


# Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record 13 February 2020



Location:	Gosford Administration Building Level 1 Committee Room 49 Mann Street, Gosford	
Date:	13 February 2020	
Time	Started at: 4.03pm	Closed at: 6.09pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00099	

**Present:**

Councillor Chris Holstein (arrived 4.14pm), Councillor Jane Smith, John Andrews, David Holland, Deb Holloman, Paul Links, Douglas Williamson

**External Representatives present:**

Steve Atkins – NPWS Central Coast Area Manager, David Green – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney) (arrived 4.07pm)

**Council Staff present:**

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets, Rochelle Lawson – Senior Ecologist, Chris McLean – Principal Strategic Planner, Larry Melican – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

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

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Apologies received: Barbara Wills

The Chairperson, Councillor Jane Smith declared the meeting open and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land Statement.

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**Item 2            Disclosures of Interest**

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The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

No disclosures were noted.

### **Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record**

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The Committee confirmed the Meeting Record from 27 November 2019.

The Committee reviewed the Action Log.

**Action:** Staff to follow up on the outstanding action of arranging an inspection of COSS land (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.

### **Item 4 Land Acquisitions and Prioritisation (Standing Agenda Item)**

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Rochelle Lawson provided an update on Land Acquisitions that have settled:

- 5 Eric Malouf Crescent, Tumbi Umbi (adjacent to one of Councils reserves)
- Thomson Vale Road, Doyalson
- Transferred 7 lots from Department of Planning

There are also 6 lots currently in negotiations and 4 that are pending valuation.

### **Item 5 Update on Invitation for Council Lands to be added to National Parks Estate**

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Larry Melican provided a presentation on National Parks Estate land identification. A Councillor workshop was held on 14 January 2020 in response to a Council Resolution. The Councillors considered recommendations by staff for the consideration of Minister Kean. A letter to Minister Kean has been sent from the CEO with a summary of the property groupings identified.

**Action:** An update to be provided at the next meeting on the National Parks Estate land identification.

**Action:** Chris McLean – Principal Strategic Planner to attend the next meeting to present on the Green Grid Program.

**Action:** Councillor Smith to liaise with staff about a meeting with National Parks and Wildlife Service and Local Land Services to discuss the possible next steps once direction is received from the Minister.

Regrowth and Bushfire concerns were discussed.

**Action:** David Lemcke to be invited to the next meeting on how we manage Bushfires and Hazard Reduction.

**Action:** Elizabeth Knight to be invited to the next meeting to discuss issues at Mangrove Dam during the bushfires.

### **Item 6 Update on Draft Biodiversity Strategy**

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Rochelle Lawson provided an update on the Draft Biodiversity Strategy including results of public exhibition, submissions received and outcomes of consultation.

**Action:** Staff to confirm points included in Action Item 75 are included in the Biodiversity Strategy.

**Action:** Staff to confirm whether the existing COSS approach of accumulated funds for voluntary acquisition of lands continues separate to biodiversity offsets and confirmation as to whether the COSS strategy is continuing or is it absorbed within the Biodiversity Strategy.

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to provide link to Committee Members once the Draft Biodiversity Strategy goes to Council.

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**Item 7                    Alleged unauthorised clearing of COSS land at MacMasters Beach (Action Item 84)**

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Larry Melican provided an update on the alleged unauthorised clearing at MacMasters Beach.

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**Item 8                    Maps with Natural Asset Reserve Layer and COSS Overlay (Action 66)**

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Larry Melican provided maps to Committee Members showing the Natural and Environmental Assets, reserve system and COSS lands (owned by Council).

**Action:** Council Report and Resolution that went to Council on expansion of COSS in accordance with the Community Strategic Plan and the Central Coast Regional Plan to be distributed to Committee Members.

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**Item 9                    Update from External Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)**

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- a) David Green (Local Land Services Greater Sydney) has been at the evacuation centre at the Entrance. There are two centres open, one at Diggers at The Entrance and one at Central Coast Leagues Club.

Recovery Committee meetings were held during the bushfires which were attended by Councillors and some Council staff. LLS and NSW DPI are providing assistance to people affected by the fires in the way of emergency fodder, emergency stock water, veterinary assistance, livestock feeding and management advice. There are concerns regarding feral animals which will respond well after all the rain.

80% of the weir catchment has been burnt and 20% of the dam catchment has been burnt.

1800 814 647 number available for Emergency assistance for landholders affected by the bushfires.

Currently baiting for wild dogs and foxes.

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020 is National Tree Planting Day (Council run event).

b) Steve Atkins (NPWS) provided an update and stats on the bushfire season:

- Across the whole state, as of the end of January - 5.3million hectares of land burnt in total
- National park estate - 37% of parks burnt
- 40% of state forest land burnt out
- 35% of rainforest areas burnt out
- 54% of Gondwana Rainforests World Heritage Area burnt out
- 24% Koala habitat in Eastern NSW burnt out
- More than 80% of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area burnt out

Now moving into recovery stage, watering stations, feral animal control and weed control.

Bouddi Plan of Management - 94 submissions were received, primarily around mountain biking, rock climbing and walking tracks. Minor changes were made to the plan which has now gone to the Regional Advisory Committee and State Advisory Council. The plan is currently sitting with the internal planning team and awaiting finalisation to be sent to the Minister soon.

Funding is available to do significant upgrade works at Somersby Falls and Crackneck at Wyrabalong National Park (primarily the look out and car park area). NPWS are receiving funding to bring all walking tracks up to standard, with Bouddi Coastal Walk receiving the bulk of that funding.

Councillor Smith on behalf of the Committee acknowledged the efforts of all the agencies involved in the bushfire efforts.

## **Item 10            General Business and Close**

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Councillor Holstein provided the following update regarding the current flooding situation:

- Central Coast has been declared a national disaster area
- 1800 018 444 – disaster hotline welfare assistance number
- Waste removal – tips are open till 29 February for green waste removal at no charge

The meeting closed at 6.09pm

**Next Meeting:            Thursday 30 April 2020**  
**4pm – 6pm**  
**Gosford Administration Building**  
**Level 1 Committee Room**