

# Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record 1 August 2019

Central  
Coast  
Council

Location:	Gosford Administration Building Level 1 Committee Room 49 Mann Street, Gosford	
Date:	1 August 2019	
Time	Started at: 4.03pm	Closed at: 6.01pm
Chair	Mayor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00099	

## **Present:**

Mayor Jane Smith, Councillor Jeff Sundstrom, John Andrews (arrived 4.28pm), Deb Holloman, Paul Links, Douglas Williamson, Barbara Wills, Gary Chestnut (non-voting)

## **External Representatives present:**

Jonathan Eccles – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)

## **Council Staff present:**

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning (arrived 4.36pm, left 5.33pm), Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets, Rochelle Lawson – Senior Ecologist, Larry Melican – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

## **Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Acknowledgement of Country**

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Apologies received: Councillor Louise Greenaway, Councillor Chris Holstein, David Holland, Stephen Atkins – National Parks and Wildlife Services (Hunter Central Coast Branch), Joel Stibbard – Biodiversity Conservation Trust

The Chairperson, Mayor Jane Smith declared the meeting open and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land Statement.

## **Item 2 Disclosures of Interest**

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The Mayor called for any declarations of interest.

No disclosures were noted.

## **Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record**

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The Committee confirmed the Meeting Record from 29 May 2019.

The Committee reviewed the Action Log.

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**Item 4 Update on review of Councils' 10 year road works program, road kill data and wildlife corridor mapping (Action Item 55)**

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Rochelle Lawson provided the Committee with an update and presentation on Wildlife Corridor Hotspots and Mitigation Strategy.

Rochelle will enquire further as to what is happening on Carlton Road near the Grammar School in regard to the yellow bellied gliders and provide advice back to the committee via the Advisory Group Support Officer.

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**Item 5 Nature Based Recreation in COSS lands (Action Item 61)**

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Larry Melican provided the Committee with an overview and presentation on Nature Based Recreation.

The Committee discussed locations on the Central Coast for bush camping opportunities.

The Mayor noted the 27 May 2019 Council Resolution:

*407/19 That Council Reaffirm its commitment to the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) and the objective of protecting and improving biodiversity and environmental values of COSS lands and other land within the Central Coast LGA identified for the protection of biodiversity including:*

- i. other Council owned and managed natural reserves,*
- ii. other publically owned lands*
- iii. other privately owned lands identified for the protection of biodiversity.*

**Action:** A map showing NEA and shading of COSS land to be distributed to Committee Members.

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**Item 6 Costs of acquisition of identified COSS lands (Action Item 63)**

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Larry Melican provided the Committee with an update on the cost of acquisition of identified COSS lands. The range of costs and land sizes makes predicting cost an inaccurate science. Some significant variation between historical amounts makes it difficult to gain an average per hectare amount.

**Action:** The Committee to give consideration to any recommendations they may wish to make in regard to the acquisition of identified COSS lands.

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**Item 7 COSS Walks (National Parks Association Group)**

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National Parks Association Central Coast group have attended recent events including the Strom talk and have indicated their interest in being involved in the promotion of COSS including COSS walks.

**Action:** Mayor Smith to refer the National Parks Association to Natural and Environmental Assets staff to investigate the opportunity of collaborating to promote COSS walks.

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**Item 8 Documenting the History of COSS**

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Former Gosford Council Staff including Rod Williams, Nic Pasternatsky and former Mayor Robert Bell have indicated an interest in having the history of COSS documented.

Geoff Potter (Local History Librarian) may also be an appropriate person to be included in the consultation process.

**Action:** Mayor Smith to convene an initial meeting with Rod Williams, Nic Pasternastky and Robert Bell, to discuss documenting the history of COSS.

**Action:** Following the meeting to discuss documenting the history of COSS, a request to be put to the Protection of the Environment Trust Management Committee seeking funds to be put towards this project.

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**Item 9 Bushcare Volunteers**

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A number of community members who attended the recent Strom talk expressed interest in joining a land care group.

**Action:** Mayor Smith to follow up with staff regarding coordinating an information session for interested community members on how they can get involved in a Bush care group.

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**Item 10 Draft Biodiversity Strategy**

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An Extraordinary meeting to be held for the COSS Committee to be presented with the Draft Biodiversity Strategy and to give Committee members the opportunity to provide feedback. Mayor noted concerns that the draft Strategy appears to replace references to COSS. There was some discussion about how COSS stands as a distinct program and strategy in its own right.

Committee Members will be advised once a date is confirmed for the extraordinary meeting.

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to provide Committee Members with a copy of the Draft Biodiversity Strategy once the 26 August Business Paper is published.

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**Item 11 Reflect on Progress in line with Terms of Reference and Action Plan**

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The Committee reflected on their progress in line with the adopted Terms of Reference and Action Plan from the inaugural meeting held on 23 May 2018.

Responses are provided in Attachment 1.

## **Item 12 Update from External Representatives**

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Jonathan Eccles (Local Land Services (LLS) - Greater Sydney) provided an update on the ongoing issue of feral deer. New legislation should be passed through Parliament soon to move deer from a game animal to a pest animal. Jonathan advised of a joint program with the local Council in the Macarthur area that has proven quite successful which involves shooting deer. There are continuing discussions with Council staff and LLS staff regarding this issue.

There was a third sighting of a cane toad recently which garnered some media interest. It was noted that the third sighting was a one off. LLS are engaging with Matthew Greenless, a cane toad expert from Sydney University who specialises in cane toad surveillance.

The Mangrove Mountain Fair is on Saturday 19 October 2019 and could be a good opportunity to promote COSS (LLS has a stand next to Council).

## **Item 13 General Business and Close**

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- a) Luke Sulkowski provided an update on land acquisition. A number of letters have been sent to landowners however not a lot of response has been received at this stage.

**Action:** Mayor Smith to seek further clarification from Director Environment and Planning regarding Section 149 Certificates in relation to COSS land when considering planning proposals and development applications.

- b) In Stephen Atkins absence, Deb Holloman advised that the Bouddi National Park Draft Plan of Management is available for review and comment until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (it was noted that the COSS extraordinary meeting should be held before this date)
- c) Luke Sulkowski advised the Flying Fox Management Strategy was adopted by Council recently and has received good community feedback.
- d) Luke Sulkowski advised that Council has resolved for the Landcare Program Strategy to go out on public exhibition (early August).

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to provide Committee Members with link to the Landcare Program Strategy once it goes on public exhibition.

The meeting closed at 6.01pm

**Next Meeting:**           **Extraordinary Meeting**  
                                  **Tuesday 3 September 2019**  
                                  **1pm – 3pm**  
                                  **Central Coast Council Gosford Office**  
                                  **Level 1 Committee Room**