


Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record 25 June 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	25 June 2020	
Time	Started at: 4.04pm	Closed at: 6.02pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00099	

Present:

Councillor Chris Holstein, Councillor Jane Smith, Councillor Jeff Sundstrom (left 5pm), David Holland, Deb Holloman, Paul Links, Douglas Williamson, Barbara Wills, Gary Chestnut (non-voting, arrived 4.23pm)

External Representatives present:

Steve Atkins – NPWS Central Coast Area Manager, David Green – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)

Council Staff present:

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Karen Tucker – Unit Manager Project Management Environment and Planning, Larry Melican – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Dr Anumitra Mirti – Section Manager Environmental Strategies, Breanne Bryant – Principal Strategic Planner (left 5.04pm), Rochelle Lawson – Senior Ecologist, Rod Mergan – Senior Strategic Planner (left 5.04pm), Jenny Mewing – Principal Strategic Planner (left 5.04pm), Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Acknowledgement of Country

Apologies received: Nil

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

Councillor Smith, on behalf of the Advisory Group, acknowledged Malcolm Brooks who passed away last week. Malcolm was instrumental in the establishment of COSS including serving on the COSS Committee in former Gosford City Council. The Chair acknowledged his contribution to the Central Coast, in particular Gosford, and the great legacy that he leaves. He will be sadly missed. The Advisory Group passes on condolences to Malcolm's family.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 30 April 2020.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log.

Item 4 Clarification History of Bonus Lot Provisions for 7(c)2 Zoning (Action 80)

Jenny Mewing (Principal Strategic Planner) provided an update on the current status of 7(c)2 lands, in particular the Beaufort Road site which was zoned 7(c)2 and was rezoned last year to R2 under the Gosford Local Environmental Plan. Any future subdivision on this land will not be subject to the contribution scheme of the IDO.

A memo from Director Environment and Planning on Planning Proposal No PP/90/2016 – Beaufort Road, Terrigal has been circulated to Advisory Group members.

Item 5 Discussion on Deferred Matters Land and the Zoning of “E” Zoned Land in the Comprehensive LEP

The Advisory Group discussed concerns about deferred lands that are due to go across to zonings that the Advisory Group did not consider to be an equivalent zone.

Breanne Bryant (Principal Strategic Planner) provided members with an aerial of a site at Matcham. It was advised that staff had made recommendation to Council to defer the rezoning of those DM lands that are zoned under IDO 122 and are outside of the Council owned current COSS to allow for further consideration as part of an LGA wide Environmental Lands Review.

The Advisory Group discussed a staged process in terms of considering the Deferred Matters. The Advisory Group discussed the role of the COSS Committee as a reference group to review lands considered as deferred matters and the importance of the COSS Committee having input into this process.

Action: Specific information on approval of this subdivision at Matcham to be provided to Advisory Group Members including whether it took advantage of the 7(c)2 Bonus Lot Provisions and if so, what was the contribution to COSS.

Action: That staff consider a staged process regarding the deferred lands that involves the COSS Advisory Group as a reference group and brings further options back to the next COSS Advisory Group meeting.

Action: That the Chair, Councillor Holstein and Councillor Sundstrom meet with relevant staff within the next month to discuss a process moving forward.

Item 6 Land Acquisition and Prioritisation (Standing Agenda Item)

No further acquisitions at this time, negotiations with potential vendors are continuing.

Item 7 Update on Invitation for Council Lands to be added to National Parks Estate

Steve Atkins (NPWS Central Coast Area Manager) advised that all parcels have been assessed and considered by the Parks Reserve Establishment Team. Recommendations have been made and are being packaged up to go back to the Minister.

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) provided an update on the Regional Park concept, in particular the Coffs Coast Regional Park.

Steve Atkins will speak with Karen Eardley from the NPWS Reserve Establishment Team and advise that the Advisory Group is considering this as an option.

Action: Staff to investigate the Coffs Regional Park model and invite a representative from Coffs Harbour Council to give a presentation to the next COSS Advisory Group meeting.

Item 8 Update on Draft Biodiversity Strategy

The Draft Biodiversity Strategy was presented to Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 22 June 2020 for consideration. Council resolved for staff to undertake more work on the strategy and a workshop will be held with interested Councillors and relevant staff in July to review the draft strategy and discuss any further amendments. This includes further information about the costing and an additional theme: *Protect and expand the Coastal Open Space System*.

A further report to be provided at the first Council meeting in September 2020 for the adoption of the draft Central Coast Biodiversity Strategy.

Councillor Smith acknowledged the work that Rochelle Lawson and other staff have undertaken and that the quality of the work in the strategy was outstanding.

The Advisory Group discussed the use of accumulated funds for voluntary acquisition of lands.

Luke Sulkowski provided further clarification on a number of matters in the draft Biodiversity Strategy including:

- The draft strategy is inclusive of a voluntary land acquisition program labelled the Environmental Lands Acquisition Program.
- The draft strategy was not solely reliant on sale of credits through the Biodiversity Offset Scheme, but also considered other potential revenue sources such as a revised Bonus Lots Provision Scheme.
- The draft strategy does not take a position on Biodiversity Offset schemes, but instead seeks to maximise Council's capacity to benefit local conservation outcomes within the current legal framework.
- One of the objectives of the draft strategy is to maintain biodiversity offsets required from development within the Central Coast in the local region. Lack of such an approach is likely only to see the impacts of development experienced in the Central Coast, with the benefits of the biodiversity offsets going to other regions.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate the Council Resolution on the Draft Biodiversity Strategy from the 22 June 2020 Ordinary Meeting to Advisory Group members.

Item 9 Update from External Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)

David Green – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney) advised that staff are still working from home and continue to work closely with Council on a few issues. There are currently 14 projects on the ground with just over \$250,000 of grant funding for those projects, predominantly in the Central Coast Area.

Steve Atkins – NPWS Central Coast Area Manager advised that the Koolewong Fire Trail and Somersby Falls Upgrade Capital Projects are progressing. The Bouddi Coastal Walk works have commenced; however, this is a long term project over the next couple of years. The Crackneck lookout project is also moving through the design and assessment stage.

The team have been reacting to the easing of restriction in relation to COVID-19. Camping is now possible and access to certain parks which were previously restricted have eased and the parks have reopened. The NPWS office has also reopened.

Hazard reduction burning commenced prior to the wet weather and a plan is being developed working towards Spring.

NPWS responded to the recent shipping container situation with a salvage operation for the containers that washed up on Birdie Beach in Munmorah State Conservation Area and Crackneck Point in Wyrabalong National Park.

The Draft Bouddi Plan of Management is currently with the Minister for consideration and will hopefully be endorsed soon.

Dog trapping and baiting programs are continuing in the western Parks including Popran, Jilliby and the Watagans.

The Advisory Group requested that Steve keep the group up to date on the Wamberal Nature Reserve.

Item 10 Scheduling of COSS Walking Track Site Inspections in August (Action 85)

Councillor Smith advised that an email had been received from the National Parks Association regarding promoting COSS walks. Councillor Smith to forward email to Advisory Group Support Officer.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to invite a representative of the National Parks Association to the next COSS Advisory Group meeting.

The Advisory Group discussed the scheduling of the inspection of the kinds of tracks, materials and infrastructure that are suitable for COSS and environmentally sensitive lands. A morning/daytime meeting for August was discussed. Subject to the availability of a representative from Coffs Harbour City Council to discuss Coffs Coast Regional Park a Zoom session could be held following the site inspection.

Consideration to be given to other matters that could be discussed at this site visit or whether these items should be completed out of session via email.

Action: Staff to investigate options for holding the next COSS Advisory Group meeting in August as a site visit.

Item 11 General Business and Close

- a) Luke advised that National Tree Day is on Sunday 2 August 2020 and Council's Landcare Team are coordinating activities for two sites.
- b) A photo of Winney Bay was provided to the Advisory Group showing natural revegetation of the site.

The meeting closed at 6.02pm

Next Meeting: August 2020 (Site Visit)
Location and Time TBC