



Rainforest **Policy**

June 2020

Policy No: CCC083

Policy owner:	Strategic Planning, Environment and Planning
Approved by:	Gary Murphy - CEO
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Purpose

1. To recognise the particular value of rainforests as a natural biological system and recognise the suites (dry, gallery, gully and littoral) that occur with them.
 - a. To identify, conserve and protect rainforest communities in the Central Coast for their ecological, educational and passive recreational values
 - b. To provide detailed vegetation mapping and assessment criteria for development assessment and re-zonings
 - c. To increase public awareness of the importance of rainforest areas and support their protection, and where required rehabilitation
 - d. To increase the level of protection for all rainforest areas, and where appropriate bring them into public ownership
 - e. To identify priority sites for regeneration and rehabilitation of rainforest areas under the care and control of Central Coast Council.
2. To identify rainforest areas which can be managed and preserved on both public and private lands.

General

3. In accordance with these objectives, Central Coast Council shall:
 - a. Identify rainforest areas across Central Coast Local Government Area either through mapping or a species description. Mapping will be based on the Central Coast Vegetation Map 2019, produced by Stephen Bell.
 - b. Adopt the following species as key rainforest species where mapping does not identify rainforest communities, but the area occurs in a narrow gully on soils derived from the Narrabeen group:

Gully Rainforest and Gallery Rainforest

- *Ceratopetalum apetalum* – Coachwood
- *Doryphora sassafras* – Sassafras
- *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* – Bangalow Palm
- *Guioa semiglauca* – Guioa
- *Schizomeria ovata* – Crabapple, White Cherry, Snowberry
- *Sloanea australis* – Maiden's Blush
- *Ficus coronata* – Sandpaper Fig

- *Livistona australis* – Cabbage Tree Palm
- *Glochidion ferdianandi* – Cheese Tree
- *Cryptocarya glaucescens* – Native Laurel, Brown Beech, Jackwood
- *Alphitonia excelsa* – Red Ash
- *Endiandra discolor*
- *Acmena smithii* – Lillypilly
- *Diospyros australis* – Black Plum
- *Cryptocarya microreura* – Murrogun

Palm Gullies

- *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* – Bangalow Palm
- *Livistona australis* – Cabbage Tree Palm
- *Melaleuca biconvexa**
- *Melaleuca linarifolia* – Snow in Summer

Littoral Rainforest

- *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* – Tuckeroo
- *Ficus rubiginosa* – Port Jackson Fig, Rusty Fig
- *Diospyros australis* – Black Plum
- *Planchonella australis* – Black Apple
- *Polyscias elegans* - Silver Basswood, Celerywood
- *Endiandra siebera* – Corkwood

Dry Rainforest

- *Backhousia myrtifolia* – Grey Myrtle
- *Trochocarpa laurina* – Tree Health
- *Choricarpia leptopetala*

* Listed as Vulnerable under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

- c. Identified areas of rainforest be delineated on survey maps accompanying Development Applications and/or Building Applications which fall within or adjacent to rainforest areas.
4. Rainforest mapping is available as a data layer on Council's Geographic Information System in order to ensure that development assessments and rezonings take into consideration this policy. This mapping is based on the Central Coast Vegetation Map 2019, produced by Stephen Bell.
5. Central Coast Council will conserve and protect rainforest areas by adopting the following measures:

- a. A minimum of a 50 metre development exclusion zone (i.e. fringe buffer zone) surrounding any rainforest area
 - b. A prohibition on any industrial development and/or extractive industry operations within rainforest catchments
 - c. Identified areas of rainforest be noted on the relevant Section 10.7 Certificates
 - d. Rainforest mapping shall be provided to the Rural Fire Service for use in developing Bush Fire Risk Management Plans and for consideration for responsibilities as authorised under the *Rural Fires Act 1997*
 - e. Central Coast Council's Environment Assessment Officer/ Ecologist is to be consulted regarding development applications and re-zonings that have the potential to impact on rainforest areas.
6. Where a Development Application falls within, or adjacent to the mapped area a Statement of Environmental Effects is required to be prepared by the applicant to determine the impact of the proposal upon that rainforest area. Similarly, if an area contains any of the key rainforest species listed in the policy statement above, a Statement of Environmental Effects is required.
 7. Development Applications and re-zonings that apply to sites mapped or identified as containing the listed key rainforest species, must include a Statement of Environmental Effects.
 8. The Statement of Environmental Effects shall include a detailed flora and fauna survey in accordance with Council's adopted flora and fauna survey guidelines, an identification of any threatened species known or likely to occur in the area and must address of the impact of increased nutrients upon the rainforest ecosystem. The report shall accompany that application prior to any further consideration by Central Coast Council.

Compliance, monitoring and review

9. This Policy will be implemented by the Manager – Strategic Planning in liaison with all affected Sections of Council.
10. The Policy will be subject to a four yearly review to ensure that it is achieving its objectives and to allow for those identified rainforest areas to be amended where necessary.

Related resources


11. Relevant legislation:

- a. [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#) (NSW)
- b. [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#) (NSW)

12. Associated/Internal documents:

- a. Native Vegetation Mapping completed by Stephen Bell (2019) and displayed on Council's public GIS system.
- b. Central Coast Council Flora and Fauna Survey Guidelines 2019.

History of revisions

Amendment history	Details
<p>Original approval authority details</p>	<p>Gosford City Council</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minute No /85 – 9 April 1985 b. Minute No 547/1994 – 14 June 1994 c. Minute No 947/1995 – 5 September 1995 d. Minute No 322/1996 – 23 April 1996 – Review of Policies e. Minute No 239/2000 – 24 October 2000 – Review of Policies – no changes f. Minute No 214/2005 – 8 March 2005 – Review of Policies g. Minute No 311/2009 – 5 May 2009 – Review of Policies h. Minute No 2013/388 – 16 July 2013 – Review of Policies <hr/> <p>A policy to recognise the particular value of rainforest and to identify those areas which can be managed and preserved on both public and private lands</p>
<p>Version 2</p>	<p>Gary Murphy - Chief Executive Officer, Central Coast Council</p>  <hr/> <p>08/07/2020</p> <hr/> <p>CM document number</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Merger of the former Gosford and Wyong Councils. 2. Updated policy template. 3. Updated vegetation mapping.

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4. Repeal of *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and enactment of *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
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