



Central Coast Council

Coastal Open Space System

Held Remotely - Online

05 September 2023

MINUTES

Attendance

Members

John Andrews	Present
Paul Links	Present
Barbara Wills	Present
Deb Holloman	Present

Non-voting member

Gary Chestnut	Present
Stephen Atkins – National Parks & Wildlife Service	Present
Daniel Keating – Local Land Services	Present

Staff

Alice Howe – Director Environment & Planning	Present
Luke Sulkowski - Unit Manager Environmental Management	Present
Matthew Corradin – Unit Manager Environmental Compliance Services	Present
Michael Smith – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity	Present
Carlita Dhillon – Team Leader Landcare	Present
Samantha Cummins – Business Performance & Integration Lead	Present
Rochelle Lawson – Senior Ecologist	Present
Nick Carson – Environmental Education Officer	Present
Angela Russell – Civic Support Officer	Present

Apologies

Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity

Douglas Williamson

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

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

The Chairperson, Luke Sulkowski, declared the meeting open at 2:05pm

The Chair read an Acknowledgement of Country statement.

Apologies received were noted. Doug Williamson advised he was unable to attend due to technical difficulties. After assistance was provided by Civic Support for 35 minutes, he has requested that the meetings be changed back to face-to-face.

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

The Chair noted that Item 2.2 will be addressed before Item 2.1.

1.2 Previous business: Confirmation of minutes, review action log

Time commenced: 2:06pm

The group confirmed the minutes of previous meeting as noted below, which were distributed to members via email and uploaded to Council's website:

[Coastal Open Space System \(COSS\) - Minutes 18 July 2023](#)

Action Log reviewed and updates made (attached below)

REPORTS

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

Time Commenced: 2:44pm

Resolved

That the information be noted.

Rochelle Lawson speaks to advise the committee of an update.

2.2 Dogs in Open Space Action Plan

Time Commenced: 2:11pm

Original 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.

Resolved

- 1. 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.***
- 2. Regarding proposals in the revised Dogs in Open Space Action Plan to provide off leash exercise areas for dogs in Illoura Reserve, Pippi Point, Davistown, it is recommended that Council note:***
 - a. That the area has been identified as a threatened species habitat for the Eastern Curlew, Bush Stone Curlew, Pied Oystercatcher, Bar Tailed Godwit and Grey Headed Flying Fox;***
 - b. That the COSS Advisory Committee recommends the decommissioning of the Illoura Reserve Pippi Point, Davistown site as a dog off leash area because dog behaviour within the off leash dog exercise area will impact on foraging time or foraging efficiency of shorebirds including these threatened species whilst also potentially impacting breeding cycles.***

Matthew Corradin speaks to the presentation.

Paul Links questioned the proposed Pippi Point site and queried whether or not there will be fencing to separate the 2 areas. Matthew Corradin advised that Council's recommendation, if the site was to go ahead, would be that the land will be coupled with new fencing to support the protected area.

Stephen Atkins thanked Matthew Corradin for putting together the plan.

Gary Chestnut advised that he will be requesting a new recommendation that Pippi Point should not be an off leash dog area due to environmental factors and threatened species.

Matthew received his comment.

The Chair asked for confirmation on the vulnerable species referenced in the presentation and whether or not they were directly observed in this study or was it just that the potential habitat was identified. It was confirmed by Samantha Cummins that they were observed in the 2023 study in the area.

2.3 Environmental Education

Time Commenced: 2:46pm

Resolved.

That the information be noted.

Carlita Dhillon and Nick Carson speak and present on the report.

Gary Chestnut advised the subject matter experts that their work is appreciated.

The Chair thanked and congratulated the team on all of their work.

2.4 Environmental Volunteering Update

Time Commenced: 3:09pm

Resolved

That the information be noted.

Michael Smith speaks to the presentation.

2.5 Update from External Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)

Time Commenced: 3:28pm

Stephen Atkins advised that his team are planning for the next Aerial Wild Dog Baiting Program. They are also working on hazard reduction burns. Aerial Bitou spraying is being arranged. Upgrade of Somersby falls is underway. Visitation survey has come out and we've had around 6 million visits to the Central Coast National Parks.

Daniel Keating advised that their business practices are changing their model which may mean grant programs will not be available anymore. Biosecurity Spring Baiting Program is about to kick off.

2.6 Update from Community Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)

Time Commenced: 3:35pm

No updates provided.

2.7 General Business

Time Commenced: 3:36pm

Gary Chestnut requests site inspection of Mount Alison for public recreation opportunities and consideration for inclusion into a trial for classification as part of Council's Coastal Open Space System. An action was created.

Rochelle Lawson advised that The Biodiversity Conservation Act was released. This link is being provided for reference: [Statutory Review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 | NSW Environment and Heritage](#)

Barbara Wills requested an update on the Local Environmental Plan. The Chair advised he will ask for the Strategic Planning team to provide an update at the next meeting. An action was created.

The Meeting concluded at 3:46pm.

Next Meeting Date: 5 December 2023

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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</p>	Complete

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				Ecology to provide the consultancy services. This plan is to be reviewed by Council before it is accepted. Once accepted the representative has stated that they will then carry out the recommendations of the report. It is expected that the draft plan will be available for review in the next few weeks.	
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	At the 8 February 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved: 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.	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	The Committee / Meeting Support Officer	At the 8 February 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved: That Council note the COSS Committee's rejection of any mountain biking trails being established in COSS land or being identified	Complete

Minutes of the Coastal Open Space System of Council 05 September 2023 contd

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
		reported to Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 14 December 2021.		for inclusion in COSS land as part of the Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan that was reported to 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	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	Complete

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Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
		branding and to identify likely tasks required in order to proceed with such a project.		6/12: Noted meeting scheduled for Thursday 8/12	
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 advisorygroups@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au by Friday 25 March 2022	The Committee	<i>COSS Committee - NAB Environmental Education Strategy</i> 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	<i>COSS Committee Presentations</i> emailed to members 16/03/2022	Complete

Minutes of the Coastal Open Space System of Council 05 September 2023 contd

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 Advisory Groups 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	Complete

Minutes of the Coastal Open Space System of Council 05 September 2023 contd

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
159	13/09/2022	Presentations to be distributed to Advisory Group members.	Meeting Support Officer	18/7/2023 – forward presentations to committee members for every meeting.	Ongoing
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	<p>Council noted COSS minutes of the 13 September meeting. This was not specifically noted by Council.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>18/07/2023 – Completed.</p>	Completed
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	<p>Agenda Item for 6 December meeting</p> <p>Update 6/12 – to be postponed until the New Year</p> <p>18/7/2023 – addressed by chair during general business. Council to provide links on the COSS information page on Council's website to include walking trails.</p> <p>5/9/2023 – All maps were updated. Action is now completed.</p>	Complete
162	13/09/2022	Civic Support Team to update Terms of Reference and call for new members	Meeting Support Officer	New members can only be added via an EOI process per the Terms of Reference.	Completed

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Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				5/9/2023 – Terms of Reference updated to remove Councillor references.	
163	27/03/2023	Additional feedback requested in relation to the Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund	Civic Support Staff	No feedback was received. 18/07/2023 – addressed by chair during meeting	Complete
164	18/07/2023	The Committee be invited to a site inspection of the recently acquired land known as Warnervale Floodplain R0360. The members are to also be invited to a separate workshop to identify measures of success and failure of the proposed COSS trial in relation to Report 2.3 tabled at the meeting.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	5/9/2023 – Site Inspection completed. Workshop to be arranged.	Partially completed
165	05/09/2023	The Committee be invited to a site inspection of Mount Alison for public recreation opportunities with the same representatives who attended the site inspection at Action 164.	Unit Manager Environmental Management		
166	05/09/2023	An update to be provided to the Committee on the Local Environmental Plan from Council's Strategic Planning at the December meeting.	Unit Manager Environmental Management		