

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record 30 January 2019



Location:	Wyong Administration Building Committee Room 2 Hely Street, Wyong	
Date:	30 January 2019	
Time	Started at: 4.08pm	Closed at: 5.58pm
Chair	Mayor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00099	

Present:

Mayor Jane Smith, Councillor Chris Holstein (left 5.20pm), Councillor Jeff Sundstrom, John Andrews, Deb Holloman, Paul Links, Douglas Williamson (arrived 4.43pm), Barbara Wills

External Representatives present:

Gary Chestnut, Stephen Atkins – National Parks and Wildlife Services (Hunter Central Coast Branch), Maree Whelan – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)

Council Staff present:

Vivienne Louie – Unit Manager Financial Performance (left 4.46pm), Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets, Scott Duncan – Section Manager Land Use and Policy (left 5.24pm), Larry Melican – Section Manager Emergency Protection Natural Assets, Dr Anumitra Mirti – Section Manager Environmental Strategies, Rochelle Lawson – Senior Ecologist, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Apologies

Councillor Louise Greenaway, David Holland, Jonathan Eccles – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney), Joel Stibbard – Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Matthew Prendergast – Acting Executive Manager Innovation and Futures

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

Mayor Smith previously declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as a former Chief Executive Officer of the Community Environment Network (CEN). CEN is delivering a project that works with COSS landholders, Council and other stakeholders to deliver on ground rehabilitation works.

Councillor Sundstrom declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as a Labour candidate for Terrigal.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 29 November 2018.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log.

Item 4 Update from Finance – Former Gosford City Council Loan

Vivienne Louie (Unit Manager Financial Performance) provided an update on the Former Gosford City Council Loan.

Action: An update to be provided at the next meeting on the previous RMS proposal regarding widening of Woy Woy Road.

Action: The Committee seek clarification whether the \$1.5million generating interest for POET is separate to or part of the \$5.7million current balance.

Action: The Committee requests further information regarding the use of POET to allow community donations for COSS acquisitions.

Action: An update to be provided at the next meeting how we might estimate the total amount of funds required in terms of the identified COSS land and acquisitions.

Item 5 Update on Urban Forest Strategy

Dr Anumitra Mirti (Section Manager Environmental Strategies) provided an update to the Committee on the Urban Forest Strategy which has been renamed to the Central Coast Greener Places Strategy.

At this stage a briefing is to be provided to Councillors 1st April with an exhibition period commencing in March/April.

The Committee had a discussion around Council's Draft Tree Policy and the levels of qualifications of Arborists.

Item 6 Update on E5 Zone

Scott Duncan (Section Manager Land Use and Policy) provided the Committee with an update on E5 Zones and tabled the response letter from Department of Planning and Environment regarding creation of a new environmental zone, which had previously been circulated to Committee Members (as attached).

Recommendation

The Advisory Committee recommends:

1. That Council continues to advocate for the introduction of an E5 zone to protect priority conservation lands including COSS lands.

2. That Council seek to implement provisions within the Consolidated LEP to provide the highest level of protection for priority conservation lands including COSS lands.

Adopted unanimously.

Item 7 Draft Biodiversity Strategy

Rochelle Lawson (Senior Ecologist) gave a presentation to the Committee on Draft Biodiversity Strategy. The following three questions were briefly discussed:

- How would the Central Coast community benefit from having a Biodiversity Strategy?
- What actions should Council take to protect biodiversity?
- What topics should be included in the Biodiversity Strategy?

The Committee also discussed a handout regarding issues and ideas raised by Community Members in Community Strategic Plan workshops and whether these ideas were addressed in the Biodiversity Strategy.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate the above 3 questions, the presentation and the handout to Advisory Committee Members. Advisory Committee Members to provide any comments or feedback to Advisory Group Support Officer by Thursday 14th February.

There was some discussion about the history and success of the COSS branding, and views of the group were sought in regards to how the program should be branded following adoption of a new Biodiversity Strategy.

Action: Advisory Committee Members to provide any comments or feedback to the Advisory Group Support Officer by Thursday 14th February on the naming of COSS.

Item 8 Draft Offset Policy

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Item 9 Land Acquisition Investment Plan

Rochelle Lawson (Senior Ecologist) gave a presentation to the Committee on the Land Acquisition Investment Plan.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate presentation to Advisory Committee Members to review prior to discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to distribute former Gosford Biodiversity Strategy to Committee Members.

Item 10 Update from External Representatives

Stephen Atkins gave a brief update on the National Parks and Wildlife Services (Hunter Central Coast Branch) including recent restructure and office relocation.

Maree Whelan, Local Land Services (Greater Sydney) advised that the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus, commonly known as RHDV1-K5 was released throughout the whole of the Central Coast on 11 February 2019.

Item 11 General Business and Close

Working Group meeting to be held. Chair will liaise with Convenor to arrange.

Joel Stibbard to give a presentation at the next meeting on the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and its programs.

The meeting closed at 5.58pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 27 March 2019
4pm – 6pm
Central Coast Council Gosford Office
Level 1 Committee Room