Loggerhead turtles face many anthropogenic threats including climate change, ingestion of marine debris and by-catch in international fishing and since the mid 1970's there has been a general decline in the size of the annual nesting population at all monitored Turtle rookeries in eastern Australia, making it more important that this nest is saved, since every sea turtle nest might contain 50 to 150 eggs.

Sea turtles also possess a trait called natal philopatry, where they return to the beach where they hatch to lay in the future. This means that if this nest is successful, any female hatchlings that emerge may return in 30 or so years to nest on this beach! This may be an important adaptive process to combat changing climates.

On 29 March 2023 in response to cooling conditions the loggerhead turtle nest chamber was located and carefully excavated by hand and placed into waiting incubators to be delivered to Taronga Zoo. Of the 136 eggs located only 4 were assessed as being non-viable, with the remaining 132 presumed to be viable.

Ninety-three loggerhead turtle hatchlings that had hatched in the incubators at Taronga Zoo were released at Shelly Beach on 9 April 2023 accompanied by a smoking ceremony led by the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Council. Of the 93 hatchlings released 60 successfully made it into the ocean, with the remaining 33 being washed back to the shore and subsequently taken back to Taronga Zoo. A second release of 63 hatchlings (including the 33 washbacks) occurred on 12 April 2023. All of these secondary releases were successful.

Nine eggs failed post excavation (3 infertile, and 6 advanced dead embryos). Overall however there was still a 90.4% (123 out of 136) success rate from the original clutch of eggs.

Unfortunately, most turtle hatchlings do not survive with less than 5 expected to make it to adulthood. The collaboration between the community, government and volunteers at Shelly Beach has helped those hatchlings make the initial steps in their life journeys.

## **2.1 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)**

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### Little Tern breeding site at Karagi Point, The Entrance North

The little tern breeding season commenced at Karagi Point, The Entrance North in early November and the site was abandoned by late January.

After two successive record-breaking seasons there was anticipation of an exceptional 2022/23 breeding season and at one point were predicting up to 150 fledged birds. Unfortunately, due part to predation by silver gulls, only 31 chicks were confirmed to have fledged. This was down from 56 and 96 in the two previous years, and while numbers are still to be confirmed, it appears that the Karagi Point site was second in terms of chicks fledged in NSW this year, with the Wollumboola Lake site in The Shoalhaven recording 55 fledglings.

From 2000 to 2020 an average of only 11.5 chicks fledged per season at Karagi Point. This included 12 seasons where nesting either wasn't attempted or was deemed a complete failure due to predation or inundation.

The average number of fledged chicks over the last three breeding seasons is 61, which validates the current approach taken by Council in managing the site.

This success is likely in part due to management including:

- habitat enhancement works to reduce the threat of inundation
- installation of secure fencing that excludes people and dogs
- the development of interpretive and regulatory signage
- a program of fox control
- regular rubbish collection to reduce the potential for food scraps that may attract avian/terrestrial predators
- a program of weekly monitoring
- effective community engagement and education strategy to raise awareness of the endangered Little Tern and the importance of Karagi Point.

### **Consultation**

Consultation was undertaken with the internal stakeholders on the proposed establishment of the biodiversity stewardship agreements to ensure that there were no potential conflicts with identified in the reserves, such as critical infrastructure that requires on-going maintenance. Internal consultation was also undertaken on the potential requirements for the credits generated from the two sites. No conflicts were identified, and no credit requirements were identified.

## 2.1 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)

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Community consultation on the *Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy* was undertaken in 2019. Action 1.4.2 is to establish conservation agreements, such as Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements, to improve the long-term protection status of Council's natural areas.

### **Financial Considerations**

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

*1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.*

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

The recommendations of this report do not have any material financial implications for Council.

### **Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Theme 3: Green

### **Choose Focus Area**

G-F1: Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas, and the diversity of local native species.

### **Risk Management**

N/A. This report has been prepared for information of the COSS Committee.

### **Options**

N/A. This report has been prepared for information of the COSS Committee.

### **Attachments**

- 1 Approved COSS Committee Presentation Biodiversity Strategy D15695514





# COSS Committee

Biodiversity Strategy Presentation

6 June 2023

# Biodiversity Strategy Report

- Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements at 4 COSS reserves
- Little tern breeding at Karagi Point, The Entrance North
- Loggerhead sea turtle nest at Shelly Beach



## Final stages: Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

Council considered a report titled Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements in **Blue Haven** and **Tumbi Umbi** on 22 November 2022 and resolved:

1. That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into proposed Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust over the lots detailed in Appendix 1 that make up the Blue Haven Wetland Reserve and the Tumbi Umbi Wetland.
2. That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and proceed with the sale of biodiversity credits that are generated by the two Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements.
3. That Council note that the sale of biodiversity credits will fund the ongoing management of the land that they apply to for conservation purposes, and that this land will remain in Council ownership.
4. That a report be prepared for Council following the sale of any biodiversity credits associated with either of these Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements





Figure 1 - Subject Land Boundary

← Agreement under legal review prior to execution

Agreement being drafted →



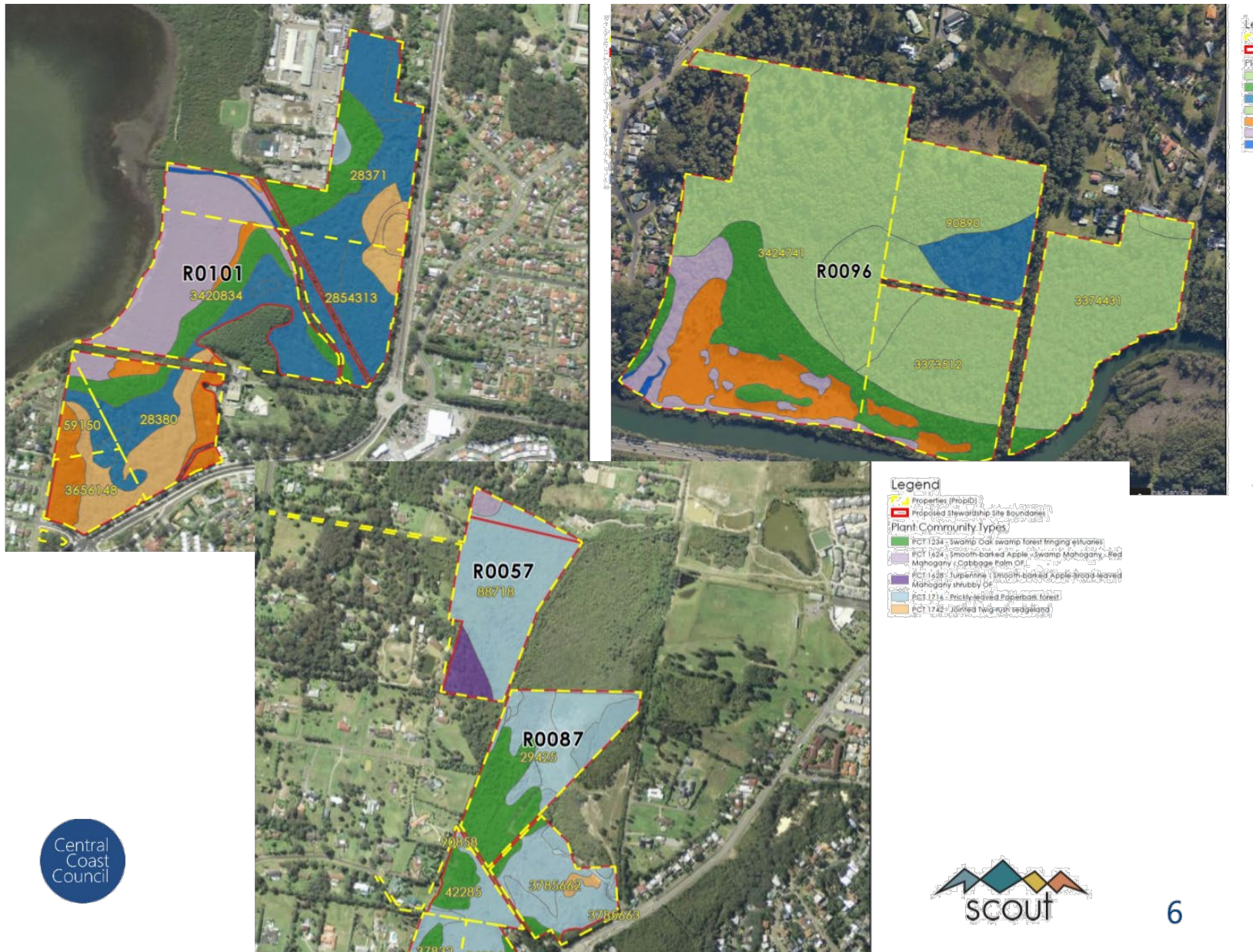
centralcoast

## Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

- The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* sets out a mandatory biodiversity offset scheme under which proponents of developments or land clearing activities generate a credit obligation that must be retired to offset their activity. Landholders who establish a biodiversity stewardship site on their land generate credits that can be sold to developers who require those particular credits
- Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements provide funds in perpetuity to implement a land management action plan to restore and maintain biodiversity values









## Proposed: Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

- Preliminary assessments are being undertaken on 4 reserves. If considered viable, a report to Council will provide approval to enter into agreements
- R0057/R0087 Tumbi Road Reserve/Carbeen Road Reserve and R0096/R0101 Wells Morella Close Reserve/Kenmare Road Reserve
- Option: a Credit Supply Contract with the Credit Supply Taskforce. The CST would buy all of the credits and meet the Total Fund Deposit so that Council can immediately start to receive land management payments



## Little tern breeding – Karagi Pt



Photo Andrew Robinson

[centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au)



Photo Andrew Robinson





Photo Andrew Robinson

# Fence and signs at Karagi

Photo Andrew Robinson





## Fox in dune vegetation at Karagi



## Summer recreation at Karagi Point



Little Tern Fledging Success: 2000 - 2023



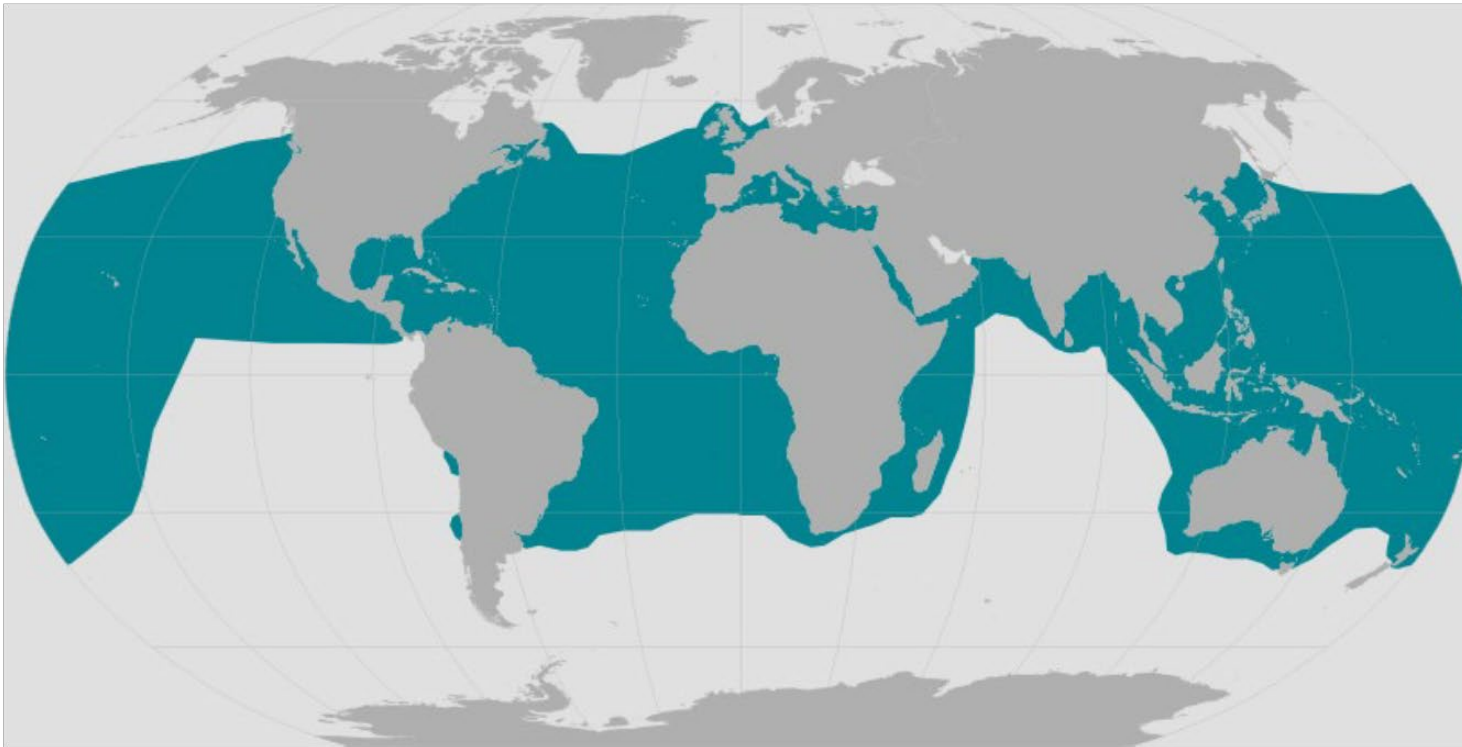


## Loggerhead sea turtle nest at Shelly Beach

- In mid-January 23 walkers at Shelly Beach saw tracks in the sand they suspected to be a turtle.
- This was confirmed along the presence of eggs near the dunes.
- This is one of the southern-most loggerhead nests on record!
- Council has worked with a stakeholder group to monitor and protect the nest site.
- Sand temperate is crucial for successful hatching of the eggs and for the gender of the babies.



## Worldwide distribution loggerhead sea turtles



[Loggerhead Turtle | NOAA Fisheries](#)



# Fence and signs Shelly Beach





# Release of hatchlings at Shelly Beach

- 136 eggs were carefully excavated on 29 March 2023 in response to declining sand temperature
- Placed into incubators and taken to Taronga Zoo where 93 eggs successfully hatched
- Release occur on 9 April 2023 with 60 heading off it into the ocean
- The 33 that didn't brave the water were taken back to Taronga Zoo
- The second release occurred on 12 April 2023 when all hatchlings took to the water.



# Thanks to Team Turtle





**Item No:** 2.2  
**Title:** Update on Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund and the draft Central Coast Conservation Fund Policy  
**Department:** Environment and Planning

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18 July 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099-002 - D15662368  
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity  
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management  
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

## **Recommendation**

### ***Information be noted.***

#### **Report purpose**

To advise the COSS Committee that Council considered a report titled 'Central Coast Conservation Fund' at its meeting on 23 May 2023.

#### **Executive Summary**

A verbal update on Council's resolution of 23 May 2023 will be provided to the COSS Committee at its meeting on 6 June 2023.

## **Attachments**

*Nil.*



**Item No:** 2.3  
**Title:** Update on proposed trial of COSS in the former Wyong LGA (Action 149)  
**Department:** Environment and Planning

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18 July 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099-002 - D15662372  
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity  
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management  
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

## **Recommendation**

- 1. That the information be noted***
- 2. That based on the discussions held between Council staff and Gary Chestnut tabled in this report, and presented at this meeting, that the COSS Committee provide feedback on the discussion points addressed in order to determine a suitable way to proceed***

## **Report purpose**

To provide the COSS Committee with an update of the meetings held between Council Officers and Gary Chestnut about the potential to apply the COSS name to a reserve or reserves in the former Wyong LGA on a trial basis.

To request feedback from the COSS Committee on the parameters for assessing the outcomes of the trial, the data required to demonstrate the outcomes of the trial, the thresholds for achievement/non-achievement of each of the parameters, the management actions required to support the trial, the resources required to implement the management actions, the length of time required to assess the effectiveness of the trial and any information relevant to the trial.

## **Executive Summary**

The COSS Committee has discussed the potential to expand the COSS into the former Wyong Local Government Area (LGA) at various times over the past two years. The COSS Committee has been reminded, on these occasions, that bushland reserves and other conservation lands do exist in the former Wyong LGA, they are just not branded as COSS or under any other moniker. On 2 March 2021 the COSS Committee considered Item 9 titled Findings of COSS Report undertaken by the Community Environment Network (CEN).

## 2.3 Update on proposed trial of COSS in the former Wyong LGA (Action 149) (contd)

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In response to Action Item 149 from the COSS Meeting of 13 December 2021, meetings were held with Gary Chestnut as per Action Item 149 on 8 December 2022 and 27 April 2023.

Feedback is sought from the COSS Committee on the parameters for assessing the outcomes of the trial, the data required to demonstrate the outcomes of the trial, the thresholds for achievement/non-achievement of each of the parameters, the management actions required to support the trial, the resources required to implement the management actions, the length of time required to assess the effectiveness of the trial and any information relevant to a potential trial.

### Background

The COSS Committee has discussed the potential to expand the COSS at various times over the past two years.

On 2 March 2021, during discussion on Item 9 titled Findings of COSS Report, Jackie Pearson from the CEN provided the COSS Committee with a presentation on the report titled "Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges and Opportunities of the Coastal Open Space System (COSS)" which had the following objectives:

- To explore the strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities of the COSS
- To present a recommendation on the possibility of expanding the COSS into the former Wyong local government area.
- To present a recommendation on establishment of a Regional Park for the existing COSS.

The relevant action arising following the presentation was:

**Action 127:** Gary Chestnut to liaise with Luke Sulkowski to clarify the points of difference in the COSS report compared to the Biodiversity Strategy.

Action Item 127 of 2 March 2021 was updated on 9 June 2021 to reflect the actions taken:

A meeting was held, and the differences of interpretation were acknowledged. It was noted that the COSS report and Biodiversity Strategy were drafted concurrently. Gary gave an undertaking that he would review the recommendations in the COSS report with actions that are in the Biodiversity Strategy. Gary to present a combined report on Council's Biodiversity Strategy and future recommendations from the COSS report.

As part of the Action Log update in Agenda Item 1 at the COSS Meeting of 21 September 2021 a new action (no. 136) was recorded in the minutes. Action item 127 was marked as complete.



## 2.3 Update on proposed trial of COSS in the former Wyong LGA (Action 149) (contd)

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**Action 136:** The Comparison undertaken by CEN of the COSS Report and Council's Biodiversity Strategy to be circulated to Committee Members. Unit Manager Environmental Management to investigate the option of an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the report.

On 13 December 2021 the COSS Committee considered Item 8 titled 'Comparison between CEN COSS Report and Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy'. A decision was made to discuss the item at the ordinary meeting on 13 December 2021 rather than hold an extraordinary meeting for the item. Action 136 was marked as complete in the Action Log, with a new action (149) being recorded:

**Action 149:** Staff to arrange a further meeting with Gary Chestnut with a view to identifying some existing natural assets and other conservation reserves in the former Wyong LGA that may be considered for trial under the COSS branding and to identify likely tasks required in order to proceed with such a project.

This report is prepared in response to Action Item 149.

### Current Status

In response to Action Item 149 from the COSS Meeting of 13 December 2021 meetings were held with Gary Chestnut as per Action Item 149 on 8 December 2022 and 27 April 2023. The Council representatives at the two meetings were Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager, Environmental Management Unit, Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity and Rochelle Lawson, Senior Ecologist.

### Report

The two meetings held on 8 December 2022 and 27 April 2023 were open and constructive. The following summarises the points of discussion covered:

#### Key advantages of COSS brand

- The COSS brand offers a level of political or reputation protection, rather than legislative protection.
- The use of the COSS brand may be a simpler way for the community to understand and talk about environmental protection, rather than having detailed knowledge of environmental legislation and ecology.
- The former Gosford City Council received government grants to purchase land. Political kudos resulted from federal government grants, which were especially able to be applied for or lobbied for because of the named system.

## 2.3 Update on proposed trial of COSS in the former Wyong LGA (Action 149) (contd)

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### Potential risks associated with applying the COSS brand to other reserves

- The COSS brand does not provide legislative protection for the land, nor a legally binding commitment to manage the land for biodiversity. Community classification of land provides a level of legislative protection under the Local Government Act.
- The COSS branding may not be quite as familiar and well embraced in the north of the LGA. The pilot or broader reserve branding could change that, but the benefits would need to be better understood first.
- Stronger legislative protection of environmentally important land is available under the Biodiversity Conservation Act through establishing Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements or Conservation Agreements. Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements provide an in-perpetuity source of funds for management and include a legally binding commitment to manage the land for its biodiversity values.
- The name itself may present potential disadvantages as not all of the land is coastal, and it is not actually open space (in the sense of open parklands, or having the primary purpose of recreation), but is primarily intended to support native vegetation, biodiversity and habitats.
- If we want to draw attention to bushland reserves, the brand could be applied to areas with established recreational opportunities (e.g. formalised walking trails or lookout opportunities). This would potentially allow for promotion of the environment and compatible nature-based recreation. There are risks in advertising the location of environmental land which have no recreational infrastructure and are held almost exclusively for conservation purposes.
- Naming a reserve COSS may increase expectations that the site will be more intensively managed.

### Strategic documents that refer to expansion of the COSS

- Community Strategic Plan - Objective F2: Promote greening and ensure the wellbeing of communities through the protection of local bushland, urban trees, tree canopies and expansion of the COSS.
- Central Coast Regional Plan 2041
  - Strategy 6.3: Local strategic planning should consider opportunities to strengthen the Coastal Open Space System by expanding its links and extending new corridors to balance growth in the north of the region and protect the network of natural areas across the region.

## 2.3 Update on proposed trial of COSS in the former Wyong LGA (Action 149) (contd)

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- Planning Priority 4: Protect vegetated ridgelines and enhance the enjoyment of conservation areas for passive recreation activities compatible with the natural environment
  - Council can strengthen connections between the natural areas of the COSS and lesser vegetated areas within the urban environment by implementing the Central Coast Greener Places Strategy, including planting trees on private land or around schools, health facilities, parks and golf courses.
- Central Lakes Precinct
  - Planning Priority 4: Enhance the blue and green grid
    - Expanding the Central Coast's COSS into the Central Lakes District will secure biodiversity corridors and high environmental value areas to maintain viability.
    - Any development in new growth areas will need to maintain the integrity of the biodiversity corridors and not compromise the movement of wildlife between the mountains and the ocean. This will reinforce the landscape and visual setting for urban development.

Planning Priority 4 for the Central Lakes Precinct is about reserving high environmental value land for the on-going viability of biodiversity in the precinct, rather than applying the COSS name to existing natural reserves.

### Expanding the COSS within the existing footprint in the former Gosford LGA

The COSS could be expanded by acquiring identified proposed COSS properties and by reviewing the existing COSS boundary to include properties that support native vegetation which have not been identified on the proposed COSS site list. Council staff are aware of a number of private properties that support bushland in the former Gosford LGA that are not identified for future voluntary acquisition and may have values consistent with the COSS.

### Potential Trial location for COSS in the former Wyong LGA

- The transfer of 94.48 hectares of land in 'Precinct 7A' land at Warnervale to Council occurred on 21 October 2022 and was reported to the COSS Committee on 6 December 2022 (see Attachment 1).
- The COSS criteria would need to be applied to proposed reserve(s) for consistency, and the reserves would need to achieve a sufficiently high score that exceeds the 'cut off', which was the process used in the review of the COSS during 2006.

### What are the potential indicators of success of a trial in the former Wyong LGA?

The following indicators were put forward for consideration (on the basis that we can demonstrate behavioural and other change resulting from the proposed 'COSS' branding)

## 2.3 Update on proposed trial of COSS in the former Wyong LGA (Action 149) (contd)

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- Increased community understanding and value of the local natural environment?
- Increased community understanding of the threats to biodiversity and the actions that individuals and groups can take to reduce the threats?
- Active community engagement in environmental volunteering?
- A reduction and reversals of encroachments from neighbouring properties into public areas managed for nature conservation?
- A reduction in unauthorised activities on land managed for nature conservation – vegetation lopping/removal, firewood collection, bush rock collection, reptile and other animal poaching, track construction etc.?
- Increased populations numbers of key animal, plant and/or other populations of biota?
- Increased use of the land by the community for activities consistent with biodiversity conservation?

### What data needs to be collected to determine the success of the trial?

- This very much depends on what the defined indicator(s) of success are.
- How long would data need to be collected for to be able to provide an evidence-based understanding of trends with biodiversity, as well as community and Council behaviours and activities?
- What resources are required to collect the required data?
- How do we ensure and preserve data integrity in regard to the trial (i.e. to produce an objective results to guide further direction)

### Management actions to support the trial

- Budgets and staff time are both already limited, and a trial of applying the COSS name to other reserve(s) and the associated actions, which may include promotional activities, of the site require staff and budget resources.
- Management actions applied to the trial reserve would need to be consistent with those of similar COSS reserves.

### **Consultation**

Meetings were held with Gary Chestnut as per Action Item 149 on 8 December 2022 and 27 April 2023. The Council representatives at the two meetings were Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager, Environmental Management Unit, Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity and Rochelle Lawson, Senior Ecologist.

Feedback is sought from the COSS Committee on the parameters for assessing the outcomes of the trial, the data required to demonstrate the outcomes of the trial, the thresholds for achievement/non-achievement of each of the parameters, the management actions required to support the trial, the resources required to implement the management actions, the length of time required to assess the effectiveness of the trial and any information relevant to a potential trial.

## 2.3 Update on proposed trial of COSS in the former Wyong LGA (Action 149) (contd)

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### Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

*1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.*

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

The recommendations of the report do not have a financial impact on Council's General Fund. Implementations of the outcomes of the discussion around a trial may have resource implications, which would need to be considered against Council's other priorities.

### Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Green

### Choose Focus Area

G-F2: Promote greening and the wellbeing of communities through the protection of local bushland, urban trees, and expansion of the Coastal Open Space System (COSS).

### Risk Management

The recommendations of this report are not considered to present a potential risk to Council.

### Options

The recommendations present the opportunity for the COSS Committee to provide feedback and be active in defining a robust way of assessing the effectiveness of and the resourcing of a potential COSS naming trial in the former Wyong LGA. **Recommended.**

That only Council officers define the detail of the assessment and operation of a potential COSS naming trial in the former Wyong LGA. **Not recommended since the COSS Committee's involvement and support of the process is important for the trial.**

That a trial proceed without any assessment criteria and data collection to assess its outcomes. **Not recommended as there will be no way to undertake an evidence-based assessment of a potential trial.**

### Attachments

**2.3 Update on proposed trial of COSS in the former Wyong LGA (Action 149) (contd)**

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- 1** COSS Committee - Presentation Attachment 1 to COSS Trial report 6 D15676553  
June 2023



# Land Transfer at Warnervale

Former Precinct 7A of North Wyong  
Shire Structure Plan

## Former Precinct 7A Land at Warnervale

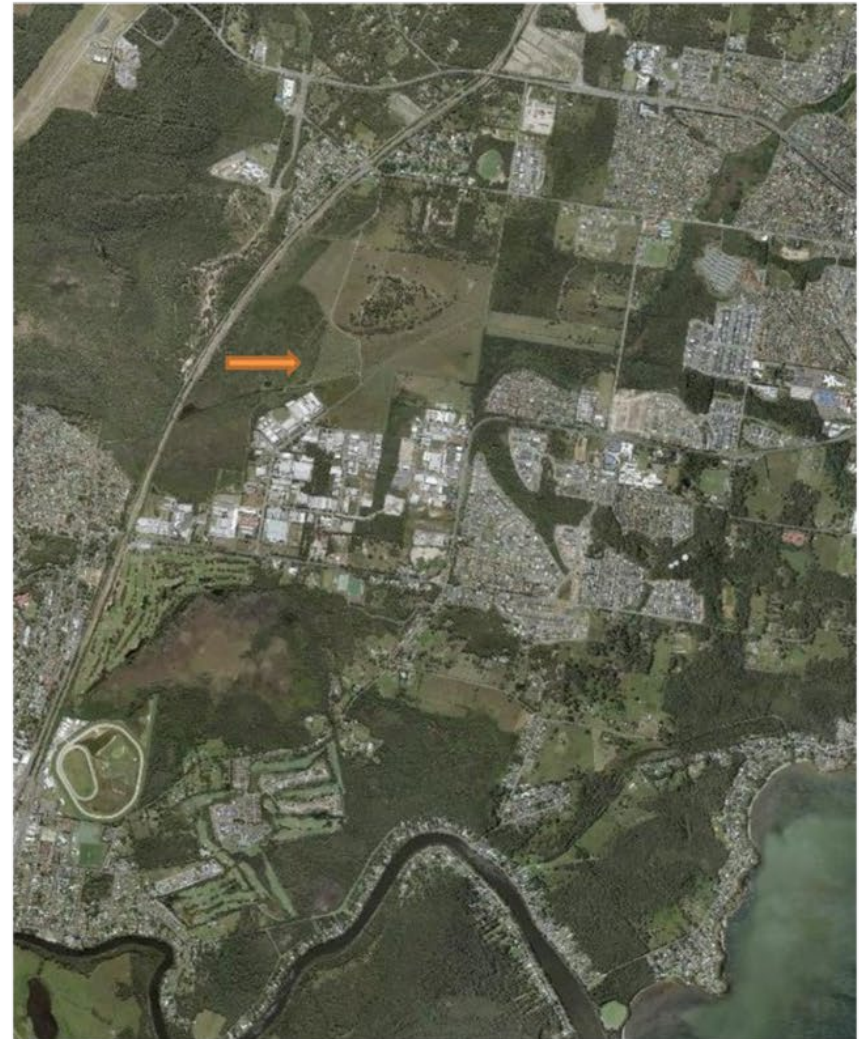
- Transfer of 145 hectares of flood prone land in the Warnervale Floodplain
- Stage 1 transfer (Lot 704 DP 1275094) of 94.48 ha occurred on 21 Oct 22
- Stage 2 of proposed Lot 711 to occur following subdivision
- Total area approx. 145 hectares
- Sec 7.11 developer contribution for rehabilitation works





## Stage 1 Land Transfer

- Location east of railway and north of Wyong racecourse and golf course
- Part of Porters Creek catchment





## Values of the land

- Mapped as containing 3 endangered ecological communities
  - Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains
  - Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains
  - Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest
- Opportunity to de-channelise drain to reduce the rate of flow through the flood plain
- Potential for recreation on shared trails.



, will do a few other bits

**Item No:** 2.4  
**Title:** Update on visit to Wambina (Action 158)  
**Department:** Environment and Planning

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18 July 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099-002 - D15662377  
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity  
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management  
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

## **Recommendation**

***That the information be noted.***

### **Report purpose**

To provide an update to the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee about the inspection of Council land adjacent to and near Wambina Nature Reserve as part of the potential transfer of COSS land to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. This report relates to the COSS Action Item 158.

### **Executive Summary**

Council resolved in part on 26 April 2022 that Council officers continue to work with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to progress the assessment of listed Council land for potential inclusion in the local national parks system.

Inspections of Council land were undertaken in the vicinity of Munmorah State Conservation Area on 14 September 2022; Bouddi National Park on 15 September 2022; and Wambina Nature Reserve on 29 March 2023.

### **Background**

Council considered a Notice of Motion on 9 December 2019 titled Request from Proposals from Minister Kean. The correspondence from The Honourable Matt Kean MP, Minister for Energy and Environment, to Council dated 2 October 2019 included a request for advice on land acquisition proposals that would add value to the national parks system in your electorate.

Council resolved in relation to Item 8.9 Notice of Motion - Request from Proposals from Minister Kean:



## 2.4 Update on visit to Wambina (Action 158) (contd)

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*1350/19 That Council note the correspondence and commend The Hon Matt Kean MP, Minister for Energy and Environment, for his recent announcement of his intention to add lands to the National Parks Estate and calling for proposals.*

*1351/19 That Council note that staff have commenced a process of identifying potential land that could be included as part of a proposal.*

*1352/19 That Council request the Chief Executive Officer provide all Councillors with the opportunity to contribute to the process of identifying suitable lands.*

*1353/19 That Council request the Chief Executive Officer submit a proposal by the end of January, 2020.*

A letter from Council to Minister Kean, dated 31 January 2020, provided a list of properties for consideration following the Councillor workshop on 14 January 2020. The letter included that the Councillor workshop identified 11 groups of properties across the Central Coast. Of the 11 groupings considered, six of the property groupings would be added to existing national parks while the other five property groups would require new national parks reserves to be established.

A letter from Minister Kean to Council, dated 15 March 2021, advised of the outcome of the initial assessment of the properties recommended by Council for potential transfer to NPWS. The Minister advised that he had requested NPWS to discuss the outcomes of the initial assessment with Council and develop comprehensive proposals for his consideration for the following nominations:

- Select lots adjoining Wambina Nature Reserve
- Select lots adjoining Bouddi National Park. The private lots nominated are not recommended for addition.
- One lot adjoining Munmorah State Conservation Area.

Council considered a report titled Potential Transfer of COSS Land to NPWS on 26 April 2022 and resolved:

- 1 *That Council officers continue to work with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to progress the assessment of the Council land listed in Attachment 1 for potential inclusion in the local national parks system.*
- 2 *That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Director of the Conservation Branch of the NPWS to advise that Council land assessed as being suitable for inclusion in the national parks system will be transferred for no*

## 2.4 Update on visit to Wambina (Action 158) (contd)

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*monetary consideration subject to a further report on the outcomes of the assessment process being considered by Council.*

- 3 *That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Director of the Conservation Branch of the NPWS to advise of Council's position that:
  - i. *legal costs associated with the potential transfer be covered by each party*
  - ii. *any costs associated with any subdivision or boundary realignments required would be equitably shared between the two parties.**
- 4 *That a report be brought back to Council identifying the Council-owned land parcels that are assessed as being suitable for potential transfer to the NPWS for inclusion in the local national park system.*
- 5 *That Council's Coastal Open Space System Committee provide formal advice on the proposal prior to it being brought back to Council.*

### **Current Status**

Inspections of the land adjacent to Munmorah State Conservation Area and Bouddi National Park identified by former Minister Kean on 15 March 2021 were undertaken on 14 September 2022 and 15 September 2022 respectively.

### **Report**

Inspection of the Council owned land adjacent to Wambina Nature Reserve was undertaken by representatives of NPWS, a representative of the COSS Committee and a representative of Council on 29 March 2023.

The properties inspected included:

<b>Property Address</b>	<b>Lot/DP</b>
385 Matcham Rd, MATCHAM	1/DP1087483
299 Matcham Rd, MATCHAM	8/DP262157
83 Tumbi Rd, WAMBERAL	101/DP866223
7B Longview Cl, WAMBERAL	133/DP1142189
6/360 Matcham Rd, MATCHAM	6/DP809300
2/358 Matcham Rd, MATCHAM	12/DP792810
27 Lea Ave, WAMBERAL	4/DP832164
67A Aldinga Dr, WAMBERAL	3/DP232333

NPWS will undertake an internal review of the land inspected before responding formally to Council.

### **Consultation**

The COSS Committee has been provided regular updates on the property inspections. Representatives of the COSS Committee were invited to attend the property inspections. One member of the COSS Committee was involved in the inspection of the land adjacent to Wambina Nature Reserve.

### **Financial Considerations**

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

*1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.*

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

### **Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Theme 3: Green

### **Choose Focus Area**

G-F1: Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas, and the diversity of local native species.

### **Risk Management**

No material risks have been identified relating to this information report.

### **Options**

The recommendation is to note the report.

### **Attachments**

- 1 Attachment 1 COSS Land Wambina COSS Committee Action Item 158 D15667602

Attachment 1: Map of COSS land adjacent to and near Wambina Nature Reserve.



Attachment to report to COSS Committee meeting of 6 June 2023



**2.5 UPDATE FROM EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)**

**2.6 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)**

## **2.7 GENERAL BUSINESS**