


Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Extraordinary Meeting Record 18 August 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	18 August 2020	
Time	Started at: 1.07pm	Closed at: 2pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00099	

Present:

Councillor Chris Holstein, Councillor Jane Smith, Councillor Jeff Sundstrom, Deb Holloman, Paul Links, Douglas Williamson (joined 1.17pm), Barbara Wills, Gary Chestnut (non-voting)

External Representatives present:

Steve Atkins – NPWS Central Coast Area Manager, David Green – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney), Rod McKelvey – Chairperson Coffs Coast Regional Park

Council Staff present:

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Larry Melican – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Brent Evans – Project Officer Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Acknowledgement of Country

Apologies received: John Andrews, David Holland, Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning

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

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Winney Bay Clifftop Walk Preliminary Designs Presentation

This item was discussed after Item 4.

Brent Evans (Project Officer Natural Assets and Biodiversity) provided the Advisory Group with a presentation on Winney Bay Reserve including an overview of the concepts for plans A, B and C for the Winney Bay Cliff Top Walk – Stage 2 and Captain Cook Lookout.

Further presentations will be given to other groups and Council will then go out for public exhibition in September.

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

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to include the Winney Bay Clifftop Walk on the agenda for the next meeting.

Item 4 Presentation on Coffs Regional Park Model

This item was brought forward and was discussed before Item 3.

Rod McKelvey (Chairperson Coffs Coast Regional Park) provided the Advisory Group with an overview of the Coffs Regional Park Model which is a collaboration between the Government and community providing numerous recreational opportunities for locals and tourists and providing protection for the coastal environment.

Rod discussed the following key points:

- Coffs Coast Regional Park has been in existence for 16 years and comprises 562 hectares of coastal lands stretching over 27 kilometres from Coffs Harbour to Corindi.
- Management of the park involves a partnership between Coffs Harbour City Council, National Parks and the Community through a Trust. The Trust Board is responsible for the care, control and management of the park in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.
- Board Meetings are held 4 times a year. Board Members are appointed by the Minister and include Coffs Harbour City Councillors and representatives from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the local Aboriginal community and the general community.
- The park is managed under a memorandum of understanding between the Council and NPWS.
- NPWS is primarily responsible for native vegetation, Aboriginal heritage, threatened species, native wildlife, pest species and fire management.
- The Council is primarily responsible for all park facilities and infrastructure (picnic areas and playgrounds), beach access, public toilets and secretarial services to the Trust.
- The Trust fund received contributions from OEH from 2003 through to 2007 totalling \$1.368million. The National Parks current funding averages \$65,000 per year. Council provides support through developer contributions and annual works programs.

- The current works program will expend the remaining money by the end of this financial year. The Local Member and National Parks Regional Manager are working to try and obtain additional funding.
- There are 18 Landcare groups that volunteer over the 27km (13 of which are regularly active). These groups put in approximately 1200 volunteer hours in the park each year. Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare fund about 600 hours of bush regeneration over the park annually (this is funded by the Coffs Harbour City Council Environmental Levy). In addition, there are about 3000 hours of bush regeneration work completed annually by National Parks staff.
- A lot of the work undertaken is broken up into precincts and is reported to the community via letterbox drops, door knocks, local meetings and workshops.

Action: Advisory Group members to send any questions they have regarding the Coffs Harbour Regional Park Model to the Advisory Group Support Officer by CoB Friday 28 August 2020 – to be compiled and forwarded to Rod.

Item 5 General Business and Close

Prior to the meeting Doug Williamson had raised the issue of demands for unrestricted access to COSS lands by the Mountain Biking community. Councillor Smith will speak with Doug regarding any specific questions or information to be requested from staff.

Action: Advisory Group to consider this matter (access to COSS lands by Mountain Biking community) at the next COSS meeting, including any information provided by staff

The meeting closed at 2pm

Next Meeting: **Tuesday 20 October 2020**
 3pm – 5pm
 Location TBC