



COASTAL OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

07 March 2023



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028

ONE – CENTRAL COAST IS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) FOR THE CENTRAL COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

ONE – CENTRAL COAST DEFINES THE COMMUNITY'S VISION AND IS OUR ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

ONE – CENTRAL COAST BRINGS TOGETHER EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO SET KEY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

One - Central Coast will shape and inform Council's business activities, future plans, services and expenditure. Where actions are the responsibility of other organisations, sectors and groups to deliver, Council will work with key partners to advocate on behalf of our community.

Ultimately, every one of us who live on the Central Coast has an opportunity and responsibility to create a sustainable future from which we can all benefit. Working together we can make a difference.

RESPONSIBLE

WE'RE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY, COMMITTED TO BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND DELIVERING A GREAT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE IN ALL OUR INTERACTIONS.

We value transparent and meaningful communication and use community feedback to drive strategic decision making and expenditure, particularly around the delivery of essential infrastructure projects that increase the safety, liveability and sustainability of our region. We're taking a strategic approach to ensure our planning and development processes are sustainable and accessible and are designed to preserve the unique character of the coast.

Good governance and great partnerships

G2 Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making

There are 5 themes, 12 focus areas and 48 objectives

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028 FRAMEWORK

All council reports contained within the Business Paper are now aligned to the Community Strategic Plan. Each report will contain a cross reference to a Theme, Focus Area and Objective within the framework of the Plan.

The infographic details the following structure:

- THEME: BELONGING**
 - Focus Area: OUR COMMUNITY (C1-C6)
 - Focus Area: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (G1-G2)
- THEME: SMART**
 - Focus Area: A GROWING AND COMPETITIVE REGION (C7-C9)
 - Focus Area: A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE (D1-D6)
- THEME: GREEN**
 - Focus Area: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE FUTURE (E1-E3)
 - Focus Area: INCREASED RAIN WATER RESILIENCE (F1-F2)
- THEME: RESPONSIBLE**
 - Focus Area: GOOD GOVERNANCE AND GREAT PARTNERSHIPS (G1-G2)
 - Focus Area: BELONGING THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE (H1-H4)
 - Focus Area: SAFETY AND WELLBEING (I1-I4)
- THEME: LIVEABLE**
 - Focus Area: RELIABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIONS (J1-J3)
 - Focus Area: RUST AND RUSTLE (THE JOY OF LIFE) (K1-K3)
 - Focus Area: HEALTHY LIFESTYLES (L1-L4)



Meeting Notice

**The Coastal Open Space System
of Central Coast Council
will be held,
Online,
on Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 2:00pm,
for the transaction of the business listed below:**

1 Procedural Items

- 1.1 Introduction: Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Disclosure of Interest..... 4
- 1.2 Previous business: Confirmation of minutes, review action log..... 5

2 Reports

- 2.1 Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund & Central Coast Conservation Fund.....23
- 2.2 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation28
- 2.3 Update from External Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)34
- 2.4 Update from Community Representatives (Standing Agenda Item).....35
- 2.5 General Business.....36

Luke Sulkowski
Chairperson

**1.1 INTRODUCTION: WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY,
APOLOGIES, DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Chairperson - Luke Sulkowski

Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Receipt of Apologies

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play.

We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging and recognise their continued connection to these lands and waterways.

We acknowledge our shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.

1.2 PREVIOUS BUSINESS: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES, REVIEW ACTION LOG

Chairperson

Attachments

- 1 Approved minutes from December 2022 meeting d15494208

Minutes

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



Date: 6 December 2022

Time: 2.04pm – 3.58pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Acting Chairperson: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity

Coordinator: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Attendance

Members:

John Andrews

Deb Holloman

Paul Links

Douglas Williamson

Barbara Wills

Gary Chestnut (Knowledge specialist, non-voting)

Status:

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

External Agencies:

Stephen Atkins, NPWS

Dan Keating, LLS

Apology

Present

Staff:

Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Compliance and Systems

Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity

Rod Mergen, Senior Strategic Planner Local Planning and Policy

Sharyn Styman, Environmental Management and Projects Officer

Natural Assets and Biodiversity

Chris Barrett, Commercial Property Manager Commercial Property

Carlita Dhillon, Environmental Education Officer

Rochelle Lawson, Senior Ecologist Natural Assets and Biodiversity

Rachel Callachor, Meeting Support Officer

Apology

Apology

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Absent

Present

1 Introduction

2.04pm

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



2 Previous business

2.05pm

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:

[13 September 2022 – Coastal Open Space System Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 9).

3 Deferred Lands - Land Use Assessment update

2.11pm

Update provided by Rod Mergen, Senior Strategic Planner Local Planning and Policy, included the following key points:

- Information provided regarding rezoning of certain areas of land – C2,C3 and C4 zoning
- August 2022 – CC LEP commenced
- DPE – Gateway determination likely to be obtained 23 December 2022 – agency consultation will commence, prior to public exhibition (estimated for April/May 2023) for deferred matters.
- Council obliged to comply with environmental protection zoning and awaiting feedback as part of this process. OEH and RFS amongst other agencies.

Question from Committee member – Could *Practice Notes* relating this process be distributed to the Committee and if a workshop regarding the practice notes may be beneficial. Agreed that if there are questions following distribution, a workshop could then be arranged.

Action: Link to LEP Practice Note and addition information included below for the information and any further action from Advisory Group members regarding potential for a workshop:

Practice Note:

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Practice-notes/environment-protection-zones-20090430.pdf?la=en>

Note: this document is found amongst a suite of documents available within the *Strategic Planning Toolkit* available on the Department of Planning and Environment Website.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Local-Planning-and-Zoning/Strategic-Planning-Toolkit>

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Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



4 Update on Process for Land Acquisition (Action 157)

2.18pm

Presentation by Chris Barrett, Commercial Property Manager Commercial Property, included the following key points:

- Environmental Land Acquisition Program presentation given to the Committee members, per the presentation provided in early December (see item 157).
- Commencement of Environmental Land Acquisition program – targeting first acquisition prior to July 2023
- Objectives of program: to ensure timely and value for money purchases, have a pre-approval process in place.
- Information provided regarding key processes and actions regarding the program and its objectives, including criteria for purchase.
- Details regarding draft Implementation Timeline

Question from Committee member regarding funds and interest earned and whether this is being retained in the fund. This will be clarified, and further information provided to the Committee.

Clarification re parcels of land, includes both COSS / COSS priority lands, and other land owned by Council.

Possibility of Committee reviewing, prior to exhibition, under the scope of the land being proposed for sale.

s.10.7 certificates and process regarding this. Additional information long form certificate only.

Suggestion from Committee member that the Committee proposed the funding figure be \$3million. Not supported by Committee members at this time in the process.

'Risk of not acquiring the land' and 'biodiversity' aspects and how these assessments are undertaken was raised.

Prioritisation and biodiversity values are strongly linked.

Clarification from Rod Mergen, that once the deferred matters land and CCLEP are adopted there will not be a bonus lots provision, with potential replacement mechanisms currently being investigated. At this stage deferred matters land and IDO 122 are still in place.

Action: The Committee notes the information on the work being undertaken in streamlining the environmental land acquisition process and requests that further information be provided as the

Minutes

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



process is progressed.

Action: Advice on the allocation of interest on the COSS fund and the Clause 14 fund which are used for environmental land acquisition be provided to the Committee.

5 Update on Biodiversity Strategy and Land Acquisition and prioritisation (standing Agenda Item) 3.35pm

Presentation by Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity, included the following key points:

Key points included:

- Information regarding Former Precinct 7A Land at Warnervale
- Location and details of Stage 1 Land Transfer
- Values of the land including nature conservation and recreation trails
- The former Precinct 7A land is within the catchment of Porters Creek Wetland.

Query regarding if it was to be proposed COSS land. The land is not within the adopted COSS area. Separate discussions are scheduled for 8 Dec 2022 to discuss Action Item 149 about the extent of the COSS.

The Committee was asked to consider providing a recommendation to Council in relation to the dedication of land at 39 Dell Road, West Gosford that is consistent with the Action from this agenda item recorded for the COSS Committee meeting on 13 September 2022.

Recommendation to Council: That Council note the COSS Advisory Committee's unanimous support for the dedication of the proposed C2 - Environmental Conservation Zoned land at 39 Dell Road, West Gosford pending the determination of the planning proposal for the site.

6 Update on website improvement (Action 161) 3.10pm

Presentation by Carlita Dhillon, Environmental Education Officer. Key points included:

- Update regarding information available on CCC website and limited information related to COSS.
- Currently sites under: 'Recreation' and 'Reserves and Lookouts' sections of website.
- Internal staff participated in a poll to establish a 'new' section/sub-heading on the website. 'Natural Areas and Biodiversity' was selected.
- Objective is to provide more information about COSS to the community.

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Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



- Two 'forks' proposed, bushland and wetlands and biodiversity.
- Current status: Finalising phase one, website content ready for approval. The context on the website is anticipated to be reviewed quarterly.

Following discussions with the Committee:

- Clarification provided that the *Tuesday Tales* post is provided weekly on social media. It is proposed that it will link back to CCC website as a part of these stories and updates.
- Query regarding the website information and display - 'forks' off the menu bar, regarding proposed design and where COSS sits, and suggestion/comments regarding equal footing in this space. Information provided regarding the space on the website and the advice from the Digital team. Question will be raised, and information will be reported back.

Action: Further information to be provided regarding website design and options for display, in consultation with Council's Digital website team.

Action: Presentations to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

7 Update on Natural Areas Fox Control Program

3.20pm

Presentation by Sharyn Styman. Environmental Management and Projects Officer • Natural Assets and Biodiversity.

Key topics covered included:

- The aim of the program is to reduce the impact of fox predation on native fauna, including threatened species, in Council's natural areas.
- Fox predation of native fauna in CCC natural areas occurs and there are legal obligations for landowners to control foxes under the Biosecurity and Local Government Acts.
- Advice that a review of the fox control program has been undertaken for reasons including that the existing Central Coast Fox Management Strategy finalised in 2005 is due for review; and the substantial increase of the size of the conservation reserve system following establishment of the Central Coast Council requires a review of the approaches and priorities; and that there is insufficient data to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.
- Update regarding fox activity and camera monitoring information was provided.
- The history of the program was provided. Initially commenced in 2005 by former Gosford City Council, and following amalgamation was expanded into the enlarged conservation reserve system.

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Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



- A site prioritisation tool has been developed with more than 80 reserves have had the tool applied. Priority sites typically have established legal agreements such as Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements or Conservation Agreements; the inclusion of the reserve in a threatened species recovery plan, and the vulnerability of populations of threatened species to fox predation
- Risk management has been address including through the installation of signage and the development of operational procedures.
- Proposed schedule: Undertake fox control at the little tern breeding site – surveillance, ground shooting and trapping and 'Priority' reserves.
- Council staff are seeking endorsement from the Committee for moving forward with the fox control program.

Action:

1. That the Committee endorse the continuation of Central Coast Council's Fox Control Program in Natural Areas to reduce the impact of fox predation on native fauna, including threatened species, in Council's natural areas.
2. That the Committee endorses integration of all suitable control techniques in the Program to facilitate effective fox control in a humane manner.
3. That the Committee notes the advantages of coordinated ongoing landscape-scale fox control programs with participation by all key land managers.

Action: Presentations to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

8 Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund & Central Coast Conservation Fund 3.42pm

Presentation by Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity. Key topics covered included:

- Overview of the resolution adopted by Council, 22 November 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting (Link to Minutes: https://centralcoast.infocouncil.biz/RedirectToDoc.aspx?URL=Open/2022/11/OC_22112022_MI_N.PDF).
- The Davistown wetland complex includes 19 parcels of private land in Davistown/Saratoga.
- Background and current status of the Davistown Wetlands Acquisition fund.
- Discussion of COSS and clause 14 restricted funds held by Council for land acquisition.
- Transfer of funds from the Davistown Wetland Acquisition Fund to a yet to be established Central Coast Conservation Fund is being proposed and Council has instructed staff to develop

Minutes

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee



a policy for the Central Coast Conservation Fund in consultation with the Coastal Open Space Committee, the Catchments to Coast Committee and the Davistown Progress Association.

Feedback is sought from the COSS Committee, the Catchments to Coast Committee and the Davistown Progress Association:

- Feedback is requested from the committees on the rules about what monies can be collected by the proposed CCCF and how the funds can be spent.
- Feedback from the committees and the Davistown Progress Association will be considered in the development of the policy. The draft will go through internal review, legal and financial review and approval by senior management before a report to Council endorsing it to be placed on public exhibition
- The final draft of the policy will be provided to the Davistown Progress Association, the COSS Committee and the Catchments to Coast Committee
- The results of the public exhibition will be included in a report to Council recommending adoption of the policy

Action: The Committee notes the limited time available at this meeting to discuss the proposal, and requests that the item be included on the agenda for further discussion in March 2023, and for a period for feedback from the Committee to be determined at that meeting.

Action: Presentations to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

9	Update from external representatives (standing agenda item))	N/A
This matter was not discussed due to time constraints, a call for any urgent items was sought and advised there was nothing to discuss.		
10	Update from community representatives (standing agenda item)	N/A
This matter was not discussed due to time constraints, a call for any urgent items was sought and advised there was nothing to discuss.		
11	General business	N/A
This matter was not discussed due to time constraints. A call for any urgent items was sought and advised there was nothing to discuss.		

Minutes

Coastal Open Space System (COSS)
Advisory Committee



11 Close

Next meeting: March 2023

Meeting closed at 3.58pm

Minutes finalised and endorsed 10/01/2023 by Larry Melican

Acting Manager, Environmental Management Unit

Acting Chairperson



Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
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	Airport Masterplan update emailed to members 14 February 2022. Verbal update provided at 15 March 2022 meeting.	Complete
139	21/9/2021	Luke Sulkowski to confirm whether the letter sent from Council to National Parks is able to be distributed and will review what information has previously been provided to the COSS Committee regarding this matter.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	The Land Transfer Council to National Parks Chronology was discussed at the 13 December 2021 COSS meeting. Amy Walpole to double check, it seems we may have already provided a copy of the letter to the Minister/National Parks. 16/02: LM to reconfirm that a copy of the letter was circulated to the committee Update as at 07/06/2022 meeting: Follow up regarding letter and circulation to Committee. Update as of 13/09/2022 meeting: Distributed and complete	Complete
140	21/9/2021	Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning to obtain more information regarding the two Conservation areas and provide feedback to Gary Chestnut.	Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning	Peter Sheath currently liaising with Gary Chestnut on this matter.	Complete

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				9/08: An update has been provided to Gary via the AG	
141	21/9/2021	Staff to provide a presentation to the Committee at a future meeting on the way these property sale negotiations are carried out and possible new ways of thinking for Council negotiating on land that has high environmental values.	Unit Manager Economic Development and Property	Item to be pushed back to early 2022. Economic and Property development to take the lead on this action. EMU to provide advice and input as required. Update as of 13/09/2022 meeting: Complete	Complete
143	21/9/2021	Staff to investigate the unauthorised clearing activities at Matcham and report back to the next COSS meeting advising what action has been taken against people who undertook the clearing.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	A registered surveyor was engaged by Council to carry out a boundary survey to ascertain the extent of clearing on Council land reserve, R0056 Wambina/Matcham Road Reserve. This survey was undertaken on the 26 th October 2021. On the 8 December 2022 an onsite meeting was held with Council officers Rhys Richards, Team Leader, Development Control, Brent Evans, Project Officer, Natural Assets and	Complete

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				<p>Biodiversity and Chris Ross a representative of the owners of 293 Matcham Road.</p> <p>The representative was asked to provide a Vegetation Management Plan which is to outline how they are to revegetate/regenerate/manage the area that they have admitted to clearing. It is understood that the representative has sourced three quotes from qualified ecologists to carry out the investigation and provide the Vegetation Management Plan and have now engaged Travers Bushfire and Ecology to provide the consultancy services. This plan is to be reviewed by Council before it is accepted. Once accepted the representative has stated that they will then carry out the recommendations of the report.</p>	

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				It is expected that the draft plan will be available for review in the next few weeks.	
144	13/12/2021	In regard to previous action 124, Council to send a follow up letter to the Minister advising of the significant community concerns regarding the clearing of land (public and private) and request that if the legislation isn't going to be changed, that regulatory control of deferred matters zoned land be given back to Council as opposed to DPIE and LLS.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	At the 8 February 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved: That Council send a follow up letter to the Minister advising of the significant community concerns regarding the clearing of land (public and private) and request that if the legislation isn't going to be changed, that regulatory control of deferred matters zoned land be given back to Council as opposed to DPIE and LLS. Letters sent 2 March 2022 to Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Planning and Homes.	Complete
145	13/12/2021	The Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee members would like to express to Council their rejection of any mountain biking trails being established in COSS land or being identified for inclusion in COSS land as part of the Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan which will be	The Committee / Meeting Support Officer	At the 8 February 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved: That Council note the COSS Committee's rejection of any mountain biking trails being established in COSS land or being	Complete

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
		reported to Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 14 December 2021.		identified for inclusion in COSS land as part of the Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan that was reported to Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 14 December 2021.	
147	13/12/2021	Staff to follow up with the Economic Property Development Team request that they meet with the COSS Sub-Committee to discuss property sale negotiations and the acquisition process, prior to presenting to the Committee in the new year.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	Update as of 13/09/2022 meeting: Complete	Complete
148	13/12/2021	The Committee request that Council write to the Minister noting concerns about lots that were left off the list for potential land transfer to NPWS and request that further consideration be given to private land, not just public land. Furthermore, representations should be made to local members requesting support of this.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	At the 8 Feb 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved: That Council write to the Minister noting concerns about lots that were left off the list for potential land transfer to NPWS and request that further consideration be given to private land, not just public land. Furthermore, representations should be made to local members requesting support of this. Letters sent 2 March 2022 to Minister for Environment and Heritage, The Member for Terrigal,	Complete

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				The Member for Gosford, The Member for The Entrance and The Member for Wyong.	
149	13/12/2021	Staff to arrange a further meeting with Gary Chestnut with a view to identifying some existing conservation reserves in the former Wyong LGA that may be considered for trial under the COSS branding and to identify likely tasks required in order to proceed with such a project.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	9/08: Due to scheduling conflicts, a meeting will be scheduled for early October 11/11: Meeting yet to be arranged 6/12 – Noted meeting scheduled for Thursday 8/12.	Pending
150	15/03/2022	Staff to collate a list of initiatives taken by Council in regard to QR codes and provide an update to the Committee at the next meeting. Consideration to also be given to other possible applications software (e.g., Hovr).	Unit Manager Environmental Management	Update provided at 07/06/2022 Committee meeting and outcomes included in meeting minutes	Complete
151	15/03/2022	Committee members are invited to provide any suggestions or feedback on the plan (Environmental Education Strategy) to advisorygroups@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au by Friday 25 March 2022	The Committee	<i>COSS Committee - NAB Environmental Education Strategy</i> emailed to members 18/3/2022 Update provided to Carlita Dhillon and Nick Carson via email 30/3/2022 – final confirmation of all feedback received – one email from Gary Chestnut.	Complete

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
152	15/03/2022	Copies of the letters sent to Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Planning and Homes regarding Deferred Matters Land to be sent to Adam Crouch Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast and Member for Terrigal, for his information	Unit Manager Environmental Management	9/08: Larry to follow up and confirm if and when these letters were sent to the Members of Parliament Update as of 13/09/2022: Larry to draft correspondence to Adam Crouch MP (including letters to Ministers) to Director for Approval 5/10/22: Letter sent to Adam Crouch MP	Completed
153	15/03/2022	A copy of all presentations from today's meeting to be provided to Committee Members	Meeting Support Officer	COSS <i>Committee Presentations</i> emailed to members 16/03/2022	Complete
154	07/06/2022	A copy of all presentations from today's meeting to be provided to Committee Members.	Meeting Support Officer	9/08: AG to update	Complete
155	07/06/2022	Refresher regarding opportunities for committee members to become involved, suggestions and feedback welcomed, please send via AdvisoryGroups email address.	COSS Committee members	9/08: AG to update	Complete

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
156	07/06/2022	Chair will seek advice from Team Leader Landcare and SM Natural Assets and Biodiversity regarding whether this is to be re-introduced.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	9/08: Update to be provided during the Action Log item. This program is not being re-introduced at this stage. Current resourcing levels for the nursery only allow for plants to be supplied to environmental volunteering program groups for restoration of their worksites. Further consideration will be given to the potential for plant giveaways to be incorporated as part of the 2023 National Tree Day	Complete
157	13/09/2022	Chair to convene a workshop with staff from Environment Management Unit, Economic and Property Unit and Finance as well two to three Committee members consider acquisition process and report back to committee	Unit Manager Environmental Management	Workshop organised for 1/12/22	Complete
158	13/09/2022	Larry Melican and Andrew Bayley coordinating visit to Wambina with Committee members	Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity	As of 11/11: Inspection yet to be arranged. Update 6/12 – rescheduled to Feb 2023	Ongoing
159	13/09/2022	Presentations to be distributed to Advisory Group members.	Meeting Support Officer		

Action log

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
160	13/09/2022	That the COSS Advisory Group support for the dedication of the C2 Environmental Conservation Zoned land at 39 Dell Road, West Gosford, pending the determination of the Planning Proposal, be noted by Council.	COSS Committee members	Council noted COSS minutes of the 13 September meeting. This was not specifically noted by Council. Update 6/12 -Query regarding if advice is provided to Planning staff. Proposed action to convey this information <i>To be discussed in meeting at item 5?</i>	
161	13/09/2022	Chair to provide update on website improvements at next meeting and master plan regarding mountain bike riding.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	Agenda Item for 6 December meeting Update 6/12 – to be postponed until the New Year	Ongoing
162	13/09/2022	Civic Support Team to update Terms of Reference and call for new members	Meeting Support Officer		



Item No: 2.1
Title: Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund & Central Coast Conservation Fund
Department: Environment and Planning

7 March 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099 - D15549194
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager, Environmental Management
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

1. That the information in the accompanying presentation be noted by the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee.
2. That the COSS Committee provide feedback on the rules about what monies can be collected by the proposed Central Coast Conservation Fund (CCCF) and how the fund can be spent.

Report purpose

To provide background to the COSS Committee on Council's resolution of 22 November 2022 that requires staff to develop a draft policy in consultation with the Davistown Progress Association, the Catchment to Coast Committee and the COSS Committee for a CCCF in accordance with Action 2.2.1 of the *Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy* adopted on 28 September 2020.

Executive Summary

The establishment of the CCCF is identified as an action on the *Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy* adopted by Council on 28 September 2020.

Council resolved on 22 November 2022 to consult the Davistown Progress Association, the Catchments to Coast Committee and the COSS Committee in the development of a policy for the CCCF.

A presentation has been provided to the Davistown Progress Association, the Catchments to Coast Committee and the COSS Committee. Due to a lack of time to fully consider the item on 6 December 2022, the COSS Committee requested that the item be included in the agenda for the March 2023 meeting.

Feedback is requested from the committees and the Davistown Progress Association on the rules about what monies can be collected by the proposed CCCF and how the fund can be spent.

2.1 Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund & Central Coast Conservation Fund (contd)

Background

Council considered a report on 22 November 2022 titled Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund and resolved (208/22):

- 1 *That Council note the resolution of 13 April 2021 that Council discontinues any negotiations to purchase by agreement the land known as the Davistown Wetlands.*
- 2 *The Council note the balance of the internally restricted funds held in the Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund was \$1,436,039 as of 21 October 2022.*
- 3 *That Council instruct staff to develop a draft policy, in consultation with the Davistown Progress Association, Coastal Open Space System Committee and the Catchment to Coast Committee, for a Central Coast Conservation Fund in accordance with Action 2.2.1 of the Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy adopted by Council on 28 September 2020 and that the draft policy be placed on public exhibition for not less than 28 days.*
- 4 *That following the exhibition period a report be brought back to Council on the outcomes of the community consultation, which is to include recommendations in relation to the draft Central Coast Council Conservation Fund Policy and the formal adoption of the Central Coast Conservation Fund.*
- 5 *That subject to the adoption of the Central Coast Conservation Fund, given that Council no longer seeks to acquire Davistown Wetlands, consideration be given by Council to derestricting the Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund and reallocating the balance of that fund along with other appropriate environmentally related funds, such as those generated from Council's participation in the NSW Government's Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, to the Central Coast Conservation Fund.*
- 6 *That expenditure of Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund on environmental management activities within Davistown be considered in the design of the Central Coast Conservation Fund Policy.*

Current Status

A presentation was provided to the COSS Committee meeting on 6 December 2022; however, time constraints did not allow for discussion to occur. The COSS Committee minutes of 6 December 2022 in relation to the agenda item titled Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund and Central Coast Conservation Fund include:

Action: The Committee notes the limited time available at this meeting to discuss the proposal, and requests that the item be included on the agenda for further discussion in

2.1 Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund & Central Coast Conservation Fund (contd)

March 2023, and for a period for feedback from the Committee to be determined at that meeting

Report

Council resolved on 13 April 2021 to discontinue any negotiations to purchase by agreement the land known as the Davistown Wetlands. An option exists for the approximately \$1.4 million held in the Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund to be reallocated to achieve environmental outcomes as identified in the *Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy* adopted by Council on 28 September 2020.

Theme 2 of the Biodiversity Strategy is about ensuring that adequate resourcing is available for Council to effectively manage its natural areas and expand the conservation estate. Action 2.2.1 is to Establish funding for the management and acquisition of land identified by the Conservation Management Program and Environmental Lands Acquisition Program, with the target being to establish the CCCF.

There are two pre-amalgamation legacy funds for the acquisition of environmental land:

- i. The COSS Fund from the former Gosford City Council that was collected under the bonus lot clause of *Interim Development Order (IDO) 122*.
- ii. The Clause 14 Fund from the former Wyong Shire Council that collected funds under the bonus lot clause of the *Wyong Local Environment Plan 1991 (WLEP 1991)*.

The Clause 14 bonus lots provisions of the WLEP 1991 were not carried forward into subsequent LEPs. The IDO 122 bonus lots provisions will not be carried forward into the *Central Coast Local Environmental Plan 2022* once the environmental zones have replaced the current deferred matters zone. The balance of these two restricted funds will be spent for their original purpose in the parts of the Central Coast local government area they were collected from.

There is the potential that the CCCCF would collect funds from a diverse range of sources including as a result of Council's participation on the NSW Government's Biodiversity Offset Scheme; funds from Voluntary Planning Agreements; and the sale of biodiversity credits generated from Council-owned land.

Feedback is requested from relevant Council committees and the Davistown Progress Association on the rules about what monies can be collected by the proposed CCCCF and how the fund can be spent.

Feedback from the committees and the Davistown Progress Association will be considered in the development of the draft policy. The draft policy will go through internal review, legal

2.1 Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund & Central Coast Conservation Fund (contd)

and financial review and approval by senior management before a report to Council endorsing it to be placed on public exhibition.

The final draft of the policy will be provided to the Davistown Progress Association, the COSS Committee and the Catchments to Coast Committee.

Consultation

A presentation was prepared for the COSS Committee, the Catchments to Coast Committee and the Davistown Progress Association for consultation as per part 3 of the Council resolution of 22 November 2022.

The presentation was provided to the COSS Committee of 6 December 2022, with a request for the item to be included on the agenda for the March 2023 COSS Committee meeting.

The presentation was provided to the Catchments to Coast Committee on 14 December 2023.

The presentation was provided to representatives of the Davistown Progress Association on 16 February 2023.

It is anticipated that feedback from the two committees and the Davistown Progress Association will be received by the end of March 2023.

Part 3 of the Council resolution requires that the draft policy be placed on public exhibition for not less than 28 days.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Green

Choose Focus Area

G-F1: Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas, and the diversity of local native species.

Risk Management

There is considered to be no material risk to Council associated with the community consultation process for the development of a policy for the CCCF.

2.1 Davistown Wetlands Acquisition Fund & Central Coast Conservation Fund (contd)

Options

No options exist. The report is prepared in response to Council's resolution of 22 November 2022 which requests that the Catchment to Coast Committee, the COSS Committee and the Davistown Progress Association be consulted in the development of a policy to guide the CCCF.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

It is anticipated that feedback from the two committees and the Davistown Progress Association will be received by the end of March 2023.

The public exhibition period on the draft policy is anticipated to commence in April 2023.

A report on the outcomes of the community consultation as per Part 4 of the Council resolution of 22 November is likely to be considered by Council in July 2023.

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 2.2
Title: Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation
Department: Environment and Planning

7 March 2023 Coastal Open Space System

Reference: F2018/00099 - D15549207
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager, Environmental Management
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

Report purpose

To provide information to the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee on projects related to the *Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy* that was adopted by Council on 28 September 2020.

Executive Summary

This report to the COSS Committee provides information on the following projects:

- Establishment of Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements on four Council reserves
- Management of the loggerhead sea turtle nest at Shelly Beach
- The outcomes of the little tern breeding season at Karagi Point, The Entrance North.

Background

Council adopted that *Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy* on 28 September 2020. Of the six themes of the Biodiversity Strategy, the projects outlined in this report align closely with:

Theme 1: Planning and Managing Biodiversity in Council's Natural Areas
Theme 3: Promoting community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation

Current Status

Council has responsibilities as land managers for the management of biodiversity including threatened species. Council participates in the NSW Government's Biodiversity Offset Scheme that provides funding for managing land protected under a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement. Council also undertakes on ground works, often in conjunction with NSW

2.2 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)

Government stakeholders, local experts and the community. The report provides a status report on biodiversity stewardship agreements and two threatened species being managed by Council.

Report

Biodiversity stewardship agreements over Council reserves at Tumbi Umbi and Blue Haven

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* sets out a mandatory biodiversity offset scheme under which proponents of developments or land clearing activities generate a credit obligation that must be retired to offset their activity. Landholders who establish a biodiversity stewardship site on their land generate credits that can be sold to developers who require those particular credits. Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements provide funds in perpetuity to implement a land management action plan to restore and maintain biodiversity values.

On 22 November 2022 Council resolved:

1. *That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into proposed Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust over the lots detailed in Appendix 1 that make up the Blue Haven Wetland Reserve and the Tumbi Umbi Wetland.*
2. *That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and proceed with the sale of biodiversity credits that are generated by the two Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements.*
3. *That Council note that the sale of biodiversity credits will fund the ongoing management of the land that they apply to for conservation purposes, and that this land will remain in Council ownership.*
4. *That a report be prepared for Council following the sale of any biodiversity credits associated with either of these Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements.*

The reserves that are the subject of this proposal are in Blue Haven and Tumbi Umbi and are:

- R0391 – Blue Haven Reserve
- R0314 – Tumbi Umbi Wetland South
- R0315 – Sir Joseph Banks Bushland
- R0419 – Eric Malouf Close Reserve
- R0428 – Tumbi Umbi Wetland North
- R0429 – Tumbi Umbi Wetland Beaverdale

Two biodiversity assessments have been undertaken that identify the vegetation communities on the reserves and have calculated the ecosystem and species credits generated by those communities. Two detailed management plans have been prepared for

2.2 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)

the reserves, including the 20-year costs for implementation. The agreements are drafted and under final review prior to execution by the Chief Executive Officer.

Proposed Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements on four Council reserves

Preliminary assessments are being undertaken on four COSS reserves. If considered viable, a report to Council will provide approval to enter into agreements. The reserves are known as:

- R0057/R0087 Tumbi Road Reserve/Carbeen Road Reserve;
- R0096 Wells Morella Close Reserve; and
- R0101 Kenmare Road Reserve.

Loggerhead sea turtle nest at Shelly Beach

In mid-January members of the community reported turtle tracks on Shelly Beach. The community members contacted local wildlife carers who in turn contacted NSW Turtle Watch. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) officers attended the site and confirmed that the tracks were the nesting crawl of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*). The NPWS officers confirmed that a clutch of eggs had been laid near the toe of the dunes above high tide mark. The Shelly Beach site is the most southerly record of a loggerhead nest.

NPWS is the lead agency in monitoring and protection of the nesting site, and supporting the successful hatching of the eggs, but contacted Council for support as the land manager of the beach. Working together, Central Coast Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Turtle Watch, members of the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and volunteers formed a working group to best manage the nest of this endangered species.

Management of the site has included establishing an exclusion zone and fencing, installing signage and fox monitoring and control. Support from the beach users and broader community was seen as being very important, including to minimise inadvertent damage to the turtle nest. Council has worked with the other stakeholder groups on social media posts and media releases. A high level of interest in the turtle nest has been expressed by members of the community.

Given that the loggerhead turtle nest is southward of its usual breeding zone, there is concern that the sand at Shelly Beach will not naturally retain the temperate required for incubation.

Sea turtle nests need an average sand temperature of above approximately 25 degrees to allow the hatchlings to develop. A temperature data logger has been placed near the nest at the same depth to allow the temperatures to be monitored. Turtle eggs cannot be moved in the first three to four weeks after being laid, as the embryos are very sensitive to movement. When the temperature of the nest dropped below 25 degrees, black sand was placed over the top of the nest to increase heat absorption and attempt to increase the temperature. This has been successful and has raised the temperature of the nest by approximately 1 degree,

2.2 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)

though it's now a waiting game to see if sand temperatures can stay above the minimum required.

If the nest temperature continues to decline, the eggs may potentially be excavated and incubated for these endangered hatchlings to survive. Extended exposure to temperatures below 22 degrees will be fatal to the embryos. If sand temperatures can be maintained at 25 degrees for the duration of gestation, then hatching can be expected come late March / early April.

The contingency plan should the sand temperature fall below the optimal temperature is to transfer the eggs to an incubator at Taronga Zoo.

Loggerhead sea turtles will generally lay approximately 120 eggs per clutch and can generally lay around 1 to 5 clutches of eggs per season. This sea turtle usually lays its nests in tropical and sub-tropical beaches of Queensland – they are usually not found this far south.

Sea turtles have temperature dependant sex determination, where the sex of the hatchling is determined in the middle third of incubation. Warmer temperatures produce females and cooler temperatures produce males. Climate change is resulting in the generalised warming of nests, potentially producing more females. Nests laid in more southern latitudes, such as this one and others in NSW, are important as they are likely to produce male hatchlings.

Loggerhead turtles face many anthropogenic threats including climate change, ingestion of marine debris and by-catch in international fishing and since the mid 1970's there has been a general decline in the size of the annual nesting population at all monitored Turtle rookeries in eastern Australia, making it more important that this nest is saved, since every sea turtle nest might contain 50 to 150 eggs.

Sea turtles also possess a trait called natal philopatry, where they will return to the beach where they hatch to lay in the future. This means that if this nest is successful, the hatchlings that emerge may return in 30 or so years to nest on this beach! This may be an important adaptive process to combat changing climates.

Little Tern breeding site at Karagi Point, The Entrance North

The little tern breeding season commenced at Karagi Point, The Entrance North in early November and the site was abandoned by late January.

After two successive record-breaking seasons there was anticipation of an exceptional 2022/23 breeding season and at one point were predicting up to 150 fledged birds. Unfortunately, due part to predation by silver gulls, only 31 chicks were confirmed to have fledged. This was down from 56 and 96 in the two previous years, and while numbers are still to be confirmed, it appears that the Karagi Point site was second in terms of chicks fledged in NSW this year, with the Wollumboola Lake site in The Shoalhaven recording 55 fledglings.

2.2 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)

From 2000 to 2020 an average of only 11.5 chicks fledged per season at Karagi Point. This included 12 seasons where nesting either wasn't attempted or was deemed a complete failure due to predation or inundation.

The average number of fledged chicks over the last three breeding seasons is 61, which validates the current approach taken by Council in managing the site.

This success is likely in part due to management including:

- habitat enhancement works to reduce the threat of inundation
- installation of secure fencing that excludes people and dogs
- the development of interpretive and regulatory signage
- a program of fox control
- regular rubbish collection to reduce the potential for food scraps that may attract avian/terrestrial predators
- a program of weekly monitoring
- effective community engagement and education strategy to raise awareness of the endangered Little Tern and the importance of Karagi Point.

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with the internal stakeholders on the proposed establishment of the biodiversity stewardship agreements to ensure that there were no potential conflicts with identified in the reserves, such as critical infrastructure that requires on-going maintenance. Internal consultation was also undertaken on the potential requirements for the credits generated from the two sites. No conflicts were identified, and no credit requirements were identified.

Community consultation on the *Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy* was undertaken in 2019. Action 1.4.2 is to establish conservation agreements, such as Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements, to improve the long-term protection status of Council's natural areas.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Green

Choose Focus Area

2.2 Update on Biodiversity Strategy & Land Acquisition & Prioritisation (contd)

G-F1: Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas, and the diversity of local native species.

Risk Management

N/A. This report has been prepared for information of the COSS Committee.

Options

N/A. This report has been prepared for information of the COSS Committee.

Attachments

Nil.

2.3 UPDATE FROM EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

Attachments

Nil.

2.4 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

2.5 GENERAL BUSINESS

Background

The background should include relevant previous resolutions or legislation that is relevant.

Current Status

Report

Consultation

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Choose Focus Area

Risk Management

Options

Attachments

Nil.