

# Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record 29 May 2019



Location:	Wyong Administration Building Level 2 Committee Room 2 Hely Street, Wyong
Date:	29 May 2019
Time	Started at: 4.05pm Closed at: 6.26pm
Chair	Mayor Jane Smith
File Ref	F2018/00099

## **Present:**

Mayor Jane Smith, Councillor Chris Holstein (left 6.03pm), Councillor Louise Greenaway (arrived 4.07pm), Councillor Jeff Sundstrom, John Andrews, David Holland, Deb Holloman, Paul Links, Douglas Williamson, Barbara Wills, Gary Chestnut - non-voting (arrived 4.16pm)

## **External Representatives present:**

Stephen Atkins – National Parks and Wildlife Services (Hunter Central Coast Branch), Jonathon Eccles – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney), Rose Porter (on behalf of Joel Stibbard) – Biodiversity Conservation Trust (left 5.15pm)

## **Council Staff present:**

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning (arrived 4.43pm, left 5.45pm), Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets, Larry Melican – Section Manager Emergency Protection Natural Assets, Sharyn Styman – Environmental Management and Projects Officer (left 4.46pm), Scott Duncan – Section Manager Land Use and Policy, Dr Anumitra Mirti – Section Manager Environmental Strategies, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

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

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Joel Stibbard – Biodiversity Conservation Trust

The Chairperson, Mayor Jane Smith declared the meeting open at 4.05pm and undertook an Acknowledgement of Country.

## **Item 2 Disclosures of Interest**

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The Mayor called for any declarations of interest.

No disclosures were noted.

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**Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record**

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The Committee confirmed the Meeting Record from 27 March 2019.

The Committee reviewed the Action Log.

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**Item 4 COSS Logo and upcoming Strom Talk**

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The Mayor is hosting the inaugural Strom Talk on World Environment day (5 June 2019) to celebrate the natural environment of the Central Coast and the Coastal Open Space System.

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**Item 5 Discussion about Recreation and Management in COSS Lands and other Council managed natural reserves**

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Sharyn Styman (Environmental Management and Projects Officer) provided the Committee with an update on the Mountain Bike Feasibility Study.

The Committee discussed that the Feasibility Study needs to include the cost of rehabilitation, education and compliance and that Council should be looking at locations off COSS land for mountain biking.

**Action:** Committee members to indicate their interest in participating in a Mountain Biking Focus Group, to the Advisory Group Support Officer by Wednesday 12 June. Advisory Group Support Officer to send reminder to Committee members when meeting record is distributed.

**Action:** The Committee requests a broader view of nature based recreation in COSS lands to be presented at the next meeting.

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**Item 6 Presentation on the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and its programs**

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Rose Porter (on behalf of Joel Stibbard, Biodiversity Conservation Trust) provided a presentation to the Committee on the Trust and its programs.

Council is currently developing its Biodiversity Strategy and the Committee noted it would be worthwhile for discussions to be held between Council and Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate presentation to Committee Members.

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**Item 7 Finances (Action Items 47 and 48)**

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Viv Louie – Unit Manager Financial Performance provided the following written update for the Committee:

**COSS Committee Action 47 (30 January 2019)**

*The Committee seek clarification whether the \$1.5million generating interest for POET is separate to or part of the \$5.7million current balance.*

**Response**

The \$1.5 million which is generating interest for the POET is part of the restricted COSS funds.

**COSS Committee Action 48 (30 January 2019)**

*An update to be provided at the next meeting how we might estimate the total amount of funds required in terms of the identified COSS land acquisitions.*

**Response**

To provide an *estimate* of the value of the COSS land to be acquired we can provide the latest NSW Valuer General value for the parcels as this information is used to calculate rates. The current land values are dated 1 July 2016.

For any parcels where the NSW Valuer General has not provided Council with a land valuation surrounding parcels with similar zoning will need to be reviewed to provide an estimated land value. Pulling together this information for any identified COSS land for acquisition will take time, which is also dependant on the number of parcels identified.

The Committee had discussion about an approach that would estimate value per hectare and provide an average for acquisition of remaining land in COSS Strategy.

**Action:** The Committee requests staff to estimate the cost of acquisition of identified COSS lands and provide that estimate to the COSS Committee.

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**Item 8                    Update on Conservation Land Acquisitions**

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Larry Melican (Section Manager Emergency Protection Natural Assets) provided an update on the 16 properties identified on the shortlist. Letters have been sent out to property owners. 11 positive responses have been received showing preliminary interest, 7 in north and 4 in south. The 16 properties will total approximately 400 hectares.

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**Item 9                    Reflect on Progress in line with Terms of Reference and Action Plan**

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Deferred to next meeting.

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**Item 10                  Update on Winney Bay**

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Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets) gave an update on Winney Bay.

Noted that Winney Bay issue highlights need to consider appropriate tracks (scale and materials) and infrastructure in COSS and environmentally sensitive lands. Would be useful to have a guideline for future works.

The Committee expressed an interest in participating in a site visit to identify what types of tracks, materials and infrastructure are suitable for COSS lands with a view to developing a guideline.

**Action:** Staff to arrange an inspection of COSS lands (and National Parks for comparison) for interested Committee members to inspect what kinds of tracks, materials and infrastructure are suitable for COSS and environmentally sensitive lands. Photos to be made available for Committee members who are unable to attend.

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**Item 11                    Opportunities to promote COSS Initiatives (Action Item 57)**

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Larry Melican (Section Manager Emergency Protection Natural Assets) discussed previous COSS promotions and programs and the Draft Biodiversity Strategy 2019.

**Action:** On behalf of the Committee, staff request the PoET Management Committee consider allocating funds towards the promotion of COSS initiatives.

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**Item 12                    A Presentation on the History of the Bonus Lot Provisions**

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Scott Duncan (Section Manager Land Use and Policy) gave a presentation on the History of the Bonus Lot provisions.

Noted that Planning Staff could develop a conservation incentive clause to allow a similar outcome to the existing Bonus Lot provisions, however it would need to be based on the use of Voluntary Planning Agreements and would operate differently from the current provisions. There are some recommendations to develop such a clause in the Biodiversity Strategy. This does not form part of the Central Coast Consolidated LEP, but could be implemented by way of a separate Planning Proposal or through the Central Coast Comprehensive LEP process.

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to distribute presentation to Committee members.

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**Item 13                    Update from External Representatives**

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**Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)**

- Jonathon Eccles gave an update on the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus and release of RHDV1-K5 and advised that uptake has increased.
- There has been an increase in feral deer at MacMasters and Jilliby. Local Land Services (Greater Sydney) Biosecurity team are meeting with Council staff on how to manage this issue.
- A 6 weeks wild dog program has been completed west of the motorway.
- Cane Toads have been discovered at Woy Woy and Dooralong. The Biosecurity team have been laying traps for tadpoles.

**National Parks and Wildlife Services (Hunter Central Coast Branch)**

- Stephen Atkins gave an update that the Office of Environment and Heritage ceases to exist as of 1 July and will be absorbed into a new Planning and Industry department.
- An election commitment will see nearly \$150 million invested to improve visitor access to national parks over the next 4 years.

- The Government is also looking to significantly invest into roads and fire trails over the next few years.
- Gosford NPWS staff have now moved out of the CBD to Girakool (Somersby).
- The Bouddi National Park Plan of Management to go out on public exhibition end of June.
- A number of Hazard reduction burns have been taking place including Wyrribalong National Park which starts tomorrow.

#### **Item 14            General Business and Close**

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Dr Anumitra Mirti (Section Manager Environmental Strategies) advised that as part of a pre-election commitment, Council received \$200,000 to do a Green Grid Plan. The new Minister is currently reassessing the grant that was given to the 11 Councils.

The meeting closed at 6.26pm

**Next Meeting:            Thursday 1 August 2019**  
**4pm – 6pm**  
**Central Coast Council Gosford Office**  
**Level 1 Committee Room**  
**49 Mann Street, Gosford**