



## **COASTAL OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

**05 September 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.



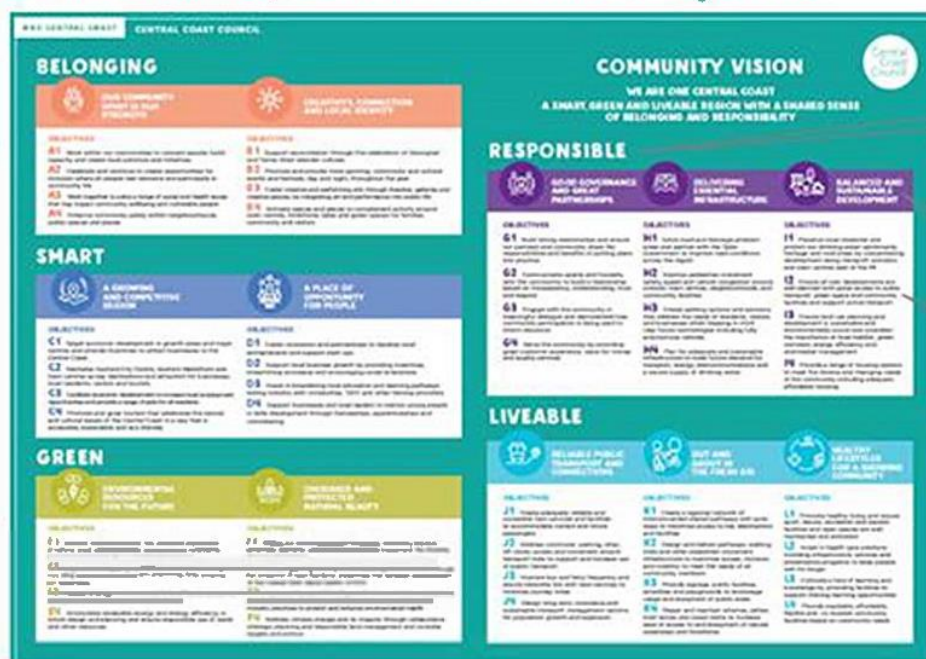
**Good governance and great partnerships**

**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

### COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028 FRAMEWORK

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.



# Meeting Notice

**The Coastal Open Space System  
of Central Coast Council  
will be held Remotely – Online,  
on Tuesday 5 September 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**

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Luke Sulkowski  
**Chairperson**

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

Chairperson

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**

Chairperson

**Attachments**

<b>1</b>	July COSS Action Log	Provided Under Separate Cover	D15817981
<b>2</b>	MINUTES - Coastal Open Space System - 18 July 2023	Provided Under Separate Cover	D15770670



**Item No:** 2.1  
**Title:** Update on Biodiversity Strategy and Land Acquisition and prioritisation (Standing Agenda Item)  
**Department:** Environment and Planning

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#### 5 September 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099-002 - D15796218  
Author: Rochelle Lawson, Senior Ecologist, 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:

- 2022/23 Bush Regeneration Program summary

### **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

### **Current Status**

Council has responsibilities as land managers for the management of biodiversity including threatened species. This report provides a summary of the land management program for the previous financial year.

## 2.1 Update on Biodiversity Strategy and Land Acquisition and prioritisation (Standing Agenda Item) (contd)

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### Report

In 2022/23, the bush regeneration program included 25 Council bushland reserves. Activities focussed on implementing site management plans, weed control, threatened species habitat management, rubbish removal, replanting, updating mapping and signage.

The 25 bushland reserves are listed below:

ID	Reserve Name
R0043	LEMON TREE STREET RESERVE
R0044	BARWON ROAD RESERVE
R0073	RUMBALARA RESERVE
R0074	RAINFOREST ROAD RESERVE
R0075	FERNTREE CLOSE RESERVE
R0076	KATANDRA RESERVE
R0141	MOUNT PLEASANT RESERVE
R0170	BLACKWALL MOUNTAIN
R0180	KALLAROO ROAD BUSH RESERVE
R0182	KYLIE CLOSE WETLANDS
R0234	BRADLEYS ROAD BUSHLAND
R0243	CULLENS ROAD BUSHLAND RESERVE
R0267	KILDARE STREET RESERVE
R0304	SANDRA STREET BUSHLAND
R0305	KIAR RIDGE BUSHLAND
R0307	DICKSONS ROAD BUSHLAND
R0349	OLD TUGGERAH ROAD BUSHLAND
R0355	RESERVOIR ROAD BUSHLAND
R0371	CENTRAL COAST HOCKEY PARK CONSERVATION AREA
R0375	WADALBA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR
R0408	ILLAWONG ROAD BUSHLAND
R0043	LEMON TREE STREET RESERVE
R0044	BARWON ROAD RESERVE
R0073	RUMBALARA RESERVE
R0074	RAINFOREST ROAD RESERVE

## **2.1 Update on Biodiversity Strategy and Land Acquisition and prioritisation (Standing Agenda Item) (contd)**

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In addition, specific restoration works were undertaken in Davistown to enhance bush stone curlew habitat and to restore a riparian corridor at Chittaway Road. A full restoration plan was prepared for the historically cleared part of Siletta Road Reserve.

Fauna habitat augmentation is a large part of the program and in 2022/23, natural hollows salvaged from development sites were installed in Mount Alison Reserve (32 hollows) and in Jascaren Close Reserve (14 hollows). Fauna monitoring has been continuous at the installed habitat tree in Porters Creek Wetland. Also, maintenance for termite prevention was undertaken on the installed habitat tree at Wadalba.

### **Consultation**

Internal consultation was undertaken in determining the management priorities for a selection of Council reserves that are jointly managed by the Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Catchments to Coast and Environmental Infrastructure teams of Council.

### **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

### **Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships**

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

### **Attachments**

*Nil.*

**Item No:** 2.2  
**Title:** Dogs in Open Space Action Plan  
**Department:** Environment and Planning

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5 September 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099-002 - D15801816  
Author: Matthew Corradin, Unit Manager Environmental Compliance Services  
Manager: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning  
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

## **Recommendation**

***That the committee note the recommendations of the independent Threatened Species Assessment undertaken by Future Ecology Pty Ltd in 2023 and recommendations of the revised draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan (revised draft Plan) regarding the proposed extension of the protected area at "Pippi Point" Davistown.***

## **Report purpose**

To inform the COSS Committee of the findings of the Threatened Species Assessment undertaken for Pippi Point in mid-2023 and the proposed changes to the revised draft Plan following both the Threatened Species Assessment and community feedback received during targeted workshops on 7, 8 and 9 August in relation to Council's previous proposal to close the Off Leash Area (OLA) at Pippi Point and convert it to an on-leash area.

## **Executive Summary**

Council engaged a consultant in 2022 to prepare the draft Plan.

The draft Plan was prepared to provide Council with a 10-year planning framework that will guide decision making about how and where off leash provisions will be made for dog owners and their dogs. The draft Plan also sought to balance a range of often competing demands that are placed on Council's open space network including:

- 1) managing risks,
- 2) preserving amenity,
- 3) considering the differences of opinion between dog owners and those that do not own dogs and/or do not want to interact with dogs,
- 4) the recreation and sporting needs of the community who also utilise Council's open space network, and
- 5) the protection and enhancement of our natural environments.

Pippi Point is currently a dogs OLA. Pippi Point has been identified as environmentally sensitive by at least two independent ecologists and appropriately trained staff in Council.

Council's recommendation in the draft Plan was for the OLA to be decommissioned and converted to an on-leash area and that an alternative site be established at Memorial Park or Pine Avenue Reserve. This proposal has received significant opposition from a section of the Davistown community and the revised draft Plan seeks to balance the competing views regarding the desire of part of the Davistown community to maintain an OLA with the environmental sensitivities of the locality. To do this, Council proposes that the protected area at Pippi Point be expanded, while retaining a smaller OLA.

### **Background**

The environmental value of Pippi Point has been known to Council for some time due internal staff knowledge and observations. Council staff therefore previously engaged an independent ecologist to undertake a Review of Environmental Factors at Pippi Point in 2010. The conclusion of this Report was that Pippi Point "should NOT be used for dog 'off-leash' activities" (Whelans Insights, 2010). For a variety of reasons including the need to balance community views and expectations, Pippi Point currently remains an OLA.

The draft Report, which was placed on public exhibition from 1 July 2022 to 26 August 2022, sought to address the environmental considerations by converting the OLA to an on-leash area only and providing a separate OLA at Memorial Park or within the Pine Avenue Reserve.

This proposal, while supported by some, is also strongly opposed by a number of Davistown community groups and residents. Furthermore, these community groups and residents have consistently questioned the validity of previous ecological studies.

On 13 December 2022, the feedback from the exhibition of the draft Plan was taken to Council's Ordinary Meeting where it was resolved that Council would do the following:

*2.6.2 Endorse the development and exhibition of a revised and simplified draft Dogs In Open Space Action Plan given the feedback received from the Central Coast Community to date.*

Council staff, to address these concerns in a revised draft Plan, engaged an independent ecologist in 2023 to undertake a Threatened Species Assessment of Pippi Point.

Council staff also undertook additional workshops with the community on 7, 8 and 9 August 2023.

**Current Status**

Council staff have since undertaken a detailed review of the submissions received during the first public exhibition period with a Consultation Report, which includes responses to specific concerns raised during the first public exhibition period, published [here](#) (and attached).

Future Ecology Pty Ltd's (Future Ecology) Threatened Species Assessment, which can be found [here](#) (from page 174, and attached), made the following findings of additional species and which included the following recommendation:

*Findings*

- Eastern Curlew (observed during three diurnal surveys)
- Bar-tailed Godwit (observed during two diurnal surveys)
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (observed during one nocturnal survey)
- Bush-stone Curlew (observed / heard during one nocturnal survey)
- Pied Oystercatcher (observed during two diurnal surveys)
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (observed during one nocturnal survey)

*Recommendation*

- That a new location for a leash free dog exercise area be located away from Pippi Point

A risk assessment of the reserve was also undertaken by Council staff that considers environmental risk additional to public risk.

Community workshops held on the 7, 8 and 9 August 2023 discussed site constraints as well as proposed additional alternative sites for off leash activity. The decommission of the OLA was strongly opposed by most attendees interested in Davistown and there were no agreements reached on alternative OLAs. Those attending and interested in Davistown supported Council looking at a compromise arrangement regarding Pippi Point being that the protected area be extended, with a focus on protecting access to the tidal flats, while maintaining an OLA in this locality. The workshop summary report can be found [here](#) (and attached).

A revised draft Plan has been developed to provide clarity on actions proposed. In relation to Pippi Point, the revised draft Plan proposes the following changes:



**Figure 1 – proposed off leash area at Illoura Reserve, Davistown**

Green – revised protected area, Blue – revised OLA, Note: polygons align with Council's cadastre overlays

## Consultation

There has been extensive community consultation in relation to this matter.

A revised draft Plan, as committed to from the Council December 2023 Ordinary Meeting was put to Council's August 2023 Ordinary Meeting seeking that the revised draft Plan be exhibited for a further 28 days to allow for further public consultation on the revised draft Plan (*at the time of writing Council had not yet resolved on the matter*).

## 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 material financial implications of reporting this matter to the COSS committee.

**Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Theme 4: Responsible

**Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships**

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**

In addition to the Threatened Species Assessment, a risk assessment of the reserve was also undertaken by Council staff in 2023 that considers environmental risk additional to public risk and the assessed risk was considered unacceptable. The proposed changes to the protected area and the OLA partly address that risk.

**Options**

Options available to the COSS Committee are:

1. Support the revised draft Plan when it is placed on public exhibition.
2. Oppose the revised draft Plan when it is placed on public exhibition.
3. Provide additional advice on either a compromise position in respect of the protected area and the OLA or propose another OLA in the area that may be able to better suit the needs of the community.

**Critical Dates or Timeframes**

The revised draft Plan was to be presented to Council in the August 2023 meeting recommending a 28-day consultation period. The final Plan is expected to be presented to Council in late 2023 for adoption.

**Attachments**

<b>1</b>	Threatened Species Assessment for the Portion of Illoura Reserve, Davistown Known Locally as "Pippi Point" - May 2023	Provided Under Separate Cover	D15810286
<b>2</b>	Illoura Reserve Davistown - Potential Impacts of Dog Off-leash Activities - Review of Environmental Factors - May 2010	Provided Under Separate Cover	D15810287
<b>3</b>	Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan - Consultation Report - July 2023	Provided Under Separate Cover	D15810290
<b>4</b>	Dogs In Open Space Action Plan - Workshop Report - August 2023	Provided Under Separate Cover	D15816098

**Item No:** 2.3  
**Title:** Environmental Education  
**Department:** Environment and Planning

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5 September 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099-002 - D15796210  
Author: Michael Smith, Acting 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 a presentation to the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee on Council's Environmental Education program.

## **Executive Summary**

The presentation to the COSS Committee will provide information about the Environmental Education program including:

- Development of a multi-year plan for Environmental Education
- Branding for 'Love Our Natural Areas'
- Tuesday Tails
- Thursday Trails
- School and school holiday programs
- Signage
- Other Environmental Education campaigns and events

## **Background**

Council has established a focus area within the Community Strategic Plan to 'Educate the community on the value and importance of natural areas and biodiversity and encourage community involvement in caring for our natural environment'.

Council's Environmental Education Officers are directly responsible for delivering a program that aligns with this strategic objective. The information presented to the COSS Committee will give a summary of the environmental education that has been delivered to the community in the previous year.

### Current Status

Council's Environmental Education Officers currently deliver a multi-pronged program aimed at delivering environmental education to Central Coast residents, and to those visiting the natural areas of the Central Coast. This report provides a summary of the ways that this environmental education has been delivered over the previous year.

### Report

Council has recognised the importance of educating the community on the importance of natural areas and biodiversity.

Council's Environmental Education Officers have developed a multi-year plan to increase the level of environmental education within the community on issues relating to natural areas and biodiversity through:

- The creation of a recognisable brand for natural areas, 'Love Our Natural Areas'
- Developing social media campaigns to deliver environmental education to Central Coast residents
- Delivering opportunities for the community to participate in workshops and events that increase their level of environmental education
- Delivering workshops and events directly to schools and to children through the school holidays
- Designing and installing signage throughout the Central Coast that provides environmental education

### Consultation

N/A

### 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-E1: Educate the community on the value and importance of natural areas and biodiversity, and encourage community involvement in caring for our natural environment.

**Risk Management**

N/A

**Options**

N/A

**Attachments**

*Nil.*



**Item No:** 2.4  
**Title:** Environmental Volunteering Update  
**Department:** Environment and Planning

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5 September 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099-002 - D15796200  
Author: Michael Smith, Acting 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 a presentation to the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee on Council's Environmental Volunteer Program (EVP).

## **Executive Summary**

The presentation to the COSS Committee will provide information about the EVP including:

- Overview of groups, volunteers, hours or work carried out
- Floating Landcare Events
- National Tree Day Events
- Nursery volunteering
- Corporate volunteering
- School volunteering
- Ongoing education and promotion

## **Background**

Council adopted the *Central Coast Council Environmental Volunteer Program Strategy* on 11 May 2020. The information presented to the COSS Committee will give a summary of the activities and events delivered through the EVP since July 2022.

## **Current Status**

Council has recognised the importance of encouraging community involvement in caring for our natural environment. The well-established and long running Environmental Volunteer Program has a purpose to support partnerships with the community in caring for our environment. This report provides a summary on the delivery of the EVP throughout the previous year, since July 2022.

### Report

The EVP supports volunteer groups working throughout the Central Coast Local Government Area. There are currently 680 active volunteers in the program who contribute in excess of 15000 hours of work on their sites each year.

In addition to the groups that meet at least monthly the EVP delivers Floating Landcare events throughout the year, National Tree Day planting events, corporate volunteering events and nursery volunteering.

Over the last 12 months there has been direct involvement with three schools through the EVP.

Education and promotion through the EVP include:

- the publication of an ENews every three months.
- the delivery of workshops to volunteers within the program.
- signage and promotional material to be displayed at volunteer sites and within the community.
- promotion of the EVP through Council's webpage and social media channels.
- a uniform that identifies environmental volunteers while they are working on their sites.

### Consultation

N/A

### 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-E1: Educate the community on the value and importance of natural areas and biodiversity, and encourage community involvement in caring for our natural environment.

**Risk Management**

N/A

**Options**

N/A

**Attachments**

*Nil.*

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

**2.6 Update from Community Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)  
(contd)**

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

## **2.7 GENERAL BUSINESS**