


# Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record 20 October 2020

Central  
Coast  
Council

Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	20 October 2020	
Time	Started at: 3.02pm	Closed at: 4.53pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00099	

**Present:**

Councillor Chris Holstein, Councillor Jane Smith, John Andrews, Deb Holloman (arrived 3.10pm), Paul Links, Douglas Williamson, Barbara Wills

**External Representatives present:**

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

**Council Staff present:**

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Larry Melican – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Dr Anumitra Mirti – Section Manager Environmental Strategies (arrived 3.05pm), Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

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

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Apologies received: Councillor Jeff Sundstrom, 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**

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The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

No disclosures were received.

**Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Records**

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The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Records from 25 June 2020 and 18 August 2020.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log.

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**Item 4                    Brief Update on Council's Current Financial Situation**

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Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Environmental Management) provided the Advisory Group with an update on Council's current financial situation. A 100-day plan has been put in place and a forensic audit will be undertaken.

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**Item 5                    Land Acquisition and Prioritisation (Standing Agenda Item)**

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Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) advised that Council are continuing to negotiate and obtain valuations on properties, however there are no new purchases or acquisitions to report.

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**Item 6                    Update on Biodiversity Strategy**

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Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) advised that the Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by Council on 28 September 2020.

The Advisory Group acknowledged the work of staff on the Biodiversity Strategy and thanked them for including the additional theme *Protect and expand the Coastal Open Space System*.

**Action:** The action plan from the Biodiversity Strategy be included as a standing agenda item.

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**Item 7                    Update on Winney Bay Clifftop Walk (Action 106)**

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Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) advised that the yourvoiceourcoast website for community engagement is currently being developed and will be open for public comment on 3 November 2020.

The Advisory Group discussed forming a view on the recommendations if there is consensus, however will wait to view the options again once public exhibition is open.

The issue of tree removal was raised. Selective pruning and tree removal around the vicinity of the lookout had been completed but staff were not aware of any additional tree removal.

**Action:** Douglas Williamson to send photos of tree removal to staff via [advisorygroups@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:advisorygroups@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au). Staff to then provide further information to Advisory Group members.

The issue of disabled access along the Winney Bay Clifftop walk was discussed by the Advisory Group. In regard to the 3 options for the Clifftop Walk, A and B provide disability access for varying lengths of that route. In regard to Captain Cook Lookout, there is a provision for wheelchair access (with the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> option).

**Action:** Link to the yourvoiceourcoast community engagement website to be sent to Advisory Group members once live.

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**Item 8 Access to COSS lands by Mountain Biking Community (Action 108)**

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The Advisory Group discussed Access to COSS lands by the Mountain Biking Community which had been raised in General Business at the extraordinary meeting.

Staff advised that a feasibility discussion paper is due to be presented at the 2 November 2020 Council Briefing followed by the 9 November 2020 Council Meeting. Once considered by Council it will be presented to the COSS Committee.

It was suggested that Council needs to rethink its messaging with media coming out from Council basically justifying the illegal tracks whereas we should be highlighting the number of tracks available on the Central Coast.

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**Item 9 Responses to Coffs Regional Park Model Questions**

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The Advisory Group discussed responses received from Rod McKelvey regarding questions from the Advisory Group on the Coffs Regional Park Model.

Steve Atkins (NPWS Central Coast Area Manager) advised that the parcels proposed by Council to be transferred have been through the internal review process and now sit with the Ministers Office.

Karen Eardley from the NPWS Reserve Establishment Team is aware that Council has been pursuing this model and this has been considered as part of the assessment process.

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**Item 10 Update from External Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)**

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David Green – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)

- A Pasture Field Day was held today, which is the second event held during COVID. A field day was held a few weeks ago at a private property at Matcham which involved tree planting (rainforest species).
- LLS are doing a staged return to the office for staff.
- Running a baiting program targeting dogs and foxes. Discussions have been held with Council staff regarding whether our baiting program will continue given current financial circumstances.
- Working with landholders regarding bushfire funding. If a landholder lost a boundary fence and they neighbour crown land, there is an opportunity to have funding for the boundary fence to be replaced.
- LLS has obtained funding from State Treasury for bushfire affected properties to assist with weed control, animal welfare and pests.
- 30 – 40 goats at Ourimbah University near Bill Soheir Park that were causing damage to people's cars and gardens have been moved on.

Steve Atkins – NPWS Central Coast Area Manager

- Busy with increased visitation over the last few months as a result of COVID with more people visiting National Parks. For the Bouddi Coastal Walk, during the winter period just gone there were over 60,000 people recorded on that particular track which is a 115% increase on the same period last year.

- Working to develop COVID summer safe plans with the first meeting of a group formed through the Local Emergency Management Committee taking place next week.
- Bouddi Coastal Walk Track is into stage 2 of the upgrade works.
- Hazard reduction burning is a priority for spring, working through as conditions allow.
- Funding obtained through Local Land Services to do increased works in Western Parks on invertebrate pests and weeds.
- Discussions held with Transport for NSW regarding the Wamberal Nature Reserve and Central Coast Highway widening. Consultants have been engaged to do ecological surveys. Review of Environmental Factors (REF) report should be prepared by mid next year and hoping to commence construction by the end of 2022.

**Action:** Relevant staff member to be invited to attend the next meeting to give an update on the Central Coast Highway road widening between Wamberal and Bateau Bay.

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to send RMS website link to Advisory Group members on the Central Coast Highway Upgrade Wamberal to Bateau Bay.

## Item 11            General Business and Close

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- a) The Advisory Group discussed the email from Leif Arnebark regarding the makeup of the Coastal Open Space System Committee. It was noted that Membership of Advisory Group was through an EOI process and members were appointed by Council Resolution.

**Action:** Leif Arnebark to be invited to attend the first COSS Advisory Group meeting of 2021.

- b) Advisory Group members expressed strong concerns and frustrations that they were not consulted on the Mountain Biking Feasibility Discussion paper prior to a report going to Council.

**Action:** Staff to provide a briefing on the Mountain Biking Feasibility Discussion Paper at the next meeting.

**Action:** Staff to arrange a site inspection for Advisory Group members of areas of concern affected by Mountain Biking in COSS lands.

- c) Dr Anumitra Mirti (Section Manager Environmental Strategies) advised that the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) calculator has been updated, as well as minor changes in the stewardship model in the Biodiversity offsets scheme to fix a calculator error.

A Koala Survey has just commenced, with 150 song metres rolled out across the LGA. This will help to inform a Koala DCP to provide insight for planning proposals and developments.

- d) Councillor Smith advised that the Protection of the Environment Trust had held a Strom Talk last year, which Council resolved to hold annually, however due to COVID it was unable to proceed this year. In a few weeks a screening of *David Attenborough: A life on Our Planet* will be held at Avoca Beach Theatre. Profits will go to the Protection of the Environment Trust. Details will be distributed to Advisory Group members once available.

The meeting closed at 4.53pm

**Next Meeting:            Tuesday 1 December 2020**  
**2pm – 4pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**