

# Minutes



## Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee

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**Date:** 9 June 2021

**Time:** 2.05pm – 3.42pm

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Chairperson:** Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

**Coordinator:** Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

### Attendance

#### Members:

John Andrews

David Holland

Deb Holloman

Paul Links

Douglas Williamson

Barbara Wills

Gary Chestnut

#### Status:

Present

Present (arrived 3:12pm)

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present (left 3:05pm)

#### External Agencies:

Steve Atkins, NPWS

Present

David Green, LLS

Apology

#### Staff:

Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning

Present

Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental  
Management

Present

Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets  
and Biodiversity

Present

Rochelle Lawson, Senior Ecologist

Apology

Kelly Drover, Meeting Support Officer

Present

### 1 Introduction

2.05pm

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The chairperson welcomed the group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies received were noted.

The chairperson called for any disclosures of interest. No disclosures were received.

# Minutes

## Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee

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### 2 Previous business

2.06pm

The group confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting as noted below, which were distributed to members via email and uploaded to Council's website:

[2 March 2021 Coastal Open Space System Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 7).

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### 3 Update on Biodiversity Strategy (standing agenda item)

2.26pm

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) provided a brief update on the Biodiversity Strategy including the following:

- Delivery priority actions in the Operational Plan 2021/22
- Progress on biodiversity strategy actions including the following 3 priority actions:
  - 1.1.1 Implement site management plans to rehabilitate degraded bushland and coastal ecosystems
  - 1.4.2 Establish conservation agreements as per recommendations in 1.4.1
  - 2.3.1 Strategically plan Council's Environmental Land Acquisition Program

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### 4 Land acquisition and prioritisation (standing agenda item)

2.34pm

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) advised that Environmental Land Acquisition is currently on hold. There was a transfer of 7 parcels of Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) land at Green Point and Erina to Council's ownership. That land has important biodiversity values and potential for biodiversity credits to be generated from those sites.

**Action:** A map with the 7 parcels of DPIE land at Green Point and Erina that was transferred to Council's ownership to be circulated to committee members.

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### 5 Sale of land at Thompson Vale Road, Doyalson

2.40pm

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) provided a presentation that had previously been presented to the group on the operational land north of Link Road Doyalson, a map of where the endangered local ecological community is, examples of threatened species and a map of the biodiversity corridor.

**Recommendation:** The Committee would like to reinforce the conservation values of the land at Thompson Vale Road Doyalson and request that Council consider removing it from the asset land sale

program. If the land is to be sold, the Committee request that Council consider that the E2 zoned land be subdivided and removed from sale.

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### 6 Porters Creek Conservation Agreement update

2.49pm

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) advised of the Council resolution from the 13 April 2021 meeting regarding Porters Creek Wetland Conservation Agreement:

*That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to immediately suspend the development of the Warnervale conservation agreement and any agreement with the NSW biodiversity Conservation Trust to permanently protect the Porters Creek Wetland until the Airport Masterplan, plan of Management and a subdivision plan is registered that subdivides the Wetland and surrounding E2 land from the employment land in Warnervale.*

The proposed conservation agreement for Porters Creek Wetland was out for community consultation from 1 March 2021 – 29 March 2021. Given the current resolution it will remain in stasis until the airport masterplan, plan of management and a subdivision plan is registered.

**Action:** The Committee request the Project Manager provide a briefing on the airport masterplan, plan of management and subdivision plan at the next meeting.

Luke Sulkowski advised of another project in regards to Porters Creek Wetland. At around 2010 a determination was made by Wyong Shire Council to implement a stormwater harvesting scheme which utilised water from Porters Creek Wetland to top up Mardi Dam and secure the water supply of the Central Coast. This scheme has now been abandoned, but the actions identified in the developer contributions plan for Warnervale are still largely reliant on the harvesting scheme.

Luke's team has engaged a consultant who has prepared a draft plan to revisit actions for Porters Creek Wetland which can potentially serve those stormwater targets without the need for a stormwater harvesting scheme and to look at a different management plan for the wetland. Once the plan is finalised it will go out on public exhibition.

**Action:** Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning to provide the group with the Porters Creek presentation that was provided to the Catchments to Coast Committee, at the next meeting.

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### 7 Priority weeds – new incursion

2.58pm

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) provided an update on the Water Poppy (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*) that was found in Maddens Creek, Matcham. A resident sought advice on Water Hyacinth in a creek running through his property. Council's Biosecurity staff

investigated and it was found to be Water Poppy. This is the third infestation detected in NSW and the first time found in the Central Coast region. Actions are underway to control this weed and further information can be found at <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/WaterPoppy>

### 8 Update from external representatives (standing agenda item)

3.04pm

Steve Atkins – NPWS

- Continued walking track upgrades as part of the improving access to National Parks program which the government has allocated additional funding over 4 years. Major trackwork taking place in Bouddi National Park, Wyrabalong National Park and Piles Creek in Brisbane Waters National Park.
- Capital upgrades of Somersby Falls and picnic area and Crackneck continue to progress.
- Aerial wild dogs baiting program in the Watagans which is a first on the Central Coast as we generally undertake ground baiting. 475 baits were dropped 2 weeks ago.
- In the last meeting the need for an aerial spray in Bouddi was raised. NPWS considered this and the aim was to have it completed by the end of the financial year however there have been claims on the mid north coast in relation to the aerial spray program so spraying for parks has been suspended till that is resolved.
- Two hazard reduction burns completed during autumn, one strategic burn completed in Bouddi and a large one in Jilliby.
- Continuing to undertake major fire trail upgrade works in Jilliby state conservation area and lower Popran.
- Bush regeneration works out in the Watagans through additional funding that was received after the 2019/20 bushfires. Additional grant funding was provided to do habitat works for threatened species including the brushtail rock wallaby.
- Responded to flood and storm damage from the event that happened back in March.
- Preparing new cycling strategy for parks. Internal consultation has been completed and over the next few weeks consulting with peak agencies/stakeholders, to then go out on public exhibition.
- Council should have received a letter from the Minister regarding proposed land transfers/proposals. Some of the proposals put forward by Council have been supported and further discussions will be had around how we progress these proposals.

**Action:** Staff to investigate whether a letter has been received from the Minister on land transfers/proposals.

David Green – LLS was an apology however provided the following report:

- Cultural Burn workshop was held at Walkabout Park on 14 & 15th May and attracted over 65 participants. Approximately 0.5 ha was burnt giving participants the opportunity to observe firsthand a cool slow burn. This event was funded by the Commonwealth Governments Disaster Relief Bushfire funding via Central Coast Council.
- A riparian zone management workshop was held on Sunday 6 June at Cedar Brush Creek with approximately 30 landholders attending.
- A workshop on pigs was held on 27 May at Somersby with 20 landholders attending.
- A workshop on the Fundamental of Pastures was held at Mangrove Mountain on 25 May.
- The Greater Sydney Landcare and Bushcare Forum was held at Cockatoo Island on 21 May with over 150 landcarers attending. The forum included the annual awards, of note are two local award recipients: Phil Heaton (Budgewoi Dunecare) and Deb Holloman. (Deb may be able to speak to this)
- LLS are involved with two one day cultural burn workshops on 12 & 13 June, at Mangrove Mountain. These events are fully subscribed and may be postponed (till Spring) if we receive the rain that is forecast.
- LLS have recently approved a further 8 projects from Catchment Action NSW funding, these include five projects with Central Coast Council:
  - relocation of a hollow bearing tree: owl habitat
  - irrigation misting system for grey headed flying fox colony at Wyoming, this follows a similar project for the GHFF colony at the Everglades
  - three bush regen habitat restoration projects: Saltwater Creek Avoca, Macmasters Beach (potaroo habitat) and Ourimbah Creek

### 9 General business

3.17pm

- The Mountain bike feasibility study public exhibition period closed in March with a high volume of submissions received from the community. The team are currently reviewing the feedback and a report is expected back to Council in the last quarter of this year. The report will have some high-level recommendations to Council about how we might move forward with mountain biking across the Central Coast rather than focusing on establishing tracks in any one location.
- Barbara Wills raised the matter that was resolved at the 9 March 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting regarding all Council owned COSS land listed to be zoned to E2 Environmental Conservation. Concerns were raised that the Committee hadn't been informed and questions were asked as to whether this would affect our chances of getting a regional park and how does this affect our ability to negotiate and subdivide?

# Minutes

## Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee

**Action:** Advice to be provided to the group at the next meeting on Council owned COSS land to be zoned to E2 Environmental Conservation including how this affects the bonus lot provisions scheme.

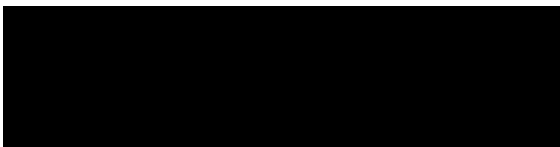
### 10 Close

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Next meeting: Tuesday 7 September 2021  
2pm – 4pm  
Microsoft Teams / Gosford Committee Room

Meeting closed at 3.42pm

Minutes finalised and endorsed 10/6/2021.



Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management  
Coordinator/Chairperson

# Action log

## Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
27	25/7/2018	The Advisory Group requests that time be allocated in future meetings for external agency representatives to share updates from their relevant area.	Meeting Support Officer	Ongoing - to be included on future agendas	Standing agenda item
33	26/9/2018	The Advisory Group requests that as the Land Acquisition and prioritisation process matures, staff provide updates to the Committee at future meetings.	Natural and Environmental Assets	Update on Action 21	Standing agenda item
73	1/8/2019	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.	Mayor Jane Smith / Luke Sulkowski	13/2/2020: Councillor Smith advised she has received a response to this and will forward to Advisory Group Support Officer to be circulated to the Committee. 30/04 COSS Meeting: Councillor Smith to circulate response to committee. 25/6 COSS Meeting: Councillor Smith confirmed with staff that a response had been received. This will be followed up and circulated to Advisory Group Members. 1/12 - to be referred to Andrew Roach 2/3 Luke Sulkowski to request a further update that can be provided to the	Pending

# Action log

## Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				Advisory Group Members.	
109	20/10/2020	The action plan from the Biodiversity Strategy to be included as a standing agenda item.	Meeting Support Officer		Standing agenda item
118	1/12/2020	Relevant Unit Manager to be invited to the next meeting to address Advisory Group Member concerns regarding the sale of land at Thompson Vale Road, Doyalson.	Jamie Barclay	9/6/21 – Action can be marked as complete as Unit Manager was invited but was unable to attend. Action 131 supersedes this.	Complete
123	2/3/2021	The Advisory Group request advice from Council's Compliance and Regulatory Unit regarding opportunities to utilise the EP&A Act to regulate issues with native vegetation clearing at properties of concern. Advice is also sought on the difference in compliance approaches on Deferred Matters zoned lands vs lands zoned in accordance with the standard LEP.	Compliance and Regulatory Unit	9/6/21 – Council is not the appropriate regulatory authority to deal with deferred matters zoned land, this falls to the Local Land Services.	Complete



# Action log

## Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
124	2/3/2021	The Advisory Group seek clarification from DPIE and LLS on opportunities for strengthening of policy and legislation to enable better regulation of tree and vegetation removal and clearing activities on Deferred Matters zoned land in order to avoid the unregulated significant impacts as has been experienced in locations on the Central Coast.	Environmental Management Staff / DPIE / LLS	9/6/21 – Included in letter to Premier (Action 125) requesting this to be sent to the relevant Ministers.	Pending
125	2/3/2021	The Advisory Group recommends to Council that the Administrator write to the NSW Premier requesting strengthening of legislation to allow prosecution of tree removal and land clearing on deferred matters lands.	Environmental Management Staff	At the 13 April 2021 Council Meeting it was resolved:  That Council write to the NSW Premier requesting strengthening of legislation to allow prosecution for tree removal and land clearing on deferred matters lands.  9/6/21 - Letter to Premier to refer request to relevant Ministers has been drafted and awaiting approval.	Pending
127	2/3/2021	Gary Chestnut to liaise with Luke Sulkowski to clarify the points of difference in the COSS report compared to the Biodiversity Strategy.	Gary Chestnut / Luke Sulkowski	Meeting was held and difference of interpretation acknowledged. COSS report and Biodiversity Strategy were drafted concurrently. Gary gave an	Pending

# Action log

## Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				undertaking that he would review the recommendations in the COSS report with actions that are in the Biodiversity Strategy. Gary to present a combined report on Council's Biodiversity Strategy and future recommendations from the COSS report.	
129	2/3/2021	The Committee would like to reinforce to Council the conservation values of the land at Thompson Vale Road Doyalson and request the Administrator consider retaining it in Council ownership.	The Committee / Environmental Management Staff	Minutes from March 2021 meeting were reported to Council. Superseded by action 131.	Complete
130	9/6/2021	A map with the 7 parcels of DPIE land at Green Point and Erina that was transferred to Council's ownership to be circulated to committee members.	Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity/Meeting Support Officer		Pending
131	9/6/2021	The Committee would like to reinforce the conservation values of the land at Thompson Vale Road Doyalson and request that Council consider removing it from the asset land sale program. If the land is to be sold, the Committee request that	Unit Manager Environmental Management/Meeting Support Officer	To be included in report to Council with minutes	Pending

# Action log

## Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
		Council consider that the E2 zoned land be subdivided and removed from sale.			
132	9/6/2021	The Committee request the Project Manager provide a briefing on the airport masterplan, plan of management and subdivision plan at the next meeting.	Unit Manager Environmental Management		To be addressed at next meeting
133	9/6/2021	Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning to provide the group with the Porters Creek presentation that was provided to the Catchments to Coast Committee, at the next meeting.	Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning		To be addressed at next meeting
134	9/6/2021	Staff to investigate whether a letter has been received from the Minister on land transfers/proposals.	Unit Manager Environmental Management		Pending
135	9/6/2021	Advice to be provided to the group at the next meeting on Council owned COSS land to be zoned to E2 Environmental Conservation including how this affects the bonus lot provisions scheme.	Unit Manager Environmental Management		To be addressed at next meeting