

Minutes



Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee

Date: 13 September 2022

Time: 2pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Coordinator: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Attendance

Members:

John Andrews

Deb Holloman

Paul Links

Douglas Williamson

Barbara Wills

Gary Chestnut (Knowledge specialist, non-voting)

Status:

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

External Agencies:

Stephen Atkins, NPWS

Andrew Bayley, NPWS

David Green, LLS

Apology

Present

Apology – has now retired

Staff:

Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

Chris Barrett, Commercial Property Manager

Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity

Rochelle Lawson, Senior Ecologist

Carolyn Patelis, Civic Support Officer

Rachel Callachor, Meeting Support Officer

Rachel Gibson, Team Leader, Civic Support

Chantelle Ahio, Civic Support Officer

Present

Present

Present

Present

Apology

Present

Apology

Present

Present

Minutes

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee

1 Introduction

2.01pm

The chairperson welcomed the group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies received were noted.

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

Andrew Bayley, Acting Manager National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) was welcomed to the meeting replacing Steve Atkins who was an apology for the meeting.

2 Previous business

2.08pm

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

[7 June 2022 - Coastal Open Space System Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 8).

3 Update on Property sale negotiations and COSS sub - committee request

2.20pm

Update provided by Chris Barrett, Commercial Property Manager. Chris advised he is new to the role.

- Chris Barrett advised that Council has quarantine funding specifically intended for acquisition of conservation land, – the challenge is when these properties come up for sale Council has not been agile enough to acquire the properties –
Chair suggested this is a concern for COSS committee.

Chris Barrett advised Council is in a challenging environment with acquisition as the real estate climate is rapidly changing Due to legislative and other constraints.

Chair advised that Council's Environmental Management Unit can provide strategic advice on acquisitions but require the Property Section to assist with negotiation and acquisition of identified parcels.

- A Committee member asked if there still a freeze on COSS funds.

Response from Alice Howe – funds are held in restricted reserve for COSS lands.

Chair suggested need to identify a process outside this COSS Advisory Committee meeting to meet with Property Team and Environmental Management Team as well as some committee members to workshop acquisition processes and bring back to the COSS Committee.

Action: 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

4 Update on transfer of Council land to National Parks

2.39pm

Update provided by Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity. Presentation included the following key points:

- Background points
 - 2 October 2019 - Letter to Council from former Minister Kean
 - 27 Nov 2019 – General business item about letter from Minister Kean
 - 9 Dec 2019 – Notice of Motion to Council
 - 14 Jan 2020 – Councillor Workshop
 - 31 Jan 2020 – List of potential properties to Minister Kean
 - 15 Mar 2021 – Letter from Minister Kean advising outcome of initial assessment and properties for further investigation
 - 24 Nov 2021 – Initial meeting NPWS and Council
 - 26 Apr 2022 – Report to Council
- Properties for Investigation
 - One property adjacent to Munmorah State Conservation Area
 - Select lots adjoining Wambina Nature Reserve
 - Select lots adjoining Bouddi National Park.
- Following a number of delays site inspections scheduled for:
 - 14 Sep 2022 - Munmorah State Conservation Area
 - 15 Sep 2022 – Bouddi National Park
 - TBA – Wambina Nature Reserve

As some inspections are occurring just after this meeting, more information will be available after this time.

Andrew Bayley of NPWS said it has been good working with Larry Melican and his team, inspections are happening this week and Wambina, Larry Melican will provide information as NPWS know the least about this area.

A Committee member enquired further about Wambina land that was going to come across to COSS and that Liz Phelps (NPWS) performed a ground truth years ago and wonders what the delay is. Andrew Bayley responded that NPWS will have a fresh look.

Two committee members who live locally offered to also inspect and advise if the main features are still there. Would appreciate a local to visit site with NPWS.

Action: Larry Melican and Andrew Bayley coordinating visit to Wambina with Committee members

Action: Presentations to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

5 Update on Biodiversity Strategy and land acquisition and prioritisation (standing agenda item)

2.51pm

Update provided by Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity in Rochelle Lawson's absence. Presentation included the following key points:

- The dedication of land at 39 Dell Road, West Gosford to Council zoned C2 Environmental Conservation to Council for inclusion into the COSS (at no cost to Council) is being proposed as part of a Planning Proposal– Site details include:
 - approx. 7.3 hectares
 - The rehabilitation and maintenance of the site prior to Council taking control of the land

The chair asked the committee whether they endorse pursuing that 39 Dell Road as part of the COSS estate which the committee supported.

Action: 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.

6 Update on Council Nursery

2.47pm

Update provided by Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity. Presentation included the following key points:

- Focus is on production of volunteer program and restoration work.
- Volunteer group at nursery a huge success, started prior to covid, more meaningful work in the whole plant cycle – from seed to planting in the environment.
- Interest from local school to bring group to Thursday volunteer session.
- More diverse volunteering opportunity has paid off. More enjoyable for volunteers – great buzz
- Have funds to replace a greenhouse that will assist with production
- Reduced resources at nursery - Were three dedicated staff, now services all Local Government Area with no dedicated staff, just volunteers.

Committee member praised the work Michael Smith, Team Leader Landcare, for his work at the nursery.

7 Update from external representatives (standing agenda item)

3.09pm

Andrew Bayley - NPWS

- Planning for next round of aerial baiting in NP areas, foxes, and wild dogs locally, Jilliby State Conservation Area, Brisbane Water and Popran National Parks - begins October 2022.
- Spring Hazard reduction program planned, considerable rainfall and rain fronts keep topping up moisture delaying this, will conduct in a few weeks' time.
- On-site inspections coming up with Crackneck Point Lookout upgrade, Somersby Falls upgrade still to occur. Crackneck Point Lookout is first and hoping to complete by December 2022. Tenders and contracts being worked through.
- Since East Coast low, NPWS has been making insurance claims ranging from damage to fire trails to beach accesses, walking tracks – some completed, however some are large engineering jobs.
- Beaches have lots of debris and EPA barge assisting with removal.
- NPWS involved in Varroa Mite eradication operation with DPI. Central Coast is in southern end of this, DPI may lease baiting sites on National Parks, may go on for years.

8 **Update from Community representatives (standing agenda item)** 3.12pm

- Committee raised concerns regarding unauthorised clearing in Wambina with a recent email being sent to Larry Melican from one Committee member.
Larry Melican advises that Compliance has been in touch with adjoining property owner and staff have inspected – it appears, a ride on mower has gone across from private land probably in last 4-6 weeks. More investigation to do.

Staff will bring an update on the unauthorised clearing in Wambina and Council land at next meeting.

- Gary Chestnut advised that the Community Environment Network is working with University of Newcastle and Central Coast Council about Love Trees, Love COSS on 17th September 2022 at Ourimbah Campus. There will be 30 different stalls from several community groups, speakers, and a photography exhibition. Event runs from 10am-3pm.
- Gary Chestnut reported that Landcare Australia had their regional conference recently which included a visit to Kincumba Mountain. Central Coast Council's Michael Smith, Team Leader Landcare gave a presentation which impressed the attending conference delegates.
- Gary Chestnut also gave a presentation at the Landcare event and noted during research, that Central Coast Council's website pages do not talk about COSS. Why doesn't Council have a more prominent communication on the website about COSS instead of Mountain bike riding. Committee member was shocked at the lack of information.

Larry Melican said the website is an issue and Environment Education officers have been working on the strategy, with an action to look at the website and bring up to date as it is lacking information in many areas – Committee member looks forward to this being resolved.

- Committee member asked for an update on the mountain biking issue at Kincumba Mountain stating that more information on prohibited mountain bike riding on COSS lands needs to be emphasised –

Larry Melican advised that a stakeholder group were to develop masterplan on areas suited on not suited to mountain bike riding. Challenge is resourcing to be able to develop that. Stakeholder group will need lots of resources and support.

Andrew Bayley also advised that the NPWS Plan of Management for Bouddi National Park - regarding mountain bike strategy was in development. NPWS is liaising with the mountain biking community.

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- A Committee member enquired if a letter was received from the Minister from Action 144
Chair advised that this is now a completed action.
- A Committee member enquired on the need for the Deferred Matter lands to be advertised again.

Alice Howe responded that the LEP is on track to be publicly exhibited and advertised before Christmas 2022 with the completion date to be this financial year. It is a Gateway process and needs to be readvertised due to the previous round of deferred matters. As it wasn't supported by the Department of Planning, it is a new process with new mapping. Needs to be reexhibited due to new zones in LEP.

Action: Chair to provide update on website improvements at next meeting and master plan regarding mountain bike riding.

9 General Business

3.40pm

Terms of Reference to be updated with removal of Councillors. The Advisory Panel was asked if they do intend on leaving the Committee, to advise the Civic Support Team.

It was noted that David Green from Local Land Services has now retired. The Chair and Committee would like to extend their appreciation to David Green for his service with the COSS Committee over the years.

Action: Civic Support Team to update Terms of Reference and call for new members

10 Close

Next meeting: 6 December 2022
2pm-4pm

Meeting closed at 3.46pm

Minutes finalised and endorsed 27/09/2022 by

Luke Sulkowski
Unit Manager Environmental Management

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



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 at 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.	Complete

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				9/08: An update has been provided to Gary via the AG	
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. Update as of 13/09/2022 meeting: Complete	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	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 th October 2021. 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	Complete

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				<p data-bbox="1413 424 1872 544">Biodiversity and Chris Ross a representative of the owners of 293 Matcham Road.</p> <p data-bbox="1413 608 1939 1358">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 by Council before it is accepted. Once accepted the representative has stated that they will then carry out the recommendations of the report.</p>	

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				It is expected that the draft plan will be available for review in the next few weeks.	
144	13/12/2021	In regard to 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	Complete

Action log

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Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
		reported to Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 14 December 2021.		identified 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,	Complete

Action log

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Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				The Member for Gosford, The Member for The Entrance and The Member for Wyong.	
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 identify likely tasks required in order to proceed with such a project.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	9/08: Due to scheduling conflicts, a meeting will be scheduled for early October	Pending
150	15/03/2022	Staff to collate a list of initiatives taken by Council in regard to 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	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

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
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	Pending
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
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.	Complete

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Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				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	
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		
158	13/09/2022	Larry Melican and Andrew Bayley coordinating visit to Wambina with Committee members	Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity		
159	13/09/2022	Presentations to be distributed to Advisory Group members.	Meeting Support Officer		
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,	COSS Committee members		

Action log

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Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
		pending the determination of the Planning Proposal, be noted by Council.			
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		
162	13/09/2022	Civic Support Team to update Terms of Reference and call for new members	Meeting Support Officer		