


Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record 1 December 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	1 December 2020	
Time	Started at: 2.02pm	Closed at: 3.33pm
Chair	Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management	
File Ref	F2018/00099	

Present:

John Andrews (arrived 2.40pm), David Holland, Deb Holloman, Paul Links, Douglas Williamson (arrived 3.03pm), Barbara Wills

External Representatives present:

David Green – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)

Council Staff present:

Shari Driver – Unit Manager Strategic Planning, Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Breanne Bryant – Section Manager Urban Planning and Development, Larry Melican – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity (left 3.26pm), Dr Anumitra Mirti – Section Manager Environmental Strategies, Rod Mergan – Senior Strategic Planner, Jenny Mewing – Principal Strategic Planner, Sharyn Styman – Environmental Managements and Projects Officer, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Acknowledgement of Country

Apologies received: Steve Atkins – NPWS Central Coast Area Manager, Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning

The Chairperson 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.

In regard to Item 7, David Green declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as a social Mountain Bike rider on the Central Coast.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Records

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 20 October 2020.

In regard to the Koala Song Meter item discussed in General Business at the last meeting, Dr Anumitra Mirti had advised that 150 song meters would be rolled out across the LGA. At today's meeting it was confirmed that this will now be reduced to 50 – 60 sites.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log.

Action Item 73 - Refer to Andrew Roach

Action Item 84 – It was noted that there was one item outstanding that staff were trying to seek further witness evidence of clearing of COSS land next to the property at Norton Road Reserve in MacMasters Beach. No response has been received from this witness. This item is to be closed however the site of land and issue relating to it is still with staff who recently visited to the site to inspect and address the issues.

Action Item 110 – Awaiting photos from Doug Williamson. It was noted that staff have undertaken a number of inspections at the site.

Item 4 Land Acquisition and Prioritisation (Standing Agenda Item)

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, especially given Council's current financial situation.

The Advisory Group discussed the Council resolution from 30 November 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting in regard to the sale of land in Thompson Vale Road, Doyalson. The Advisory Group members expressed their concerns regarding the sale of these lands.

Action: Staff to provide additional information to Advisory Group members on Thompson Vale Road Doyalson that has been listed for sale and circulate the 30 November 2020 Council Report relating to this matter.

Action: 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.

Item 5 Process for Deferred Lands (Action 99)

Rod Mergan (Senior Strategic Planner) provided the Advisory Group with a presentation on Deferred Matters Land Options.

There was a resolution from the 25 June 2020 COSS Advisory Group meeting as follows:

That staff consider a staged process regarding the deferred lands that involves the COSS Advisory Group as a reference group and brings further options back to the next COSS Advisory Group meeting.

The current staff recommendation is as follows:

That Council request the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), under Section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), to defer the inclusion of lands currently identified as Deferred Matters under Gosford Local Environmental Plan 2014 (GLEP 2014) from CCLEP.

The Advisory Group expressed a number of concerns and it was suggested that Local Land Services (LLS) could provide a brief on their approach to vegetation removal on deferred lands. David Green advised that responsibility lies with Compliance and Regulation, Hunter and Central Coast Branch of the Conservation and Biodiversity Division of DPIE and it might be a good idea to invite a representative to the next meeting to advise what they are doing in relation to the undertaking of compliance matters regarding vegetation removal on deferred lands in the Central Coast LGA.

Action: A representative from Compliance and Regulation, Hunter and Central Coast Branch of the Conservation and Biodiversity Division of DPIE be invited to the next meeting to provide an update to Advisory Group Members on what they are doing in relation to the undertaking of compliance matters regarding vegetation removal on deferred matters lands in the Central Coast LGA.

Item 6 Update on Central Coast Highway Road Widening (Action 112)

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) provided the Advisory Group members with an overview of the key features of the RMS Project Page.

[Central Coast Highway Upgrade Wamberal to Bateau Bay Map](#)

[Central Coast Highway Upgrade Community Updates including Q&A Video](#)

Item 7 Briefing on Mountain Biking Feasibility Discussion Paper (Action 115)

Sharyn Styman (Environmental Managements and Projects Officer) provided a presentation on the Mountain Bike Feasibility Study. The construction and use of unauthorised Mountain Bike Trails are a significant management issue. Council's response includes signs and fencing, engaging with riders, trail audits and closures and ranger surveillance.

The recommendations in the Mountain Bike Feasibility Study Discussion Paper include:

1. Establish agreed trail assessment criteria for unauthorised trails
2. Trails audit and management program for Council's natural reserves
3. Education and awareness program about mountain biking and authorised trails
4. Develop Regional Trails Plan process to include multiple stakeholders
5. Trails approval process involving community in new trail proposals

Public Exhibition of the discussion paper will commence February 2021. There is a [YourVoiceOurCoast website](#) with details of this project.

There were concerns expressed around Council resources being spent on this at a time of Financial Crisis.

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) discussed the site inspection to view areas of concern affected by Mountain Biking in COSS lands (Action 116).

Action: Larry Melican to put together a program for a site inspection to be held early February 2021 (PM) to view areas of concern affected by Mountain Biking in COSS Lands.

Item 8 Update on Winney Bay Clifftop Walk

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) provided an overview of the [YourVoiceOurCoast site for Winney Bay Clifftop walk phase 2](#). Concept designs are on public exhibition until 15 December 2020.

The Advisory Group discussed whether it was the intention for the COSS Advisory Group to have a position on its preferred option or whether individuals should make their own submission. Individuals are encouraged to make a submission via the webpage as well as promoting biodiversity and our natural lands to the broader community in accordance with the roles of advisory group members as identified in the Terms of Reference.

Item 9 NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2020 -2024

Larry Melican (Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity) provided the Advisory Group with an overview of the [NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2020-2024](#).

Item 10 Update from External Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)

David Green – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)

- Local Land Services staff are returning to the office on a gradual basis.
- A workshop was held last Thursday on fox and wild dog trapping. This trapping program is funded from the State Treasury Bushfire Recovery money. After the fires earlier this year there has been an increase in attacks from wild dogs and invertebrate pests and a significant increase in deer activity.
- Each year LLS run an incentives program for funding with 6 different investors including State and Federal Government providing money as a grant. 18 applications were received including National Parks, Council as well as public and private landholders and currently in the process of discussing successful applications with the applications. Funding was fully exhausted but the two from Council were considered to be good applications and currently working through both applications to move forward and get those programs, which both involve threatened species, implemented.

Item 11 General Business and Close

Action: Update on Porters Creek Wetland Conversation Agreement to be provided by Rochelle Lawson at the next meeting.

Barbara Wills queried whether there is an issue with PoET Grants considering the email from Council noting that given the current financial situation Council will not be doing any community grants. Staff were not aware of any problems with the PoET grants.

The meeting closed at 3.33pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 2 March 2021
3.30pm – 5.30pm
Location TBC