

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record 27 November 2019



Location:	Central Coast Council Wyong Office Level 2 Committee Room 2 Hely Street, Wyong
Date:	27 November 2019
Time	Started at: 4.03pm Closed at: 6.21pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith
File Ref	F2018/00099

Present:

Councillor Chris Holstein, Councillor Jane Smith, Councillor Jeff Sundstrom (left 5.49pm), John Andrews (arrived 4.25pm), David Holland, Deb Holloman, Paul Links, Douglas Williamson, Barbara Wills

External Representatives present:

Mick Budden – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)

Council Staff present:

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Scott Duncan – Section Manager Land Use and Policy, Larry Melican – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Paul Marynissen – Biosecurity Officer Weeds Natural Assets and Biodiversity (left 5.57pm), Sharon Styman – Environmental Management and Projects Officer Natural Assets and Biodiversity (left 5.02pm), Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer, Donna Payne – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Steve Atkins – National Parks and Wildlife Service (Central Coast), Jonathan Eccles – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)

Councillor Jane Smith completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land Statement.

Item 2 Disclosure of Interest

Councillor Jane Smith called for any disclosures of interest.

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Records from 1 August 2019 and 3 September 2019.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log. The following updates were noted.

- Action 59: Councillor Jane Smith will organise a meeting through Director Environment and Planning next week to further discuss Consolidated LEP and the list of properties Barbara Wills has.
- Action 66: Maps to be brought to above meeting as well as future Advisory Group meeting.
- Action 71: Details on information session to be circulated to Advisory Group members once confirmed.

Concerns were noted about Council's online mapping with regard to planning zones.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to email link to the consolidated LEP to Advisory Group members.

Action: Maps from Action 66 to be included on future agenda for discussion.

Councillor Jane Smith noted that concerns have been raised with her about the Draft Biodiversity Strategy and requested that it come back to the Advisory Group for further review.

Action: Draft Biodiversity Strategy to come back to Advisory Group for further review prior to being progressed.

Item 4 Land Acquisition and Prioritisation (Standing Agenda Item)

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) provided an overview of properties in negotiation for land acquisition and those that are not proceeding.

It was noted that no properties in negotiation were impacted by the fires which occurred in the past week.

Land acquisitions will be addressed further with the Sub-Committee.

Item 5 Bush Regeneration Programs

Item deferred to a future meeting.

Item 6 Fox Management Program

Sharyn Styman (Environmental Management and Projects Officer) gave a presentation on Council's Fox Management Program. The following points were noted:

- There is a legislative requirement that Council take responsibility under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* for the management/control of fox numbers.
- Aim of program is to reduce impact of fox predation.
- Residents are encouraged to report feral animal sightings to the [FeralScan website](#) to help capture data.
- Baiting and trapping are the methods most commonly used, with fox baiting occurring in 19 Council reserve areas (totalling 2,074 hectares).
- There are risks to non-target species that need to be managed. Other challenges are human activity in the reserves, the presence of domestic animals, distance restrictions for baiting, reserve access, and limited available resources.

- The 2019 Baiting Program has been run in COSS reserves by a contractor, with 10 cameras moved around the different bait stations. The cameras are live, giving notification by a heat sensor when an animal has been trapped.
- Mick Budden (Local Land Services Greater Sydney) advised there are fox trapping videos available through the LLS Website.
- Education regarding domestic animals, in particular cat curfews, is being addressed by the Companion Animals Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Group discussed the possibility of a monitoring program to assess the impact on species identified for protection from foxes.

Item 7 Priority Weeds

Paul Marynissen (Biosecurity Officer Weeds) gave a presentation on biosecurity with regard to weeds, and outlined what Council is currently doing in accordance with the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*. The following points were noted:

- Under the NSW Biosecurity Act, Council is the local controlling authority, although there is a shared responsibility between all land managers.
- The hierarchy of control is the prevention, minimisation, elimination and management of identified weeds, with the priority actions being prevention and eradication.
- The two current major concerns are Groundsel Bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) at Somersby/Kariong and Sicilian Sea Lavender (*Limonium hyblaenum*) at Saratoga, which are both listed for eradication.

Item 8 Update from External Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)

Stephen Atkins (National Parks and Wildlife Services) was unable to attend the meeting due to the fire activity overnight, but provided the following brief update via email:

- Draft Bouddi Plan of Management has come off public exhibition with 94 submissions received. Feedback reviewed and proposed changes provided to the Hunter Central Coast Branch Advisory Committee for comment. The Draft Plan with any changes will now go to the State Advisory Council for review and comment.
- Continued focus on bushfire situation across the state with significant ongoing deployment of local staff to assist with fires. Total fire bans continue to be implemented, Park Fire Bans are declared across all parks within the Hunter Central Coast Branch until further notice, and recently all parks were totally closed across the Branch during the day conditions reached catastrophic. This situation and response is expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

Mick Budden (Local Land Service Greater Sydney) mentioned incentives (grants) are running for public and private land with good feedback.

Item 9 General Business and Close

- a) Scott Duncan (Section Manager Land Use and Policy) provided an overview on two Planning Proposals (PPs) relating to COSS lands (77/2015, West Gosford and 81/2015, Wamberal). Scott advised that in the draft Consolidated LEP existing COSS land is proposed to be rezoned to E2.
- b) The rezoning of Darkinjung LALC land at 250 Reeves Street Somersby to 8-14 residential lots was discussed. There is a Council report regarding this in the [Business Paper](#) from the Council Meeting 25 November 2019. It was noted that Council is not the consent authority and rezoning is out of Council's control.

Councillor Jane Smith thanked staff for the environmental considerations addressed in the report but had concerns about whether COSS land is being considered when looking at PPs and DAs. It was noted that conservation of COSS lands should be valued.

It was requested that staff bring PPs and DAs to the Advisory Group for consideration where COSS lands are involved, and updates are provided as required.

Action: Staff to lodge a submission with DLALC regarding the importance of COSS lands and west expansion, with regard to the DLALC Planning Proposals at Somersby and Kariong.

- c) It was noted there is a PP going to the 9 December 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting, regarding rezoning of 7(c)2 lands to residential subdivision.

Action: Scott Duncan to provide clarification on the history of the bonus lot provisions for the 7(c)2 rezoning, and if they were utilised for the sub-division.

- d) The Minister for Energy and Environment is proposing 200,000 hectares be added to the National Parks Reserves across the State, and has asked Council to make a submission on suggested lots. The Advisory Group discussed whether a proposal should be put forward for COSS lands to be included in this.

Action: Staff to investigate COSS land (both Council owned, and land identified for COSS) as part of a proposal to the Minister's invitation regarding additions to National Parks estate. This includes options in terms of different categories and management styles.

Action: Staff to liaise with key stakeholders regarding the proposal for lands to be added to the National Parks estate to seek support for suggested lots.

Action: Staff to provide overview of pros/cons of accepting proposal for Council lands to be added to National Parks estate.

- e) Barbara Wills raised an issue relating to James Norton Road Reserve (MacMasters Beach) and noted that she has been liaising with residents.

Action: Staff to follow up on issue and provide contact details for the community to lodge reports.

The meeting closed at 6.21pm

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 5 February 2020 (TBC)**
 4pm – 6pm
 Central Coast Council Gosford Office
 Level 1 Committee Room