



Central Coast Council
Business Paper
Ordinary Council Meeting
22 June 2020





COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028

ONE – CENTRAL COAST IS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) FOR THE CENTRAL COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

ONE – CENTRAL COAST DEFINES THE COMMUNITY'S VISION AND IS OUR ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

ONE – CENTRAL COAST BRINGS TOGETHER EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO SET KEY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

One - Central Coast will shape and inform Council's business activities, future plans, services and expenditure. Where actions are the responsibility of other organisations, sectors and groups to deliver, Council will work with key partners to advocate on behalf of our community.

Ultimately, every one of us who live on the Central Coast has an opportunity and responsibility to create a sustainable future from which we can all benefit. Working together we can make a difference.

RESPONSIBLE

WE'RE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY, COMMITTED TO BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND DELIVERING A GREAT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE IN ALL OUR INTERACTIONS.

We value transparent and meaningful communication and use community feedback to drive strategic decision making and expenditure, particularly around the delivery of essential infrastructure projects that increase the safety, liveability and sustainability of our region. We're taking a strategic approach to ensure our planning and development processes are sustainable and accessible and are designed to preserve the unique character of the coast.

 **Good governance and great partnerships**

G2 Communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on transparency, understanding, trust and respect

There are 5 themes, 12 focus areas and 48 objectives

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028 FRAMEWORK

All council reports contained within the Business Paper are now aligned to the Community Strategic Plan. Each report will contain a cross reference to a Theme, Focus Area and Objective within the framework of the Plan.

THEMES: BELONGING, SMART, GREEN, RESPONSIBLE, LIVEABLE

FOCUS AREAS: OUR COMMUNITY, QUALITY CONNECTION AND LOCAL IDENTITY, A GROWING AND COMPETITIVE REGION, A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE, INCREASED AND PROTECTED NATURAL BEAUTY, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND GREAT PARTNERSHIPS, BELIEVING ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, BELIEVABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC LIVING, SAFE AND SOUND LIVING AND WORKING, HEALTHY PEOPLE FOR A THRIVING COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES: G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7, G8, G9, G10, G11, G12, G13, G14, G15, G16, G17, G18, G19, G20, G21, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G30, G31, G32, G33, G34, G35, G36, G37, G38, G39, G40, G41, G42, G43, G44, G45, G46, G47, G48



Meeting Notice

**The Ordinary Council Meeting
of Central Coast Council
will be held remotely - online
Monday 22 June 2020 at 6.30 pm,**
for the transaction of the business listed below:

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 - Money spent on amalgamation of council

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Gary Murphy
Chief Executive Officer

Item No: 1.1
Title: Disclosures of Interest
Department: Governance



22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2020/00039 - D13987402

Chapter 14 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("LG Act") regulates the way in which the councillors and relevant staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public functions.

Section 451 of the LG Act states:

- (1) *A councillor or a member of a council committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the council or committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.*
- (2) *The councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the council or committee:*
 - (a) *at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the council or committee, or*
 - (b) *at any time during which the council or committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.*
- (3) *For the removal of doubt, a councillor or a member of a council committee is not prevented by this section from being present at and taking part in a meeting at which a matter is being considered, or from voting on the matter, merely because the councillor or member has an interest in the matter of a kind referred to in section 448.*
- (4) *Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a councillor who has a pecuniary interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting, if:*
 - (a) *the matter is a proposal relating to:*
 - (i) *the making of a principal environmental planning instrument applying to the whole or a significant part of the council's area, or*
 - (ii) *the amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument where the amendment, alteration or repeal applies to the whole or a significant part of the council's area, and*
 - (a1) *the pecuniary interest arises only because of an interest of the councillor in the councillor's principal place of residence or an interest of another person*

1.1 Disclosures of Interest (contd)

(whose interests are relevant under section 443) in that person's principal place of residence, and

- (b) the councillor made a special disclosure under this section in relation to the interest before the commencement of the meeting.*

- (5) The special disclosure of the pecuniary interest must, as soon as practicable after the disclosure is made, be laid on the table at a meeting of the council and must:*
 - (a) be in the form prescribed by the regulations, and*
 - (b) contain the information required by the regulations.*

Further, the Code of Conduct adopted by Council applies to all councillors and staff. The Code relevantly provides that if a councillor or staff have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed as well as providing for a number of ways in which a non-pecuniary conflicts of interests might be managed.

Recommendation

That Council and staff now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

Item No: 1.2
Title: Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting
Department: Governance



22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2020/00039 - D13987488

Summary

Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 May 2020.

Recommendation

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 25 May 2020.

Attachments

- 1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 9 June 2020 D14010208



Central Coast Council

Minutes of the
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Held remotely - online
on 9 June 2020

Present

Mayor Lisa Matthews and Councillors Greg Best, Jillian Hogan, Kyle MacGregor, Doug Vincent, Chris Burke, Chris Holstein, Bruce McLachlan, Jilly Pilon, Louise Greenaway, Jeff Sundstrom, Richard Mehrtens and Jane Smith.

In Attendance

Gary Murphy (Chief Executive Officer), Boris Bolgoff (Director Roads, Transport, Drainage and Waste), Scott Cox (Director Environment and Planning), Jamie Loader (Director Water and Sewer), Ricardo Martello (Executive Manager Innovation and Futures), Carlton Oldfield (Acting Chief Finance Officer), Sue Ledingham (Acting Director Connected Communities) and Shane Sullivan (Unit Manager Governance and Business Services).

The Mayor, Lisa Matthews, declared the meeting open at 6.30pm.

At the request of the Mayor, Mr Gary Murphy, Chief Executive Officer advised that the meeting will be held remotely in accordance with section 747A of The Local Government Act 1993 clause 1(a)(i). Councillors were also reminded to adhere to the relevant policies and procedures including the Code of Meeting Practice and Code of Conduct. The Mayor, Lisa Matthews, advised in accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice that the meeting is being recorded and read an acknowledgement of country statement.

The reports are recorded in their correct agenda sequence.

Apologies

Moved: *Councillor MacGregor*

Seconded: *Councillor Vincent*

Resolved

446/20 *That Council accept the apologies received from Councillors Gale and Marquart.*

For:

Unanimous

1.1 Disclosures of Interest

Procedural Motion – Motion of Urgency**U3/20 – Motion of Urgency – The Entrance North Stabilisation Works**

Mayor Matthews declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her property was impacted by the recent flood event. Mayor Matthews left the meeting at 7.33pm, returned at 8.23pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Councillor Hogan declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her daughters house was flooded in the recent storms. Councillor Hogan left the meeting at 7.33pm, returned at 8.23pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Item 2.8 – Grants Program Round 2 2019-2020

Mayor Matthews declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her client is a potential recipient of grant funding .

Councillor Hogan declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her employer is noted in this round of grants.

Councillor Pilon declared a significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows members of The Entrance Business Chamber and The Opportunity Collective.

Councillor Holstein declared a significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he has casually worked for two of the not for profit organisations who are applicants.

Councillor Greenaway declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows some of the community groups who have made an application and was also an occasional volunteer/employee with CEN. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

Councillor Vincent declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he a member of the Scout Association NSW, a volunteer at GOATS festivals and has family members who play women's football and sports on the Central Coast. He chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence his decision on the matter.

Councillor Smith declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she was a former voluntary board member of the Community Environment Network and they have applied for a grant. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Item 2.9 – Community Support Grant - April 2020

Councillor Hogan declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows some of the community groups who will be receiving grant funding. She chose

to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

Councillor Greenaway declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows some of the community groups who have made an application and was also an occasional volunteer/employee with CEN. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Item 2.10 - Sponsorship Program Round 2 2019-2020

Councillor Holstein declared a significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he has casually worked for two of the not for profit organisations who are applicants.

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Item 3.4 – Wallarah 2 Progress Report

Councillor Best declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as his employer runs the community scholarships for Wallarah 2.

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Item 5.2 - Notice of Motion - Playing Sandcastles at The Entrance Channel

Mayor Matthews declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her property was impacted by the recent flood event with the outcome of this motion may having an impact and also investigations being conducted by the police. Mayor Matthews left the meeting at 10.44pm, returned at 11.10pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Councillor Hogan declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her daughters house was flooded in the recent storms and if it was decided to progress with this notice of motion it could have an appreciable financial impact on her daughter's home, particularly given it was flooded in the last event. Councillor Hogan left the meeting at 10.44pm, returned at 11.10pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Councillor McLachlan declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he met and discussed geotextile bags with Angus Jackson. He chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence his decision on the matter.

Councillor Pilon declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows the speaker who made a submission for tonight's meeting. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

Item 6.1 – Deferred Item - Rescission Motion - Landcare Program Strategy

Councillor Vincent declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as his employer in the past has supported volunteers in this program. Councillor Vincent left the meeting at 11.10pm, returned at 11.18pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Councillor Sundstrom declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he has participated in the Copacabana Dune Care Group. He chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence his decision on the matter.

Councillor Greenaway declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she has been involved in bushcare and a former member of NSW Executive of Landcare. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

Moved: **Councillor MacGregor**

Seconded: **Councillor Greenaway**

Resolved

447/20 That Council receive the report on Disclosure of Interest and note advice of disclosures.

For:

Unanimous

1.2 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved: **Councillor Holstein**

Seconded: **Councillor Hogan**

Resolved

448/20 That Council confirm the amended minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 25 May 2020.

For:

Unanimous

1.3 Notice of Intention to Deal with Matters in Confidential Session

Moved: **Councillor Mehrrens**

Seconded: **Councillor Sundstrom**

Resolved

449/20 That Council resolve that the following matters be dealt with in closed session, pursuant to s. 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993 for the following reasons:

Item 7.1 – Gosford Long Term Car Park

Reason for considering in closed session:

2(d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

(ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council

That Council resolve, pursuant to section 11(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, that this report and Attachment 1 remain confidential in accordance with section 10A(2)(d)(ii) of the Local Government Act as it contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and because consideration of the matter in open Council would on balance be contrary to the public interest as it would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services for the Central Coast community.

For:

Mayor Matthews, Councillors Best, Burke, Hogan, Holstein, MacGregor, McLachlan, Mehrtens, Pilon, Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent

Against:

Councillor Greenaway

Procedural Motion – Exception

Moved: Councillor Vincent

Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

450/20 That Council adopt the following items as a group and in accordance with the report recommendations:

Item #	Item Title
2.8	Grants Program Round 2 2019-2020
2.9	Community Support Grant - April 2020
2.10	Sponsorship Program Round 2 2019-2020
3.1	Meeting Record of the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Advisory Committee held on 28 April 2020

Item #	Item Title
3.2	Meeting Record of the Status of Women Advisory Group held on 14 April 2020
3.3	Investment Report for April 2020
3.4	Wallarah 2 Progress Report
5.3	Notice of Motion - Request for Report on DA/1283/2018 - 56 Sinclair Crescent, Wyong

451/20 That Council discuss the following items individually:

Item #	Item Title
2.1	Council Representation on Central Coast Rural Fire Service Committees
2.2	Draft Economic Development Strategy 2020-2040, Economic Recovery and Resilience Framework and Economic Development Team Resources
2.3	Proposed Development of Warnervale Education and Business Precinct
2.4	Grant Funding Update as at 31 March 2020
2.5	Central Coast Stadium - Car Park
2.6	Draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy
2.7	Rainwater Tank Pilot Program
2.11	Progress of Remediation Plan for SEPP14 Wetland at Central Coast Airport
2.12	Extraordinary Meeting - 29 June 2020
3.5	Status of the Integrated Water Resource Plan
5.1	Notice of Motion - Sewerage issues in Kanwal
5.2	Notice of Motion - Playing Sandcastles at The Entrance Channel
6.1	Deferred Item - Rescission Motion - Landcare Program Strategy
7.1	Gosford Long Term Car Park

**For:
Unanimous**

Procedural Motion – Motion of Urgency

Moved: Councillor Smith
Seconded: Councillor Vincent

Resolved

452/20 That Council consider the Local Strategic Planning Statement as a matter of urgency, the time being 6.55pm.

For:
Unanimous

The Mayor declare it is appropriate that Council should consider the matter as a matter of urgency.

U2/20 Motion of Urgency - Local Strategic Planning Statement

Moved: Councillor Smith
Seconded: Councillor Vincent

Resolved

453/20 That Council note that Council must prepare and make a local strategic planning statement for the Central Coast (Sect 3.9(1), EP&A Act) and that this is required to be finalised by 1 July 2020.

454/20 That Council note that the "NSW Government LSPS Guideline for Councils" states that;

Page 3

Local strategic planning statements (LSPS) will set

- **the 20-year vision for land use in the local area**
- **the special characteristics which contribute to local identity**
- **shared community values to be maintained and enhanced**
- **how growth and change will be managed into the future.**

Page 4

Local strategic planning statements will be a pivotal tool for local strategic planning in NSW. They will inform local statutory plans and development controls, and give effect to regional and district plans. the statements will shape how the local environmental plan (LEP) and development control plans (DCP) evolve over time.

- 455/20** That Council note that the Central Coast is an area with a forecast population growth of approximately 75,500 people by 2036, and the LSPS has a critical role in planning for that growth.
- 456/20** That Council note that the draft LSPS has been on exhibition for 28 days with submissions closing on 8 June 2020 with the final LSPS to be submitted to the NSW DPIE by 1 July 2020.
- 457/20** That Council request the Chief Executive Officer to amend the draft LSPS with initial changes as outlined below including corresponding changes to subsidiary text to reflect the amendments
- a** Replace the term "growth" (or variations of it) with "sustainable development" (or variations of it), unless the context is conflicting
 - b** Include a "Mayor's Message" in the final document
 - c** Delete page 26 "Our Engagement" and page 27 "What We've Heard So Far"
 - d** Correction of maps that appear to misrepresent information due to scale issues
 - e** Amend CENTRES & CORRIDORS to "Planning Priority 02 - Prioritise sustainable development in existing centres"
 - f** Page 58 -59, add the following priorities / descriptors for "Gosford The Capital of the Central Coast";
 - Regional city nestled in a narrow valley, providing views to the surrounding ridgelines from public spaces within the city centre.
 - Focus on increase in residential development within the city to increase amenity, urban lifestyles and cultural life of the city.
 - Encourage Gosford City as an education hub.
 - Long term evolution of transport to reduce dependence on cars, increase public transport, cycle and pedestrian movement around the city.

FUNCTION – ADD:

It will respond to its surrounding environment by ensuring that the built form does not dominate the landscape and that views to ridgelines are available from public spaces within the city and mid-distances.

AMENITIES – Amend to:

Built Form: A built form that does not dominate the landscape, responds to context and character of the surrounding bushland

setting and ensures clear views to the ridgelines from public spaces within the city, and mid-distances.

- g Change Terrigal from “Town Centre” to “Local Centre” and amend the priorities as follows;**
- Delete “Increased residential densities as part of the mixed use centre providing housing options.”**
 - Delete “A 24-hour Main Street destination for locals and visitors”**
- h Add a new category for the Centres Hierarchy “Villages” with the following descriptors;**
- Protect unique characteristics of these areas including natural areas and character**
 - Support local business sustainable and retain the existing amenity**
- i Amend Housing – Planning Priority 01 to: - Provide well designed housing with high standards of sustainability features.**
- j Amend Economics – Planning Priority 01 to: - Facilitate Emerging Logistics, Warehousing, Manufacturing, Innovative and Green Economy Enterprises.**
- k Amend Environmental – Planning Priority 01 – Transformative Idea to add: Reviewing planning controls to require high standards of design and construction including energy and water efficiency, liveability measures, waste minimisation and emissions reduction.**
- l Amend Environment - Planning Priority 03 to: – Protect and expand the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) in addition to a Biodiversity Strategy that maps, protects, and cherishes natural areas and ecosystems.**
- m Amend Agriculture – Planning Priority 01 - Protect agricultural lands as an economic resource and for local sustainability.**
- n Amend Open Space - Planning Priority 2 - Ensure a strategy that supports neighbourhood “pocket parks” accessible to local communities within walking distance in addition to larger recreational multi-use open space destinations.**
- o Amend Water & Sewer – Planning Priority 01 – Planning Priority 1 - Protect the security of our water supply catchments;**

TRANSFORMATIVE IDEA:

Through planning instruments provide strong legal protection for our water supply catchments including, but not limited to;

- **a "neutral or beneficial" test for all activities in these catchments.**
- **modelling and decision making to ensure that population growth on the Central Coast does not exceed the capacity of the Central Coast Water Supply to provide for our region**

458/20 That Council request that the Chief Executive Officer provide an opportunity for interested Councillors to meet with relevant staff on Monday 22 June 2020 at Gosford Administration building to discuss further amendments as a result of the exhibition period.

**For:
Mayor Matthews, Councillors Greenaway,
Hogan, MacGregor, Mehrtens, Smith,
Sundstrom and Vincent**

**Against:
Councillors Best, Burke, Holstein,
McLachlan and Pilon**

Procedural Motion – Motion of Urgency

Mayor Matthews declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her property was impacted by the recent flood event. Mayor Matthews left the meeting at 7.33pm, returned at 8.23pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Councillor Hogan declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her daughters house was flooded in the recent storms. Councillor Hogan left the meeting at 7.33pm, returned at 8.23pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

The Mayor vacated the Chair and left the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Smith assumed the chair at 7.33pm.

**Moved: Councillor Best
Seconded: Councillor McLachlan**

Resolved

459/20 That Council consider The Entrance North stabilisation works as a matter of urgency, the time being 7.52pm.

**For:
Councillors Best, Burke, Holstein,
McLachlan, Pilon and Vincent**

**Against:
Councillors Greenaway, MacGregor,
Mehrtens and Smith**

Abstained: Councillor Sundstrom

The Deputy Mayor declare it is appropriate that Council should consider the matter as a matter of urgency.

U3/20 Motion of Urgency - The Entrance North Stabilisation Works

Mayor Matthews declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her property was impacted by the recent flood event. Mayor Matthews left the meeting at 7.33pm, returned at 8.23pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Councillor Hogan declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her daughters house was flooded in the recent storms. Councillor Hogan left the meeting at 7.33pm, returned at 8.23pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Moved: Councillor Best
Seconded: Councillor McLachlan

Resolved

460/20 That Council notes with concern the temporary emergency works recently carried out on The Entrance North beach by staff.

461/20 That Council in partnership with relevant agencies seek to urgently assist local beachside residents with suitable approvals to carry out emergency beach stabilisation works in the affected The Entrance North area.

462/20 That Council note that any such works will be carried out at the expense of affected residents.

463/20 That Council request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on the progress of this initiative as a matter of urgency.

For:
Councillors Best, Burke, Greenaway, Holstein, McLachlan, Pilon and Smith

Abstained:
Councillors MacGregor, Mehrtens, Sundstrom and Vincent

The Mayor resumed the chair at 8.23pm.

2.1 Council Representation on Central Coast Rural Fire Service Committees

Moved: Councillor Holstein
Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

464/20 That Council appoint the following representative to the Central Coast Rural Fire Service District Liaison Committee:

Councillor Holstein and as their alternative Councillor Greenaway

465/20 That Council appoint the following representative to the Central Coast Bush Fire Management Committee:

Councillor MacGregor and as their alternative Councillor Holstein

For:

Unanimous

2.2 Draft Economic Development Strategy 2020-2040, Economic Recovery and Resilience Framework and Economic Development Team Resources

Councillor Burke left the meeting at 8.27pm and returned to the meeting at 8.28pm.
Councillor Greenaway left the meeting at 8.38pm and returned to the meeting at 8.39pm.

Moved: Councillor Smith

Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

466/20 That Council acknowledges the significant needs of the Central Coast business community and regional economy in both the short and long term.

467/20 That Council amend the draft Economic Development Strategy 2020-2040 as follows:

a Delete pages 6 and 7

b Add on page 18 under "Opportunities"

- Green and Sustainability Industries**
- Investigations with Newcastle Airport for opportunities, investments and favourable arrangements that deliver financial benefits to the Central Coast community and / or Council (Resolution 215/20)**
- The establishment of the Warnervale Working Group to progress the development of cleared land currently available and zoned Industrial or Business in the Warnervale area as an employment precinct focused around the following sectors: health, manufacturing, food production, renewable energy and/or waste. (Resolution 345/20)**

c Include on page 19 under "Risks"

- Council focusing on projects that divide our community. That is, regions are most successful when all stakeholders are able to support initiatives – and unsuccessful when they do not have**

consensus amongst decision makers, stakeholder groups and community support

- d Page 21 – under “Emerging Sectors to Grow” include**
- **Sustainable Agriculture**
 - **Green Industries**
- e Remove references to a “new Central Coast” throughout the document – refer to “Central Coast”**
- f Page 23 and page 24 - Replace the vision statement with:**
- “A region providing economic and employment opportunities to fulfil our community’s vision for a smart, green and liveable region with a shared sense of belonging and responsibility.”**
- g Page 23 – under Objectives – amend:**
- **Improving economic leadership and coordination by focusing on initiatives that build consensus**
 - **Advancing sustainability incorporating economic, social and environmental sustainability**
 - **Ensuring consistency with the Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028**
- h Page 28 – under “Advancing Sustainability” include**
- **Protection of biodiversity**
 - **Social justice**
- i When referring to “Construction” include both new construction and renewal of existing housing stock**

468/20 That Council receive and note the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2020-2040, Economic Recovery and Resilience Framework, and Economic Development Team Resources report and all supporting documentation.

469/20 That Council receive and note the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2020-2040, Economic Recovery and Resilience Framework, and Economic Development Team Resources report and all supporting documentation. That Council place the Draft Central Coast Economic Development Strategy 2020-2040 on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

470/20 The Council place the amended Draft Central Coast Economic Recovery and Resilience Framework on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

471/20 That Council also place on exhibition a version of both draft Strategies that does not include unnecessary formatting and graphic art, to minimise pages and for ease of reading.

- 472/20** *That the outcomes of that exhibition period be referred to Council's Employment and Economic Development Advisory Committee for their comments.*
- 473/20** *That Council consider a further report following the exhibition period and referral to the Advisory Committee, highlighting responses to submissions for the consideration of Council.*
- 474/20** *That Council receive the information on resourcing of the Economic Development team.*

For:	Against:
Mayor Matthews, Councillors Greenaway, Hogan, MacGregor, Mehrtens, Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent	Councillors Best, Burke, Holstein, McLachlan and Pilon

The meeting was adjourned at 8.51pm and resumed at 9.01pm.

2.3 Proposed Development of Warnervale Education and Business Precinct

Moved: Councillor Best
 Seconded: Councillor McLachlan

- 1 *That Council receive the report on the development of the Warnervale Education and Business Precinct.*
- 2 *That Council endorse the concept masterplan and 3d impressions of the Warnervale Education and Business Precinct.*
- 3 *That Council approve the call for Expressions of Interest from business, industry and education providers to partner with the Warnervale Education and Business Precinct.*
- 4 *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer provide a further report to Council detailing the outcome of Expressions of Interest including any recommendations from the Warnervale Working Group.*

Amendment Moved: Councillor MacGregor
 Amendment Seconded: Councillor Smith

That in recognition of the establishment of the Warnervale Working Group as resolved by Council that this matter be deferred to allow consultation with the Working Group prior to a further report being provided to Council.

For:	Against:
Mayor Matthews, Councillors Greenaway, Hogan, Holstein, MacGregor, Mehrtens, Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent	Councillors Best, Burke, McLachlan and Pilon

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared CARRIED and then become the Motion.

Moved: Councillor MacGregor
Seconded: Councillor Smith

Resolved

475/20 That in recognition of the establishment of the Warnervale Working Group as resolved by Council that this matter be deferred to allow consultation with the Working Group prior to a further report being provided to Council.

For: Mayor Matthews, Councillors Greenaway, Hogan, Holstein, MacGregor, Mehrtens, Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent	Against: Councillors Best, Burke, McLachlan and Pilon
--	--

2.4 Grant Funding Update as at 31 March 2020

Moved: Councillor Holstein
Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

476/20 That Council receive the Grant Funding Update as at 31 March 2020 report.

477/20 That Council resolve, pursuant to section 11(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, that Attachment 3 to this report remain confidential in accordance with section 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act as it contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed would confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council and because consideration of the matter in open Council would on balance be contrary to the public interest as it would affect Councils ability to obtain value for money services for the Central Coast community.

For: Mayor Matthews, Councillors Burke, Greenaway, Hogan, Holstein, MacGregor, Mehrtens, Pilon, Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent	Against: Councillor Best Abstained: Councillor McLachlan
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2.5 Central Coast Stadium - Car Park

Moved: Councillor Mehrtens
Seconded: Councillor Sundstrom

Resolved

478/20 That Council defer consideration of this report until after the draft Central Coast Parking Study and Implementation Plan has been presented to Council following the 28 day exhibition period, for consideration of the final Central Coast Parking Study and Implementation Plan.

For:

Unanimous

2.6 Draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy

Moved: Councillor Smith

Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

479/20 That Council note community concerns about the potential loss of local parks in favour of larger Regional Parks.

480/20 That Council confirm its support for a strategy that includes neighbourhood "local parks" accessible to communities within walking distance in addition to larger recreational multi-use open space destinations.

481/20 That Council endorse the draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy for the purpose of community consultation.

482/20 That Council place the draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

483/20 That Council request the Chief Executive Officer provide a further report back to Council on the outcomes of the public exhibition.

For:

Unanimous

Procedural Motion – Duration of Speeches

Moved: Councillor Greenaway

Seconder: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

484/20 That Council in accordance with clause 10.24 of the Code of Meeting Practice shorten the duration of speeches on all remaining items to 2 minutes, the time being 9.58pm.

For:

Unanimous

Procedural Motion – Deferral of Item

Moved: Councillor Pilon

Seconder: Councillor Burke

That Council defer consideration of item 6.1 – Deferred Item – Rescission Motion – Landcare Program Strategy to the 22 June 2020 Ordinary Meeting, the time being 10.03pm.

For:

Councillors Best, Burke, McLachlan and Pilon

Against:

Mayor Matthews, Councillors Greenaway, Hogan, Holstein, MacGregor, Mehrtens, Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent

The Motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

2.7 Rainwater Tank Pilot Program

Moved: Councillor MacGregor

Seconded: Councillor Vincent

Resolved

485/20 That Council note the contents of this report.

486/20 That Council delay consideration of rainwater tank retrofit programs until completion of the Integrated Water Resource Plan in mid-2021.

487/20 That Council continues to investigate options to improve water security and resident self sufficiency in order to reduce the burden on our water network and infrastructure and to reduce costs and improve water efficiencies for domestic water use. That the water advisory committee continue to investigate these options whilst working towards the integrated water resource program 2021.

For:

Unanimous

2.8 Grants Program Round 2 2019-2020

Mayor Matthews declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her client is a potential recipient of grant funding .

Councillor Hogan declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her employer is noted in this round of grants.

Councillor Pilon declared a significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows members of The Entrance Business Chamber and The Opportunity Collective.

Councillor Holstein declared a significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he has casually worked for two of the not for profit organisations who are applicants.

Councillor Greenaway declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows some of the community groups who have made an application and was also an occasional volunteer/employee with CEN. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

Councillor Vincent declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he a member of the Scout Association NSW, a volunteer at GOATS festivals and has family members who play women's football and sports on the Central Coast. He chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence his decision on the matter.

Councillor Smith declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she was a former voluntary board member of the Community Environment Network and they have applied for a grant. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Moved: Councillor Vincent
Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

488/20 That Council allocate \$224,041.55 from the 2019-20 grants budget to the Community Events and Place Activation Program as outlined in the tables (Attachment 1).

489/20 That Council allocate \$131,484.00 from the 2019-20 grants budget to the Community Development Grant Program as outlined in the tables (Attachment 2).

490/20 That Council allocate \$60,400.00 from the 2019-20 grants budget to the Community Infrastructure Grant Program as outlined in the tables (Attachment 3).

- 491/20** *That Council allocate \$70,678.00 from the 2019-20 grants budget to the Social and Creative Enterprise Program as outlined in the tables (Attachment 4).*
- 492/20** *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to review the proposals and identify those that may not be able to proceed at this stage due to the COVID-19 pandemic and only allocate to those able to deliver proposed projects*
- 493/20** *That Council decline the Grants program applications for the reasons indicated in the Tables (Attachment 1,2,3 and 4), and the applicants be advised and where relevant, directed to alternate funding.*

For:

Unanimous

2.9 Community Support Grant - April 2020

Councillor Hogan declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows some of the community groups who will be receiving grant funding. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

Councillor Greenaway declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows some of the community groups who have made an application and was also an occasional volunteer/employee with CEN. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Moved: **Councillor Vincent**

Seconded: **Councillor MacGregor**

Resolved

- 494/20** *That Council support the recommendations in principle to allocate \$17,533.00 from the 2019/20 grants budget to the community support grant program as outlined in the following report and Attachment 1*
- 495/20** *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to review the proposals and identify those that may not be able to proceed at this stage due to the COVID-19 pandemic and only allocate to those able to deliver proposed projects*

For:

Unanimous

2.10 Sponsorship Program Round 2 2019-2020

Councillor Holstein declared a significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he has casually worked for two of the not for profit organisations who are applicants.

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Moved: Councillor Vincent
Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

496/20 That Council allocate \$33,100.00 for Round 2 from the sponsorship budget, to be paid over the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years to the applicants outlined in the table (Attachment 1).

497/20 That Council decline the Sponsorship program applications for the reasons indicated in the Tables (Attachment 1), and the applicants be advised and where relevant, directed to alternate funding.

498/20 That Council withdraw \$5,000.00 of pre-committed funds from Round 1, from the sponsorship budget to be paid in 2019-20, due to COVID-19 restrictions for one (1) pre-committed sponsored initiative.

499/20 That Council request the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to review the proposals and identify those that may not be able to proceed at this stage due to the COVID-19 pandemic and only allocate to those able to deliver proposed initiatives.

For:
Unanimous

2.11 Progress of Remediation Plan for SEPP14 Wetland at Central Coast Airport

Moved: Councillor Best
Seconded: Councillor Pilon

That Council receive and note the report on Progress of Remediation Plan for SEPP14 Wetland at Central Coast Airport.

Amendment Moved: Councillor MacGregor
Amendment Seconded: Councillor Greenaway

That Council engage a suitable bush regeneration specialist to visit the site up to three times per year, for at least four years to undertake the appropriate weed management activities, in accordance with the program specified in the Vegetation Restoration Plan report by Litoria Ecological Restoration Purposes (September 2019).

For:
Mayor Matthews, Councillors Greenaway,
Hogan, Holstein, MacGregor, Mehrtens,
Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent

Against:
Councillors Best, Burke, McLachlan and
Pilon

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared CARRIED and then become the Motion.

Moved: Councillor MacGregor
Seconded: Councillor Greenaway

Resolved

500/20 That Council engage a suitable bush regeneration specialist to visit the site up to three times per year, for at least four years to undertake the appropriate weed management activities, in accordance with the program specified in the Vegetation Restoration Plan report by Litoria Ecological Restoration Purposes (September 2019).

For: Mayor Matthews, Councillors Greenaway,
Hogan, Holstein, MacGregor, Mehrtens,
Pilon, Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent

Against: Councillors Best, Burke and McLachlan

2.12 Extraordinary Meeting - 29 June 2020

Moved: Councillor Smith
Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

501/20 That Council resolve to conduct an Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 29 June 2020 at 6.30pm for the purpose of consideration of the following items;

- Consideration of Submissions and Adoption of the Operational Plan
- Local Strategic Planning Statement

502/20 That Council conduct this meeting in accordance with any current and applicable Public Health Order.

503/20 That due notice be given of the time, date and place of this meeting in accordance with section 9(1) of the Local Government Act 1993.

For:
Unanimous

3.1 Meeting Record of the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Advisory Committee held on 28 April 2020

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Moved: *Councillor Vincent*
Seconded: *Councillor MacGregor*

Resolved

504/20 *That Council receive the report on Meeting Record of the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Advisory Committee held on 28 April 2020.*

For:
Unanimous

3.2 Meeting Record of the Status of Women Advisory Group held on 14 April 2020

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Moved: *Councillor Vincent*
Seconded: *Councillor MacGregor*

Resolved

505/20 *That Council receive the report on Meeting Record of the Status of Women Advisory Group held on 14 April 2020.*

For:
Unanimous

3.3 Investment Report for April 2020

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Moved: *Councillor Vincent*
Seconded: *Councillor MacGregor*

Resolved

506/20 *That Council receive the Investment Report for April 2020.*

For:
Unanimous

3.4 Wallarah 2 Progress Report

Councillor Best declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as his employer runs the community scholarships for Wallarah 2.

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Moved: Councillor Vincent
Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

507/20 That Council receive and note the contents of this report.

For:
Unanimous

3.5 Status of the Integrated Water Resource Plan

Councillor Sundstrom left the time meeting at 10.35pm and returned at 10.37pm.

Moved: Councillor Greenaway
Seconded: Councillor MacGregor

Resolved

508/20 That Council receives and notes the contents of this report.

509/20 That Council request the Chief Executive Officer provide a further report on the major projects currently being undertaken in relation to the Central Coasts long-term water security and also an update on Central Coast Council's drought response activities, with such Report to provide information as to the project name, brief details as to its description and purpose, as well as the status (timeline).

For:
Unanimous

5.1 Notice of Motion - Sewerage issues in Kanwal

Moved: Councillor MacGregor
Seconded: Councillor Greenaway

Resolved

- 510/20** *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer to collate a report on the history of the sewage system of Central Coast Council in the Kanwal area with a particular focus on the following aspects:*
- a A list of overflows and issues with the sewer system in Kanwal that have required rectification work or the like during the period 2010 to present.*
 - b The methodology and approach to maintenance of the sewer system from 2010 to present with a comparison of both former councils and Central Coast Councils current approach. Including a comparison of the 'emergency response' system and direct servicing of sewer maintenance.*
 - c Reporting requirements for staff and contractors around community complaints on sewer issues and response to emergency overflows or problems with the network. Consultation and awareness for residents when overflows and issues with the sewer system occur including the potential health impacts for residents and damage or impact on properties.*
 - d The impact of 'fatbergs', root system destruction of pipes and the causes of problems within the sewer system and the causes of problems requiring maintenance on the sewer system including examples of when damage occurred and was responded to.*
 - e The recent work that was conducted by 'inter flow' or other contractors or direct staff during 2019, including scope of works and costs for works completed on the sewer network.*
 - f A comparison between investment in the Sewer network in Kanwal to other suburbs on the Central Coast (including Davistown) over the period 2010 to present.*
- 511/20** *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer report back on this important issue in a timely manner responding to ongoing community interest in this matter and concern around the state of our local sewer system.*

For:

Unanimous

5.2 Notice of Motion - Playing Sandcastles at The Entrance Channel

Mayor Matthews declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her property was impacted by the recent flood event with the outcome of this motion may having an impact and also investigations being conducted by the police. Mayor Matthews left the meeting at 10.44pm, returned at 11.10pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Councillor Hogan declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as her daughters house was flooded in the recent storms and if it was decided to progress with this notice of motion it could have an appreciable financial impact on her daughter's home, particularly given it

was flooded in the last event. Councillor Hogan left the meeting at 10.44pm, returned at 11.10pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Councillor McLachlan declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he met and discussed geotextile bags with Angus Jackson. He chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence his decision on the matter.

Councillor Pilon declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she knows the speaker who made a submission for tonight's meeting. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

Moved: Councillor McLachlan

Seconded: Councillor Pilon

- 1 *That Council notes the successful trial of the installation of a temporary sand berm training wall at The Entrance Channel.*
- 2 *That Council acknowledges that prior to the recent storm damage the design success of increased scouring and assisted protection of infrastructure of the southern wall.*
- 3 *That Council through the Chief Executive Officer now investigate a more permanent solution, including investigation of low cost removal geo tech sand bag training walls, as a possible option.*
- 4 *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer provide a report on staff investigation s and findings and those investigations be also shared with the NSW appointed Expert Panel for Tuggerah Lakes.*

Amendment Moved: Councillor Smith

Amendment Seconded: Councillor Vincent

- 1 *That Council note the current work of the Expert Panel and the ongoing work in developing Coastal Management Programs (CMP) as required by the NSW Government.*
- 2 *That Council refer this item for consideration as part of the CMP process and the Expert Panel, as appropriate.*
- 3 *That further consideration of investigations or designs of sand bag walls or similar at The Entrance be deferred until the recommendations of the expert panel are provided and the action plan for the new Coastal Management Program has been completed.*
- 4 *That Council note the education resources developed by staff and actively promote the link to the Tuggerah Lakes education video on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/162u8qqB78g>).*

For:

Against:

*Councillors Greenaway, MacGregor,
Mehrtens, Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent*

*Councillors Best, Burke, Holstein,
McLachlan and Pilon*

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared CARRIED and then become the Motion.

Moved: **Councillor Smith**
Seconded: **Councillor Vincent**

Resolved

512/20 ***That Council note the current work of the Expert Panel and the ongoing work in developing Coastal Management Programs (CMP) as required by the NSW Government.***

513/20 ***That Council refer this item for consideration as part of the CMP process and the Expert Panel, as appropriate.***

514/20 ***That further consideration of investigations or designs of sand bag walls or similar at The Entrance be deferred until the recommendations of the expert panel are provided and the action plan for the new Coastal Management Program has been completed.***

515/20 ***That Council note the education resources developed by staff and actively promote the link to the Tuggerah Lakes education video on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/162u8qqB78g>).***

For:
***Councillors Greenaway, Holstein,
MacGregor, Mehrtens, Smith, Sundstrom
and Vincent***

Against:
***Councillors Best, Burke, McLachlan and
Pilon***

5.3 **Notice of Motion - Request for Report on DA/1283/2018 - 56 Sinclair Crescent, Wyong**

This item was resolved by the exception method.

Moved: **Councillor Vincent**
Seconded: **Councillor MacGregor**

Resolved

516/20 ***That Council request the Chief Executive Officer provide a report regarding DA1283/2018 - 56 Sinclair Crescent, Wyong once staff have finalised an assessment report for the consideration of Council regarding a submission.***

For:
Unanimous

6.1 Deferred Item - Rescission Motion - Landcare Program Strategy

Councillor Vincent declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as his employer in the past has supported volunteers in this program. Councillor Vincent left the meeting at 11.10pm, returned at 11.18pm and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

Councillor Sundstrom declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as he has participated in the Copacabana Dune Care Group. He chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence his decision on the matter.

Councillor Greenaway declared a less than significant non pecuniary interest in the matter as she has been involved in bushcare and a former member of NSW Executive of Landcare. She chose to stay in the meeting and participate in discussion and voting on this matter as it does not prejudice or influence her decision on the matter.

Moved: Councillor Pilon

Seconded: Councillor Best

The following resolution carried at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 11 May 2020 be rescinded:

376/20 *That Council formally adopt the draft Central Coast Council Environmental Volunteer Program Strategy, specifically amended as follows:*

- *The name of the Program has been changed from CCC Landcare Program to CCC Environmental Volunteer Program.*
- *Action Item 13 added to Strategy – investigate opportunities for funding additional support for the program, including external grant funding and third-party sponsorship.*
- *Action Item 14 added to Strategy – consider new technologies for managing the program e.g. phone apps to manage group activities.*

377/20 *That Council endorse expanding the program through the recruitment of two additional full time equivalent (FTE) staff, at a projected cost of \$40,000 in capital and \$134,125 in operational expenditure per additional FTE, for the purpose of supporting additional volunteer groups as outlined within the strategy.*

378/20 *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer to thank the staff involved in developing the strategy.*

For:

Councillors Best, Burke, McLachlan and Pilon *Mayor Matthews, Councillors Greenaway, Hogan, Holstein, MacGregor, Mehrtens, Smith and Sundstrom*

The Motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

Confidential Session

Moved: **Councillor Hogan**

Seconded: **Councillor Smith**

Resolved

517/20 That the meeting move into Confidential Session.

For:

Mayor Matthews, Councillors Best, Burke, Hogan, Holstein, MacGregor, McLachlan, Mehrtens, Pilon, Smith, Sundstrom and Vincent

Against:

Councillor Greenaway

At this stage of the meeting being 11.20 pm the meeting moved into Confidential Session with the members of the press and public excluded from the closed session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the closed session being withheld. This action is taken in accordance with Section 10a of The Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:-

Open Session

Moved: **Councillor Holstein**

Seconded: **Councillor MacGregor**

Resolved

518/20 That the meeting move into Open Session.

For:

Unanimous

The meeting resumed in open session at 11.29pm and the Chief Executive Officer reported on proceedings of the confidential session of the ordinary meeting as follows:

7.1 Gosford Long Term Car Park

Moved: **Councillor Mehrtens**

Seconded: **Councillor MacGregor**

Resolved

519/20 That Council defer consideration of this report until after the draft Central Coast Parking Study and Implementation Plan has been presented to

Council following the 28 day exhibition period, for consideration of the final Central Coast Parking Study and Implementation Plan.

For:

Unanimous

The Meeting closed at 11.30 pm.

Item No: 1.3
Title: Notice of Intention to Deal with Matters in Confidential Session
Department: Governance



22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2020/00039 - D13987498

Summary

It is necessary for the Council to adopt a resolution to formalise its intention to deal with certain matters in a closed and confidential Session. The report is incorporated in the "Confidential" business paper which has been circulated.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires the Chief Executive Officer to identify those matters listed on the business paper which may be categorised as confidential in terms of section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. It is then a matter for Council to determine whether those matters will indeed be categorised as confidential.

Recommendation

That Council receive the report and note that no matters have been tabled to deal with in a closed session.

Context

Section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) states that a Council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises:

- 2(a) *personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors),*
- 2(b) *the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,*
- 2(c) *information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,*
- 2(d) *commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:*
 - (i) *prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or*
 - (ii) *confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or*
 - (iii) *reveal a trade secret,*
- 2(e) *information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,*

1.3 Notice of Intention to Deal with Matters in Confidential Session (contd)

- 2(f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property,*
- 2(g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege,*
- 2(h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.*

It is noted that with regard to those matters relating to all but 2(a), 2(b) and 2(d)(iii) it is necessary to also give consideration to whether closing the meeting to the public is, on balance, in the public interest.

Further, the Act provides that Council may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (section 10A(3)).

As provided in the Office of Local Government Meetings Practice Note August 2009, it is a matter for the Council to decide whether a matter is to be discussed during the closed part of a meeting. The Council would be guided by whether the item is in a confidential business paper, however the Council can disagree with this assessment and discuss the matter in an open part of the meeting.

Attachments

Nil



Item No: 2.1
Title: Adoption of Social Media Policy
Department: Governance

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2019/00043 - D13849606
Author: Shane Sullivan, Unit Manager, Governance and Business Services
Executive: Gary Murphy, Chief Executive Officer

Report Purpose

To consider the adoption of the Social Media Policy as set out in Attachment 1 of this report.

Summary

At its meeting held 24 February 2020, Council resolved that a Social Media Policy for Councillors be drafted. This report provides a draft Social Media Policy for consideration.

The new policy would apply to Central Coast Councillors to inform them of their responsibilities in relation to the use of social media in an official or individual capacity which reflects on their position as a Council official, as well as the processes, guidelines and issues relating to the use of social media. This policy would be supported by guidelines to assist Councillors in how to navigate social media in practice.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Central Coast Council Policy for Social Media as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.

Context

Following social media activity and the outcomes of a particularly challenging Council Meeting held 12 February 2020, at its meeting held 24 February 2020, Council resolved as follows in part:

- 155/20 *That Council write to the Minister for Local Government requesting a review of the Model Code of Conduct with regard to addressing the adverse use of social media and the deliberate distribution of misinformation by Councillors both inside and outside the chamber.*
- 156/20 *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer bring forward a draft Councillor Social Media policy.*

2.1 Adoption of Social Media Policy (contd)

This report provides a draft Policy as per resolution 156/20.

The draft Policy and supporting guidelines were provided to Councillors for comment in the Councillor Support update of 6 March 2020. No comments were received.

A letter was sent to the Hon Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government on 26 February 2020 advising of the resolution that a Social Media Policy for Councillors be drafted, and to request a review of the Model Code of Conduct to include provisions regarding adverse social media activity and the deliberate distribution of misinformation by Councillors both in and outside the Chambers.

A reply from The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP dated 31 March 2020 regarding the Model Code of Conduct and Model Social Media Policy was provided to Councillors on behalf of Gary Murphy, Chief Executive Officer, in the Councillor Support Update on 3 April 2020 (Attachment 3).

Central Coast Council's Code of Conduct states:

- 3.23 *The Mayor or Chief Executive Officer will generally be the spokesperson on Council business or matters before Council. Only Council Officials with specific delegations are authorised to make public comment about Council business or on matters before Council on behalf of Council. All comments are to be made in accordance with Council's associated Policies and Procedures.*
- 3.24 *On social media, such as Council's Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts, the Communication and Media Team are generally the spokesperson on all Council business. Other Staff can apply to use these sites if a particular project warrants it.*
- 3.25 *If a Council Official makes a comment on Council business using their personal social media accounts, they are under a duty to ensure it is clear that it is a personal opinion, that it is not the official position of Council and that the comment is not derogative, malicious, vindictive, defamatory or in any way a breach of the State of NSW or Commonwealth of Australian Anti- Discrimination Laws.*
- 3.26 *Council Officials must not defame other persons, including other Council Officials. This includes during any meeting of Council, meeting of any Committee of Council, any public meeting conducted by or for Council, or in any publication made by or for Council.*
- 7.6 *You must not engage in any of the following inappropriate interactions:*
 - h) *Councillors and Administrators making personal attacks on Council Staff or engaging in conduct towards Staff that would be contrary to the general conduct provisions in Part 3 of this Code in public forums including social media;*

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with Councillors.

Council may resolve to seek public comment on the proposed Policy, however as this Policy only binds Councillor action this is not considered necessary.

Options

- 1 Not to adopt a Social Media Policy.

Council is not required to adopt a Social Media Policy but it has been identified as a need for Council. It is noted that the Office of Local Government has indicated that it may provide a standard Policy however no timeframe has been given for this.

- 2 Adopt the Central Coast Council Social Media Policy as provided in Attachment 1.

This is the preferred option as the policy ensures Councillors have clear and consistent guidelines required to ensure the appropriate use of social media. Councillors are, of course, entitled to make amendments and may elect to adopt the attached draft Policy with amendments.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G2: Communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on transparency, understanding, trust and respect.

Attachments

- | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Social Media Policy Draft February 2020 | D14020691 |
| 2 | Fact Sheet - Social Media Guidelines | D13846641 |
| 3 | Letter from the Office of the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP | D13974923 |



POLICY NO: CCC

Social media policy for Councillors

© Central Coast Council

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Social media policy for Councillors

December, 2019

AUTHORITY	NAME & TITLE
MANAGER	Shane Sullivan, Unit Manager Governance
DIRECTOR	Dr Liz Develin, Director Governance
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Gary Murphy, Chief Executive Officer

History of Revisions:

Version	Date	Reason	TRIM Doc. #
1			

Policy Rank: Strategic



Social media policy for Councillors

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Social media policy for Councillors

POLICY SUMMARY

1. This policy informs Central Coast Councillors of processes, guidelines and issues relating to the use of social media.
2. The policy applies to Central Coast Councillors and informs them of their responsibilities in relation to the use of social media in an official or individual capacity which reflects on their position as a Council official.
3. The policy will be supported by guidelines to assist Councillors in how to navigate social media in practice. These guidelines can be reviewed as required.

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

4. The purpose of this policy is to:
 - a. Guide Councillors on the use of social media sites;
 - b. Protect the reputation of Central Coast Council; and
 - c. Provide an effective platform for community engagement and public debate.

POLICY BACKGROUND

5. Central Coast Council recognises that social media is an essential communication, engagement and customer service channel.
6. Central Coast Council recognises that Councillors are elected representatives and as such are required to represent and communicate with their community as part of a robust local democracy, including through public debate and engaging with their constituents online.
7. Social media provides a platform to encourage dialogue between Councillors and the community, and enables Councillors to gain insight into the community and its needs via public feedback.
8. Clear and consistent guidelines are required to ensure the appropriate use of social media by Councillors. This policy enables Councillors to speak on social media while protecting the interests of Council and complying with the Code of Conduct.

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Page 4 of 7



Social media policy for Councillors

9. Council's Code of Conduct states that Council officials, including Councillors must not conduct themselves in a manner that is likely to bring Council or holders of civic office into disrepute and this applies to the use of social media.

DEFINITIONS

10. **Social media** facilitates the creation and sharing of information and ideas via virtual communities and online networks. It invites communication, collaboration, discussion and debate. It also enables the development of social and professional networks, groups, followers and contacts. This policy relates and applies to social media platforms, including but not limited to:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- YouTube
- LinkedIn
- Google+
- Snapchat
- Council's Intranet
- Blogs; and
- Video podcasts.

Council's official social media platforms are administered by Council's Communications team to ensure consistency of content, tone and style.

POLICY

11. Councillors should be aware that any social media activity or interaction, either official or personal, is public, permanently available, traceable and able to be reproduced elsewhere.
12. Councillors should also be aware that whether they intend it or not, what they post online in a private capacity may reflect on Central Coast Council and their role as a Councillor, and they should therefore behave in a way that upholds the values and reputation of Council, consistent with the Code of Conduct and other policies.
13. Councillors are reminded that 'shares', 'likes' or 'retweets' may be viewed as an endorsement of the original post. In the spirit of a respectful democratic environment,

**Social media policy for Councillors**

constructive criticism or negative comments/commenters should not be blocked or removed, unless they are overtly offensive and defamatory, incite hatred and violence or are criminal in nature.

14. Councillors must also be aware of posts by others to their social media pages and consider if the post and its comment/s are offensive or may incite hatred, violence and/or criminal acts. Any post/comments made to a Councillor's social media page/site should be monitored by the Councillor to ensure that it meets the standard of socially acceptable behaviour/commentary. Councillors should remove any post/comment that does not meet the required standard of this policy.
15. In the event of an emergency, publishing Council information on social media sites will be the responsibility of the Communications team with approval from the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate.

BREACHES

16. Breaches of this policy by Councillors may result in an investigation of the alleged breach in line with Council's complaint handling policy, the Local Government Guidelines on Investigations and the Code of Conduct. Any alleged criminal offence or allegation of corrupt conduct will be referred to the relevant external agency.
17. Inappropriate behaviours may include, but are not limited to:
 - Using social media to ridicule, vilify, harass, cyberbully, discriminate against or bring into disrepute the Council, or other Council officials, including Councillors or community members;
 - Posting content that is deemed to be offensive, including obscene or sexually explicit language; and
 - Using social media channels to post/provide confidential, personal or sensitive information relating to Council.
18. Complaints should be referred to Central Coast Council's CEO in the first instance, in accordance with the Division of Local Government's Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW.

REVIEW



Social media policy for Councillors

19. This Policy will be reviewed every four years following the conduct of the Local Government Election.

RELATED RESOURCES

20. Legislation:
 - (a) Local Government Act 1993 NSW;
 - (b) Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 NSW;
 - (c) Anti-Discrimination Act 1977NSW;
 - (d) Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998NSW.

21. Associated Documents:
 - (a) Public Interest Disclosures Policy;
 - (b) Code of Conduct;
 - (c) Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct.

Fact Sheet

Social Media Policy for Councillors Guidelines



This guideline is provided to Councillors to assist them with regard to the Social Media Policy for Councillors and its application.

General Information

There is no such thing as a 'private' social media site.

Posting information online is a public activity and no different from publishing information in a newspaper.

Councillors are advised to not post anything to social media sites that they would not be comfortable with if quoted in the media.

Everything posted or received on social media is public property. Once something is published online, control of it is lost forever and it cannot be withdrawn. Search engines can find posts years after publication, while archival systems save or cache information even if deleted.

Posts –even deleted posts –are considered 'publication' and are subject to the same defamation laws as any other media.

Councillors are responsible for any information they release relating to Council, Councillors or other Council officials. Claiming that comments/images are published on private pages is not defensible.

Social Media "dos"

- Follow Council's social media channels to stay in touch with what's happening, and like and share Council's posts.
- Remember everything you say and do is public, and you can be identified as a Councillor of Central Coast Council.

- Pause before you post –would you be comfortable with this information being shared with your family, friends, work colleagues, media and the broader community, and is the information likely to bring you or Council into disrepute?
- Be mindful of your general conduct obligations under the Code of Conduct, including the requirement not to damage Council's reputation.
- Be careful to communicate accurate information.
- Be courteous and respectful of fellow Councillors, other Council staff and members of the community, including respecting people's privacy.
- Report any violations of this policy to the Chief Executive Officer and/or the Internal Ombudsman

Social Media "don'ts"

- Imply that you are speaking on behalf of Central Coast Council.
- Disclose official, personal or confidential information that is not publicly available (such as staff, personal information, legal advice, commercial-in-confidence and Code of Conduct complaints).
- Post material that is obscene, pornographic, defamatory, threatening, harassing or discriminatory to any individual, group or organisation or may lead to criminal penalty.



Wyong: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong 2259
 Gosford: 49 Mann St / PO Box 21 Gosford 2250
 P: 1300 463 954
 E: ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au W: centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

Ref: A693264

Mr Gary Murphy
General Manager
Central Coast Council
PO Box 20
WYONG NSW 2259

By email: Gary.murphy@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 February 2020 about Council's resolution of 24 February 2020 requesting that provisions relating to the use of social media be included in the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (the Model Code of Conduct).

I am pleased to advise that the standards of conduct currently prescribed under the Model Code of Conduct relating to intimidation, discrimination and harassment, bullying, behaviour towards council staff and work health and safety obligations all apply to councillors' use of social media. Councillors who breach their obligations under the Council's code of conduct when using social media can face disciplinary action including public censure by the Council, suspension of up to 3 months by the Office of Local Government (OLG), or suspension of up to six months or disqualification from office for up to 5 years by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

It is also open to councils to include additional provisions in their codes of conduct that supplement those that are prescribed under the Model Code of Conduct should they choose to do so. It is open to Central Coast Council, for example, to include specific provisions relating to social media use in its adopted code of conduct.

Should Central Coast Council adopt a social media policy for councillors as has been proposed, a breach of that policy will contravene the existing requirements under the Council's code of conduct for councillors to comply with Council policies.

I am pleased to confirm that OLG is currently developing a template social media policy based on councils' existing social media policies that reflects best practice. OLG will be consulting with councils on the template policy later this year. If adopted by a council, the policy will complement that council's adopted code of conduct and will be enforceable under the code of conduct.

I hope this information is of assistance. Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Hancock'.

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

31 March 2020

CC: Adam Crouch MP Member for Terrigal

Item No: 2.2
Title: Council Meeting Dates and Locations
Department: Governance



22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2019/00041-004 - D13955818

Author: Sarah Georgiou, Section Manager, Councillor Support

Manager: Shane Sullivan, Unit Manager, Governance and Business Services

Executive: Gary Murphy, Chief Executive Officer

Report Purpose

To determine the Ordinary Council Meeting dates and locations for the remainder of 2020 as a result of the determination that the NSW Local Government elections have been delayed and as the Local Government NSW Annual Conference has also been delayed.

Recommendation

- 1 That Council adopt the proposed Ordinary Council Meeting dates for the remainder of 2020.**
- 2 That Council resolve to amend the Code of Meeting Practice to provide for the conduct of Council Meetings at 2 Hely Street, Wyong, noting the identified variations to schedule within the report.**
- 3 That Council resolve to conduct Councillor Briefings at Mann Street, Gosford and permit remote participation (video conference) for non-confidential briefings.**
- 4 That Council, in accordance with clause 232 of the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, publish the 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting dates in the local newspaper.**
- 5 That in accordance with section 361 of the Local Government Act that a draft Code of Meeting Practice that provides for the conduct of Council Meetings at 2 Hely Street, Wyong be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days, with submissions accepted for a period of not less than 42 days.**
- 6 That in accordance with section 362 of the Local Government Act a further report be provided to Council in September following the conduct of the public exhibition period.**

Background

At its meeting held 24 February 2020, Council resolved as follows in part

- 152/20 *That Council amend the Code of Meeting Practice to provide that Council Meetings will be held at Wyong Chambers (2 Hely Street, Wyong).*
- 153/20 *That Council note the operational measures that staff will be implementing to assist in managing Council meetings, which will increase in stringency should safety concerns remain.*
- 154/20 *That Council amend the Code of Meeting Practice to provide that all briefings will be held at Gosford Administration Building (49 Mann Street, Gosford).*
- 157/20 *That a further report be provided to Council in June to review this position.*

The purpose of this report is to:

- A Determine the location of Council Meetings in accordance with the resolution of Council of 24 February 2020; and
- B Determine the date of Council Meetings as a result of the determination that the Local Government Elections be delayed to 2021.

A COUNCIL MEETING LOCATION

At its meeting held 24 February 2020, Council resolved that Council Meetings will be held at Wyong Chambers (2 Hely Street, Wyong). This included the implementation of measures to assist in managing Council meetings. This was a decision identified for review in June 2020.

This report is to facilitate permanent changes to the Code of Meeting Practice as may be resolved by Council.

It is recommended that Council Meetings be conducted at 2 Hely Street, Wyong and that the Code of Meeting Practice be amended to reflect this.

This is recommended as the facilities at Wyong are bespoke facilities for the conduct of meetings such as Council Meetings. The building configuration at Gosford limits what can be done practically. Having the Chambers on the first floor results in access and exit challenges, while the structural requirements limit the ability to have a larger space with additional capacity.

2.2 Council Meeting Dates and Locations (contd)

It is further noted that public access and safety is easier to manage in comparison to Gosford Chambers for the following reasons:

- Wyong has ground level entry to the Gallery for members of the public while Gosford requires members of the public to come up to the meeting using lifts
- Wyong has capacity in the gallery for 90 people and Gosford has capacity for 43 people.
- Wyong has more generous entry and exit points noting that Gosford has a small foyer area in which it is challenging to provide easy flow of people.
- Wyong has separation between the Councillors and the gallery while the separation at Gosford is not as delineated.
- Gosford has been designed as a multipurpose space, but the regular conduct of Council meetings and the supporting infrastructure means it is not able to be used for other purposes easily

It is noted that there is a desire to have Council Meetings both in the north and south of the Local Government Area. Should Council wish to explore a suitable space in the Gosford vicinity, this could be the subject of a further report to Council. It is also noted that there may be an opportunity as part of the Gosford Regional Library project.

Variations to Schedule

Dependant upon the relevant Public Health Order, the first Council Meeting to be held in person is likely to be the meeting of 27 July 2020 which would be proposed to be conducted at 2 Hely Street, Wyong.

Works are currently being undertaken at Wyong Administration building that affect access to the foyer space. Until the works are completed it is not possible to have public attendance at Council Meetings at Wyong.

The current Public Health Order provides that while Councillors and staff may attend Council Meetings in person, should the public also attend the total number of people (including Councillors and staff) must not exceed ten people.

As such it is currently not possible for the public to attend Council Meetings in person.

An amendment has been made to the Local Government Act 1993 providing that any requirement that Councillors attend a meeting is satisfied if the meeting is held remotely using audio-visual links. This is a temporary provision.

As such, Council currently conducts remote Council Meetings and intends to do so until such time as the public can attend.

Should there be a revised Public Health Order prior to the completion of works at Wyong, that makes it possible for the public to attend Council meetings it is proposed that the meeting would be held at Gosford Chambers.

This is considered appropriate as it is likely there would be restrictions in place as to the number of people who can attend, requirements to register in advance to manage the number of people and requirement for members of the public to sign in so that appropriate records can be maintained.

It is also likely that there would be limited number of the public able to attend while ensuring the requirements for social distancing and appropriate square metres per person in accordance with whatever Public Health Order may be in place.

Briefings

It is noted that the resolution of Council provided:

154/20 That Council amend the Code of Meeting Practice to provide that all briefings will be held at Gosford Administration Building (49 Mann Street, Gosford).

Councillor Briefings are not conducted under the Code of Meeting Practice and as such an amendment is not required.

However, it is recommended that Council resolve that Councillor Briefings will be conducted at Gosford Chambers.

It is noted that Councillor Briefings are being conducted remotely.

It is recommended that Council recognise the benefit of allowing remote participation in non-confidential briefings and resolve that this arrangement may continue. Allowing remote participation (by video) may facilitate additional Councillor participation in briefings.

B COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Section 365 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that Council is required to meet at least 10 times each year, each time in a different month.

The proposed schedule meets the requirements of the Act.

The following dates are proposed for the remainder of 2020 for the conduct of Ordinary Council Meetings.

Variations to Schedule

Monday 23 November 2020

The Local Government NSW Annual Conference was to be held during the week commencing 12 October 2020. It is now scheduled for 22 to 24 November 2020.

2.2 Council Meeting Dates and Locations (contd)

As a result, it is proposed that an Ordinary Meeting be scheduled for Monday, 30 November 2020.

Proposed Schedule

The schedule of proposed Ordinary Council Meetings for Central Coast Council for 2020 is as follows:

Date	Time
13 July 2020	6.30pm
27 July 2020	6.30pm
10 August 2020	6.30pm
24 August 2020	6.30pm
14 September 2020	6.30pm
28 September 2020	6.30pm
12 October 2020	6.30pm
26 October 2020	6.30pm
9 November 2020	6.30pm
30 November 2020	6.30pm
14 December 2020	6.30pm

Consultation

Sections 361 and 362 provide for the process for the preparation and exhibition of an amended Code of Meeting Practice.

Should Council determine that all meetings of Council are to be conducted at Wyong Council Chambers, it is recommended that a draft Code of Meeting Practice providing for this be placed upon public exhibition.

Section 361 of the Act states that after public notice is given, the period of public exhibition must not be less than 28 days. The public notice is to specify a period of not less than 42 days during which submissions may be made.

Section 362 of the Act then provides that Council is to consider submissions received prior to adopting the draft Code as the Code of Meeting practice.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G2: Communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on transparency, understanding, trust and respect.

Attachments

Nil



Item No: 2.3
Title: Classification of Land, Lot 29 DP 1261745 - 10 Virginia Road Hamlyn Terrace
Department: Innovation and Futures

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: SCC/15/2017 - D13952555
Author: Simone Barwick, Property Officer Land Sales Acquisitions
Susan Loder, Property Officer
Paul Forster, Section Manager, Property and Infrastructure
Manager: Jamie Barclay Unit Manager, Economic Development and Project Delivery
Executive: Ricardo Martello, Executive Manager Innovation and Futures

Summary

Approval is sought to classify the land known as Lot 29 DP 1261745 at 10 Virginia Road, Hamlyn Terrace as Operational Land.

Recommendation

- 1 That Council adopt the classification of the land known as Lot 29 DP 1261745 at 10 Virginia Road Hamlyn Terrace as Operational Land.**
- 2 That Council note that:**
 - a Nothing in the above resolution authorises the sale of the subject land (section 377(1)(h) of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that any sale of land can only be by resolution of Council).**
 - b Section 31 (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that Council must not resolve that land be classified as operational land if the resolution is inconsistent with the terms of any trust applying to the land.**

Context

Chad Property Group Pty Ltd was required to make provision for road and electrical services as part of its development of residential lots from the subdivision of Lot 111 DP 705880.

Lot 29 DP 1261745 at 10 Virginia Road Hamlyn Terrace as Operational Land has been transferred to Council pursuant to a condition of development consent DA 389/2015 for use as road purposes and should be classified as Operational Land. Lot 29 has an area of approximately 4617m², the land is PE3 - Proposed E3 Environmental Management.

2.3 Classification of Land, Lot 29 DP 1261745 - 10 Virginia Road Hamlyn Terrace (contd)

Current Status

Under Section 31 of the Local Government Act, 1993, subsection 31, Council may, before it acquires land or within three months after it acquires land, resolve that the land be classified as Community Land or Operational Land. Any land acquired by Council that is not classified within the three month period is taken to have been classified as Community Land.

Under Section 34 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council is required to give public notice of the proposal to classify land for a period of 28 days before confirming classification. If no adverse submission is received, Council may resolve to adopt the classification.

Public Notice was given on Friday 8 May 2020 of the proposal to classify Lot 29 DP 1261745 as Operational Land and no submissions have been made at this time.

It is proposed to classify Lot 29 as Operational Land.

The proposed resolution to Classify Lot 29 as Operational Land will not authorise this land to be used for any purpose that is inconsistent with the purposes for which this land was transferred to Council, being road purposes.

Consultation

Public Notice of the proposal to classify Lot 129 as Operational Land was given in the government gazette on the 8 May 2020. No submissions have been received.

Options

Council may resolve to apply either a "community land" or an "operational land" classification. Lot 29 should be classified as Operational Land in accordance with the draft Policy for Property Transactions – Sales and Acquisitions proposed to be considered for endorsement by Council for public exhibition on 22 June 2020.

Financial Impact

There is no cost to Council to classify Lot 29.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Section 31 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to resolve to classify land within three months of acquisition. Classification of this Land must be resolved prior to 14 August 2020 otherwise the land will default to the classification of community.

31 Classification of land acquired after 1 July 1993

(1) This section applies to land that is acquired by a council after the commencement of this Division, other than--

- (a) land to which the [Crown Lands Act 1989](#) or the [Crown Land Management Act 2016](#) applied before the acquisition and continues to apply after the acquisition, and
- (b) land that is acquired for the purpose of a road.

(2) Before a council acquires land, or within 3 months after it acquires land, a council may resolve (in accordance with this Part) that the land be classified as community land or operational land.

(2A) Any land acquired by a council that is not classified under subsection (2) is, at the end of the period of 3 months referred to in that subsection, taken to have been classified under a local environmental plan as community land.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal H: Delivering essential infrastructure

R-H1: Solve road and drainage problem areas and partner with the State Government to improve road conditions across the region.

Attachments

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 10 Virginia Plan | D13952554 |
| 2 | Certificate of Title 29-1261745 | D13954250 |
| 3 | Deposited Plan Lot 29 | D13954308 |



BOX 1W
(AQ14784)



NEW SOUTH WALES
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
REAL PROPERTY ACT, 1900



TORRENS TITLE REFERENCE	
29/1261745	
EDITION	DATE OF ISSUE
2	6/4/2020
CERTIFICATE AUTHENTICATION CODE	
G7WH-4G-3Y3M	

ANY ATTEMPT TO ALTER THIS CERTIFICATE COULD RESULT IN HEAVY FINES OR IMPRISONMENT (S.141 REAL PROPERTY ACT).

I certify that the person described in the First Schedule is the registered proprietor of an estate in fee simple (or such other estate or interest as is set forth in that Schedule) in the land within described subject to such exceptions, encumbrances, interests and entries as appear in the Second Schedule and to any additional entries in the Folio of the Register.

REGISTRAR GENERAL



LAND

LOT 29 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 1261745
AT HAMLYN TERRACE.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: CENTRAL COAST.
PARISH OF MUNMORAH COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND
TITLE DIAGRAM: DP1261745

FIRST SCHEDULE

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL (T AQ14784)

SECOND SCHEDULE

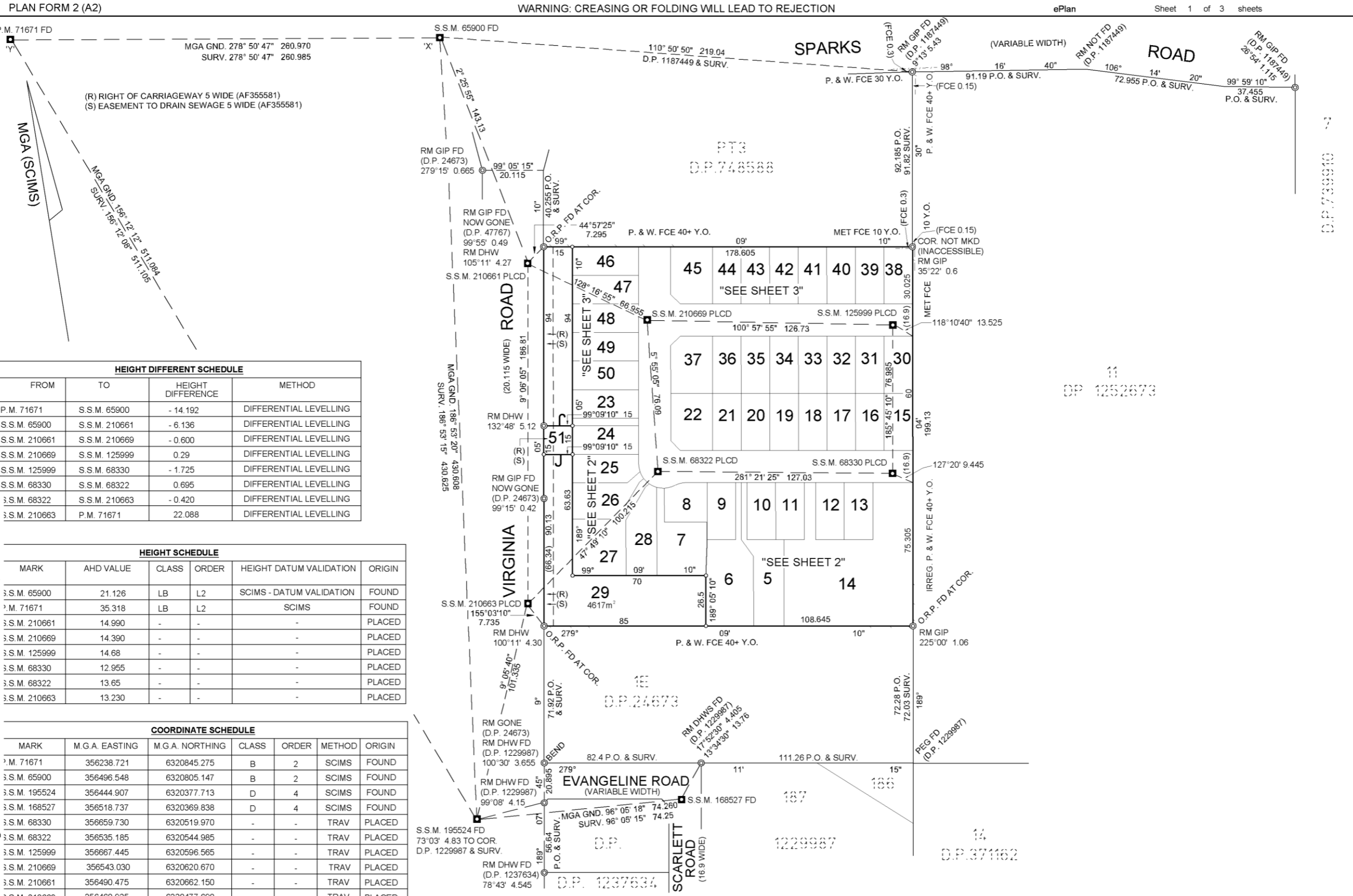
-
1. RESERVATIONS AND CONDITIONS IN THE CROWN GRANT(S)
 2. C394742 LAND EXCLUDES MINERALS
 3. AF355581 RIGHT OF CARRIAGEWAY 5 METRE(S) WIDE AFFECTING THE PART(S) SHOWN SO BURDENED IN THE TITLE DIAGRAM
 4. AF355581 EASEMENT TO DRAIN SEWAGE 5 METRE(S) WIDE AFFECTING THE PART(S) SHOWN SO BURDENED IN THE TITLE DIAGRAM
 5. DP1261745 POSITIVE COVENANT REFERRED TO AND NUMBERED (12) IN THE S.88B INSTRUMENT
 6. DP1261745 RIGHT OF CARRIAGEWAY & EASEMENT FOR ELECTRICITY & OTHER PURPOSES 4 METRE(S) WIDE AFFECTING THE PART(S) SHOWN SO BURDENED IN THE TITLE DIAGRAM

**** END OF CERTIFICATE ****

WARNING: BEFORE DEALING WITH THIS LAND, SEARCH THE CURRENT FOLIO OF THE REGISTER

7990722

Reg:R789082 /Doc:DP 1261745 P /Rev:12-Mar-2020 /NSW IRS /Pgs:ALL /Prt:13-Mar-2020 09:14 /Seq:1 of 8
 Office of the Registrar-General /Src:INFOTRACK /Ref:17503



HEIGHT DIFFERENT SCHEDULE

FROM	TO	HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	METHOD
P.M. 71671	S.S.M. 65900	- 14.192	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
S.S.M. 65900	S.S.M. 210661	- 6.136	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
S.S.M. 210661	S.S.M. 210669	- 0.600	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
S.S.M. 210669	S.S.M. 125999	0.29	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
S.S.M. 125999	S.S.M. 68330	- 1.725	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
S.S.M. 68330	S.S.M. 68322	0.695	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
S.S.M. 68322	S.S.M. 210663	- 0.420	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
S.S.M. 210663	P.M. 71671	22.088	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING

HEIGHT SCHEDULE

MARK	AHD VALUE	CLASS	ORDER	HEIGHT DATUM VALIDATION	ORIGIN
S.S.M. 65900	21.126	LB	L2	SCIMS - DATUM VALIDATION	FOUND
P.M. 71671	35.318	LB	L2	SCIMS	FOUND
S.S.M. 210661	14.990	-	-	-	PLACED
S.S.M. 210669	14.390	-	-	-	PLACED
S.S.M. 125999	14.68	-	-	-	PLACED
S.S.M. 68330	12.955	-	-	-	PLACED
S.S.M. 68322	13.65	-	-	-	PLACED
S.S.M. 210663	13.230	-	-	-	PLACED

COORDINATE SCHEDULE

MARK	M.G.A. EASTING	M.G.A. NORTHING	CLASS	ORDER	METHOD	ORIGIN
P.M. 71671	356238.721	6320845.275	B	2	SCIMS	FOUND
S.S.M. 65900	356496.548	6320805.147	B	2	SCIMS	FOUND
S.S.M. 195524	356444.907	6320377.713	D	4	SCIMS	FOUND
S.S.M. 168527	356518.737	6320369.838	D	4	SCIMS	FOUND
S.S.M. 68330	356659.730	6320519.970	-	-	TRAV	PLACED
S.S.M. 68322	356535.185	6320544.985	-	-	TRAV	PLACED
S.S.M. 125999	356667.445	6320596.565	-	-	TRAV	PLACED
S.S.M. 210669	356543.030	6320620.670	-	-	TRAV	PLACED
S.S.M. 210661	356490.475	6320662.150	-	-	TRAV	PLACED
S.S.M. 210663	356460.925	6320477.690	-	-	TRAV	PLACED

COMBINED SEA AND SCALE FACTOR : 0.999847
 SOURCE : NSW SPATIAL SERVICES - SCIMS
 DATE : 28/08/2019
 ZONE 56
 GDA 94

Surveyor: MATTHEW R. SMITH
 Date of Survey: 30/10/2019
 Surveyor's Ref.: 18432, REPORT

PLAN OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 111
 IN D.P. 705880

L.G.A.: CENTRAL COAST
 LOCALITY: HAMLYN TERRACE
 SUBDIVISION No: 92-2019
 Lengths are in metres. Reduction Ratio 1:1250

Registered

 12/03/2020

DP1261745

10	20	30	40	50	Table of mm	90	100	110	120	130	140
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Item No: 2.4
Title: Classification of Land at 40 Fairmont Boulevard, Lot 97 DP 1261646, Hamlyn Terrace
Department: Innovation and Futures

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: SC/50/2019 - D13957237
Author: Simone Barwick, Property Officer Land Sales Acquisitions
Susan Loder, Property Officer
Paul Forster, Section Manager, Property and Infrastructure
Manager: Jamie Barclay, Unit Manager, Economic Development and Project Delivery
Executive: Ricardo Martello, Executive Manager Innovation and Futures

Summary

Approval is sought to classify the land known as Drainage Reserve, Lot 97 DP 1261646 No 40 Fairmont Boulevard, Hamlyn Terrace as Operational Land.

Recommendation

- 1 That Council classify the land known as Lot 97 DP 126146 No 40 Fairmont Boulevard, Hamlyn Terrace as Operational Land pursuant to the Local Government Act 1993.**
- 2 That Council note that:**
 - a Nothing in the above resolution authorises the sale of the subject land (section 377(1)(h) of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that any sale of land can only be by resolution of Council).**
 - b Section 31 (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that Council must not resolve that land be classified as operational land if the resolution is inconsistent with the terms of any trust applying to the land.**

Context

Lirun Developments Pty Ltd was required to make provision for drainage reserve as part of its development of 97 residential lots from the subdivision of Lot 1 DP 181839 – Former Golf Driving Range, Lot 97 in the plan of subdivision at Pacific Highway, Hamlyn Terrace, has been transferred to Council as drainage land in accordance with condition of development consent DA/245/2017 requiring transfer of the drainage land.

2.4 Classification of Land at 40 Fairmont Boulevard, Lot 97 DP 1261646, Hamlyn Terrace (contd)

The land affected by the classification as operational land is:

Lot 97 DP 1261646

Drainage land should be classified as Operational Land in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 subsection 31. Operational land is to be applied to land that is for a service function of Council and not available for use by the general public.

Current Status

Under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council may, before it acquires land or within three months after it acquires land, resolve that the land be classified as Community Land or Operational Land. Any land acquired by Council that is not classified within the three-month period is taken to have been classified as Community Land.

Under Section 34 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is required to give public notice of the proposal to classify land for a period of 28 days before confirming classification. If no adverse submission is received, Council may resolve to adopt the classification.

Public Notice was given on 8 May 2020 of the proposal to classify Lot 97 as Operational Land and no submissions were received to date.

It is proposed to classify Lot 97 as Operational Land required for drainage purposes.

The Local Government Act 1993 Part 2 Notes – Public Land provides that “the purpose of classification is to identify land that is to be kept for use by the general public (community) and that land is for operational functions of Council (operational). Operational land would ordinarily comprise land which facilitates the carrying out of functions by a Council or land which may not be open to the general public.”

Consultation

Public Notice of the proposal to classify Lot 97 as Operational Land was given on 8 May and no submissions were received to date.

Financial Impact

There is no cost to Council to classify Lot 97.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

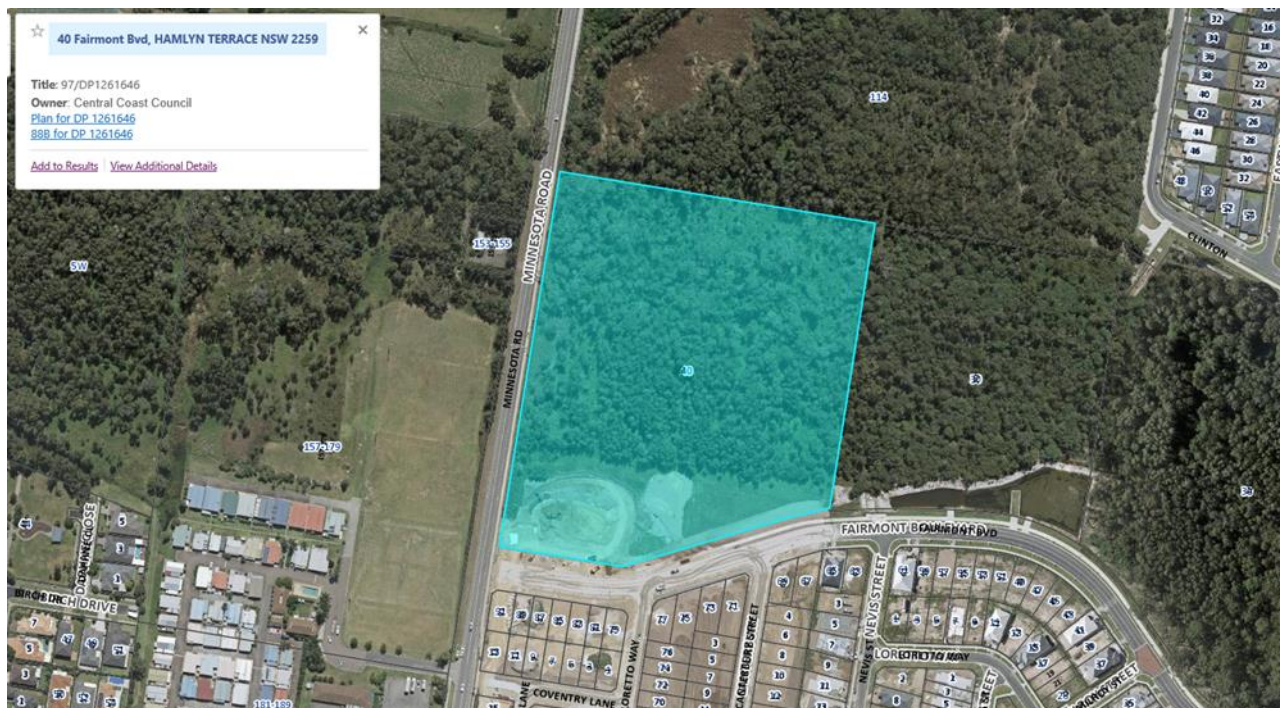
Section 31 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to resolve to classify land within three months of acquisition. Classification of Lot 97 must be resolved on or before 9 August 2020 otherwise will default to the classification of community.

2.4 Classification of Land at 40 Fairmont Boulevard, Lot 97 DP 1261646, Hamlyn Terrace (contd)

31 Classification of land acquired after 1 July 1993

- (1) This section applies to land that is acquired by a council after the commencement of this Division, other than:
 - (a) land to which the [Crown Lands Act 1989](#) or the [Crown Land Management Act 2016](#) applied before the acquisition and continues to apply after the acquisition, and
 - (b) land that is acquired for the purpose of a road.
- (2) Before a council acquires land, or within 3 months after it acquires land, a council may resolve (in accordance with this Part) that the land be classified as community land or operational land.
- (2A) Any land acquired by a council that is not classified under subsection (2) is, at the end of the period of 3 months referred to in that subsection, taken to have been classified under a local environmental plan as community land.

Location Plan showing Lot 97 as Drainage Reserve Choose Themes



Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal H: Delivering essential infrastructure

**2.4 Classification of Land at 40 Fairmont Boulevard, Lot 97 DP 1261646,
Hamlyn Terrace (contd)**

R-H1: Solve road and drainage problem areas and partner with the State Government to improve road conditions across the region.

Attachments

1 DP 1261646 D13957250

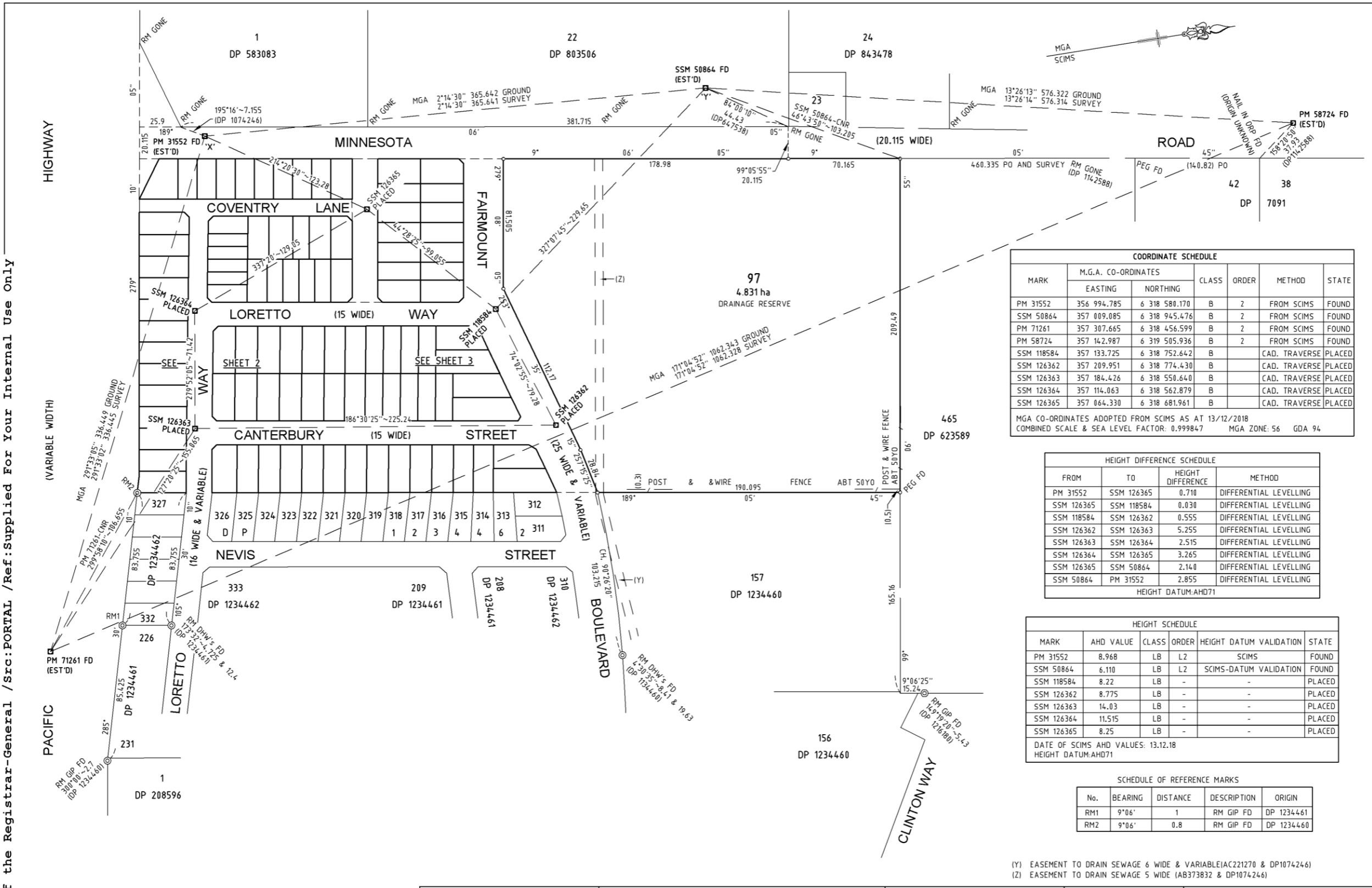
PLAN FORM 2 (A2)

DP1261646

WARNING: CREASING OR FOLDING WILL LEAD TO REJECTION

ePlan SHEET 1 OF 3 SHEETS

Box: e-DeX / Doc: DP 1261646 P / Rev: 06-Mar-2020 / NSW IRS / Pgs: ALL / Prt: 07-Mar-2020 01:11 / Seq: 1 of 10
 © Office of the Registrar-General / Src: PORTAL / Ref: Supplied For Your Internal Use Only



COORDINATE SCHEDULE						
MARK	M.G.A. CO-ORDINATES		CLASS	ORDER	METHOD	STATE
	EASTING	NORTHING				
PM 31552	356 994.785	6 318 580.170	B	2	FROM SCIMS	FOUND
SSM 50864	357 009.085	6 318 945.476	B	2	FROM SCIMS	FOUND
PM 71261	357 307.665	6 318 456.599	B	2	FROM SCIMS	FOUND
PM 58724	357 142.987	6 319 505.936	B	2	FROM SCIMS	FOUND
SSM 118584	357 133.725	6 318 752.642	B	-	CAD. TRAVERSE	PLACED
SSM 126362	357 209.951	6 318 774.430	B	-	CAD. TRAVERSE	PLACED
SSM 126363	357 184.426	6 318 550.640	B	-	CAD. TRAVERSE	PLACED
SSM 126364	357 114.063	6 318 562.879	B	-	CAD. TRAVERSE	PLACED
SSM 126365	357 064.330	6 318 681.961	B	-	CAD. TRAVERSE	PLACED

MGA CO-ORDINATES ADOPTED FROM SCIMS AS AT 13/12/2018
 COMBINED SCALE & SEA LEVEL FACTOR: 0.999847 MGA ZONE: 56 GDA 94

HEIGHT DIFFERENCE SCHEDULE			
FROM	TO	HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	METHOD
PM 31552	SSM 126365	0.710	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
SSM 126365	SSM 118584	0.030	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
SSM 118584	SSM 126362	0.555	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
SSM 126362	SSM 126363	5.255	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
SSM 126363	SSM 126364	2.515	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
SSM 126364	SSM 126365	3.265	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
SSM 126365	SSM 50864	2.140	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING
SSM 50864	PM 31552	2.855	DIFFERENTIAL LEVELLING

HEIGHT DATUM: AHD71

HEIGHT SCHEDULE					
MARK	AHD VALUE	CLASS	ORDER	HEIGHT DATUM VALIDATION	STATE
PM 31552	8.968	LB	L2	SCIMS	FOUND
SSM 50864	6.110	LB	L2	SCIMS-DATUM VALIDATION	FOUND
SSM 118584	8.22	LB	-	-	PLACED
SSM 126362	8.775	LB	-	-	PLACED
SSM 126363	14.03	LB	-	-	PLACED
SSM 126364	11.515	LB	-	-	PLACED
SSM 126365	8.25	LB	-	-	PLACED

DATE OF SCIMS AHD VALUES: 13.12.18
 HEIGHT DATUM: AHD71

SCHEDULE OF REFERENCE MARKS				
No.	BEARING	DISTANCE	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN
RM1	9°06'	1	RM GIP FD	DP 1234461
RM2	9°06'	0.8	RM GIP FD	DP 1234460

(Y) EASEMENT TO DRAIN SEWAGE 6 WIDE & VARIABLE | AC221270 & DP1074246
 (Z) EASEMENT TO DRAIN SEWAGE 5 WIDE (AB373832 & DP1074246)

SURVEYOR: Name: DAVID A SMITH Date: 03.06.19 Reference: 1801667-DP-001-B	PLAN HEADING PLAN OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 1DP 181839	LGA: CENTRAL COAST Locality: HAMLIN TERRACE Reduction Ratio: 1: 1500 Lengths are in metres	REGISTERED 6/03/2020	DP1261646
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Item No: 2.5
Title: Making and Fixing of 2020-21 Rates and Charges
Department: Finance

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2004/06604 - D13973659
Author: Melissa McCulloch, Acting Unit Manager, Financial Services
Executive: Carlton Oldfield, Acting Chief Financial Officer

Summary

This report proposes the making of Ordinary Rates, Special Rates and Waste Management Annual Charges for the 2020-21 rating and financial year.

Recommendation

- 1 That Council note rate and charge rebates to pensioners are prescribed by s. 575 of the Local Government Act 1993.**
- 2 That Council is of the opinion that all rateable land that is used for business purposes and categorised as such in accordance with s. 518 of the Local Government Act 1993 will derive benefit from the provision of certain facilities, services and activities contributing to business and tourism development that are funded in part or whole by a Business/Tourism Development Special Rate (as set out in attachment 1).**
- 3 That Council is of the opinion that the following rateable land will derive benefit from the activities that are funded in part or whole by the Gosford Parking Special Rate and/or funded in whole or in part by the Gosford Central Business District Special Rate, which (respectively) fund the operation and maintenance of the Baker Street Parking Station and the provision of facilities, services and activities that contribute to business and tourism development in the area:**
 - a) Rateable land within Registered Plan 97/6.**
 - b) Rateable land within the area indicated in the Gosford Central Business District Improvement and Parking Area map (as set out in attachment 2):**
 - i. Commencing west of Mann Street, at Lot 1 DP 156665, bounded by Etna, Hills, Watt and Faunce Streets; and**
 - ii. From Henry Parry Drive to Allotment 1, Section 96, Town of Gosford to the intersection of Erina Street, north to Donnison Street, west of Henry Parry Drive to Georgiana Terrace to include unnamed lane in DP 13734; and**

- a) *All land used for business purposes and categorised as such in accordance with s. 518 of the Local Government Act 1993 in the suburb known as Watanobbi.*
- b) *All land used for business purposes and categorised as such in accordance with s. 518 of the Local Government Act 1993 in the suburb known as Wyong, bounded by the following:*
- i. *North of the Wyong River from Tacoma in the east to the M1 Freeway in the west;*
 - ii. *East of the M1 Freeway from the Wyong River to the suburb boundary between Wyong and Warnervale but to exclude Lot 32 DP 814964;*
 - iii. *South of the northern Wyong boundary to its intersection with the Pacific Highway and then south of the Pacific Highway to the intersection of Pollock Avenue, but to include the land known as Lot 400 DP 1114793 (being to the north of the Pacific Highway);*
 - iv. *The eastern boundary of the suburb of Wyong from Johns Road to Wyong River.*

- 7 *That Council resolve to make, in respect of land within the former Gosford Local Government Area, the following ordinary rates for the 2020-21 rating and financial year where such rates consist of an ad valorem amount and subject to a minimum amount, pursuant to ss. 492-494, 497-498, 533-535 and 543 (inclusive) of the Local Government Act 1993:*

<i>Ordinary Rate Category Section 493</i>	<i>Ordinary Rate Sub Category Section 529</i>	<i>Ad Valorem Amount (cents in the \$)</i>	<i>Minimum Rate Amount</i>
<i>Farmland</i>	-	<i>0.119365</i>	<i>\$554.00</i>
<i>Residential</i>	-	<i>0.235395</i>	<i>\$554.00</i>
<i>Residential</i>	<i>Flood</i>	<i>0.271689</i>	<i>\$283.00</i>
<i>Business</i>	-	<i>0.417268</i>	<i>\$554.00</i>

- 8 *That Council resolve to make, in respect of land within the former Wyong Local Government Area, the following ordinary rates for the 2020-21 rating and financial year consisting of an ad valorem amount and subject to a minimum amount, pursuant to sections 492-494, 497-498, 533-535 and 543 (inclusive) of the Local Government Act 1993 (refer attachment 6):*

<i>Ordinary Rate Category Section 493</i>	<i>Ordinary Rate Sub Category Section 529</i>	<i>Ad Valorem Amount (cents in the \$)</i>	<i>Minimum Rate Amount</i>
<i>Farmland</i>	-	<i>0.245081</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>
<i>Residential</i>	-	<i>0.386287</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>
<i>Mining</i>	-	<i>14.874325</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>

Ordinary Rate Category Section 493	Ordinary Rate Sub Category Section 529	Ad Valorem Amount (cents in the \$)	Minimum Rate Amount
Ordinary Rate Category Section 493	Ordinary Rate Sub Category Section 529	Ad Valorem Amount (cents in the \$)	Minimum Rate Amount
Business	-	0.842029	\$300.00
Business	Business Major Retail	1.266792	\$300.00
Business	Business Local Retail	1.055717	\$300.00

- 9 ***That Council resolve to make, the following special rates for the 2020-21 rating and financial year consisting of an ad valorem amount, pursuant to ss. 492, 495, 497-500, 535-538 and 543 (inclusive) of the Local Government Act 1993 where those special rates are to apply only to and be levied on only the rateable land identified in the table below:***

Special Rate	Base Amount	Ad Valorem Amount (cents in the \$)	Special rate applies to the following rateable land
Business/Tourism Development	-	0.044161	All rateable land identified in resolution 1
Gosford Parking	-	0.119652	All rateable land identified in resolution 2
Gosford Central Business District Improvement	-	0.312151	All rateable land identified in resolution 2
The Entrance Area	\$95.00	0.321766	All rateable land identified in resolution 3
Toukley Area	\$95.00	0.236237	All rateable land identified in resolution 4
Wyong Area	\$95.00	0.086428	All rateable land identified in resolution 5

- 10 ***That Council apply land valuations, with a base date 1 July 2019, for rating purposes in the 2020-21 rating and financial year.***
- 11 ***That Council resolve to make, the following annual domestic waste management service charges for the 2020-21 rating and financial year, pursuant to ss. 496 and 535 of the Local Government Act 1993 (refer attachment 7):***

Name	Charge Amount
Domestic Waste Management - Availability Charge	\$71.00
Domestic Waste Management Service – Eastern Area	\$512.00

Name	Charge Amount
Domestic Waste Management Service – Western Area	\$454.00
Name	Charge Amount
Domestic Waste Management Service – 140 litre to 240 litre Waste Upgrade	\$136.00
Domestic Waste Management Service – 140 litre to 360 litre Waste Upgrade	\$272.00
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional 140 litre Waste Bin Service	\$269.00
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional 240 litre Waste Bin Service	\$407.00
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional 360 litre Waste Bin Service	\$544.00
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional 240 litre Recycling Bin Service	\$102.00
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional 360 litre Recycling Bin Service	\$136.00
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional 240 litre Vegetation Bin Service	\$110.00
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 140 litre Waste Bin - price per service	\$18.65
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 240 litre Waste Bin - price per service	\$19.85
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 360 litre Waste Bin - price per service	\$21.05
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 660 litre Waste Bin - price per service	\$38.60
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 1.1 cubic meter Waste Bin - price per service	\$64.30
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 1.5 cubic meter Waste Bin - price per service	\$87.70
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 240 litre Recycling Bin - price per service	\$19.85
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 360 litre Recycling Bin - price per service	\$21.05
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 660 litre Recycling Bin - price per service	\$38.60
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 1.1 cubic meter Recycling Bin - price per service	\$64.30
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 1.5 cubic meter Recycling Bin - price per service	\$87.70
Domestic Waste Management Service – Additional Short Term Extra Service – 240 litre Vegetation Bin - price per service	\$19.85

- 12 *That Council provide domestic waste management services only to parcels of land which have current Council consent or approval for a residential building.*
- 13 *That Council resolve to make, the changes set out in the adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan for the 2020-21 financial year including but not limited to the following waste management charges for the 2020-21 rating and financial year, pursuant to ss. 501 and 535 of the Local Government Act 1993:*

Name	Charge Amount
Waste Management Service – 140 litre Waste Bin Service	\$381.00
Waste Management Service – 240 litre Waste Bin Service	\$509.00
Waste Management Service - 360 litre Waste Bin Service	\$627.00
Waste Management Service - 660 litre Waste Bin Service	\$2,173.00
Waste Management Service - 1.1 cubic metre Waste Bin Service	\$3,033.00
Waste Management Service - 1.5 cubic metre Waste Bin Service	\$4,085.00
Waste Management Service – 240 litre Recycling Bin Service	\$102.00
Waste Management Service – 360 litre Recycling Bin Service	\$136.00
Waste Management Service – 660 litre Recycling Bin Service	\$281.00
Waste Management Service – 1.1 cubic meter Recycling Bin Service	\$467.00
Waste Management Service – 1.5 cubic meter Recycling Bin Service	\$638.00
Waste Management Service –240 litre Vegetation Bin Service	\$110.00

- 14 *That Council apply, a proportional charge adjustment, calculated on a daily basis, where domestic waste management services or waste management services commence or cease during the 2020-21 rating year.*
- 15 *That, for the period between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021 in respect to overdue rates and charges, Council charge the lesser of the following:*
- a) *the maximum rate of interest as determined by the Minister for Local Government under s. 566(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, being 0% per annum for the period 1 July to December 2020 and 7% for the period 1 January to 30 June 2021; or*
 - b) *the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges under s. 356 of the Water Management Act 2000, being the rate applicable on an unpaid judgment of the Supreme Court;*

- c) ***and this interest to be calculated on a daily basis using the simple interest method in accordance with s. 566 of the Local Government Act 1993.***

Context

The draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for the 2020-21 financial year (“draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan”) contains Council’s draft operational activities and projects, associated budgets, statement of revenue and fees and charges, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993* (“LG Act”). The draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan was on public exhibition between 31 March 2020 and 4 May 2020 and will be a report to the Extraordinary Meeting of Council to be conducted on 29 June 2020.

Section 218CB of the LG Act provides the Minister for Local Government with the power to direct Council to maintain the rate paths that were in place prior to the amalgamation of the former Gosford and Wyong Councils on 12 May 2016 and to do so until 30 June 2020. The Minister has exercised that power on 18 May 2017, with notification issued in Government Gazette No 59 of 26 May 2017. The *Local Government Amendment Act 2019* extended this timeframe by an additional year (optional), Central Coast Council is required to investigate and implement a new rating structure by 1 July 2021.

In accordance with the LG Act, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) approved a rate peg increase of 2.6% for 2020-21. This means that Council may increase total rate revenue in 2020-21 by 2.6% without any additional approval. The rate peg increase of 2.6% will be applied to rates on all rateable land within the Central Coast Local Government Area.

The Statement of Revenue that forms part of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan complies with that direction, and so the rating structures, categories and sub-categories of the former Gosford and Wyong Councils, and the 2020-21 rate peg set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), has been applied.

Revaluation of Land

For rating purposes Council is required to use the latest available land values, provided to Council by the NSW Valuer General (VG), under provisions of the *Valuation of Land Act 1916*.

The VG conducted a revaluation of all land within the Central Coast Local Government Area as at 1 July 2019. For rating purposes in the 2020-21 rating and financial year, Council must use these valuations which have a base date of 1 July 2019.

A revaluation does not change the total amount of rates Council can collect, it does however result in a re-distribution of the total amount of rates collected from individual properties. As a direct result of the NSW Valuer General’s revaluation, properties with large increases in land value will experience rate increases well above the IPART approved rate pegging increase of 2.6%. As Council’s total rates income can only increase by the IPART approved 2.6%, other ratepayers will see increases of less than 2.6% and some will see rate decreases.

Special Rates

Before making special rates pursuant to s. 495 of the LG Act, Council must form an opinion that the land being levied with a special rate will provide;

- benefits or will benefit from, or
- contributes or will contribute to the need for, or
- has or will have access to the works, services, facilities or activities being funded by the special rate.

Council previously adopted the following special rates:

Special Rate	Maps	Applies In
Business/Tourism Development	Attachment 1	Former Gosford LGA
Gosford Parking	Attachment 2	Former Gosford LGA
Gosford Central Business District Improvement	Attachment 2	Former Gosford LGA
The Entrance Area	Attachment 3	Former Wyong LGA
Toukley Area	Attachment 4	Former Wyong LGA
Wyong Area	Attachment 5	Former Wyong LGA

It is proposed that Council continue these Special Rates in 2020-21 in the same format and structure as applied in 2019-20 with increases in the base amounts (where applicable) aligned with the rate peg increase of 2.6% approved by IPART for 2020-21.

Proposal

Council must resolve to make rates and charges, before those rates and charges can be levied: s.535 of the LG Act. Those resolutions are subject to a number of specific requirements, one of which is the requirement (under s.548 of the LG Act) that the minimum rate that can be imposed, when the rate includes an ad valorem amount, is \$554.00: cl. 126 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, when amended on the commencement of the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Minimum Rates) Regulation (No 2) 2018* on 1 July 2019. The minimum rate set out in proposed resolutions 7 and 8 in this paper comply with that requirement.

Consultation

As stated above the draft Delivery and *Operational Plan*, was publicly exhibited from 31 March 2020 – 4 May 2020.

During that exhibition, the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2020-21 and draft Resourcing Strategy were displayed at:

2.5 Making and Fixing of 2020-21 Rates and Charges (contd)

- Libraries – Bateau Bay, Erina, Gosford, Kariong, Kincumber, Lake Haven, The Entrance, Tuggerah, Umina and Woy Woy
- Civic Centres – Gosford and Wyong
- Online – Your Voice Our Coast engagement hub

Exhibition activities included:

- Advertisement in local print media, including the Central Coast Express (north and south editions)
- Media releases
- Radio advertisements
- Facebook and Twitter mentions

Financial Impact

The proposed 2020-21 budget (prior to finalisation of IPART pricing determination for water, sewerage and drainage charges) allows for \$551.6M in operating income of which the rates and annual charges as outlined in this report (excluding water, sewer and drainage charges) and detailed in the draft Delivery and Operational Plan is forecast to be \$335.5M, representing approximately 60.8% of Council's total operating revenue for 2020-21.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Choose Focus Area

R-G4: Serve the community by providing great customer experience, value for money and quality services.

Critical Dates

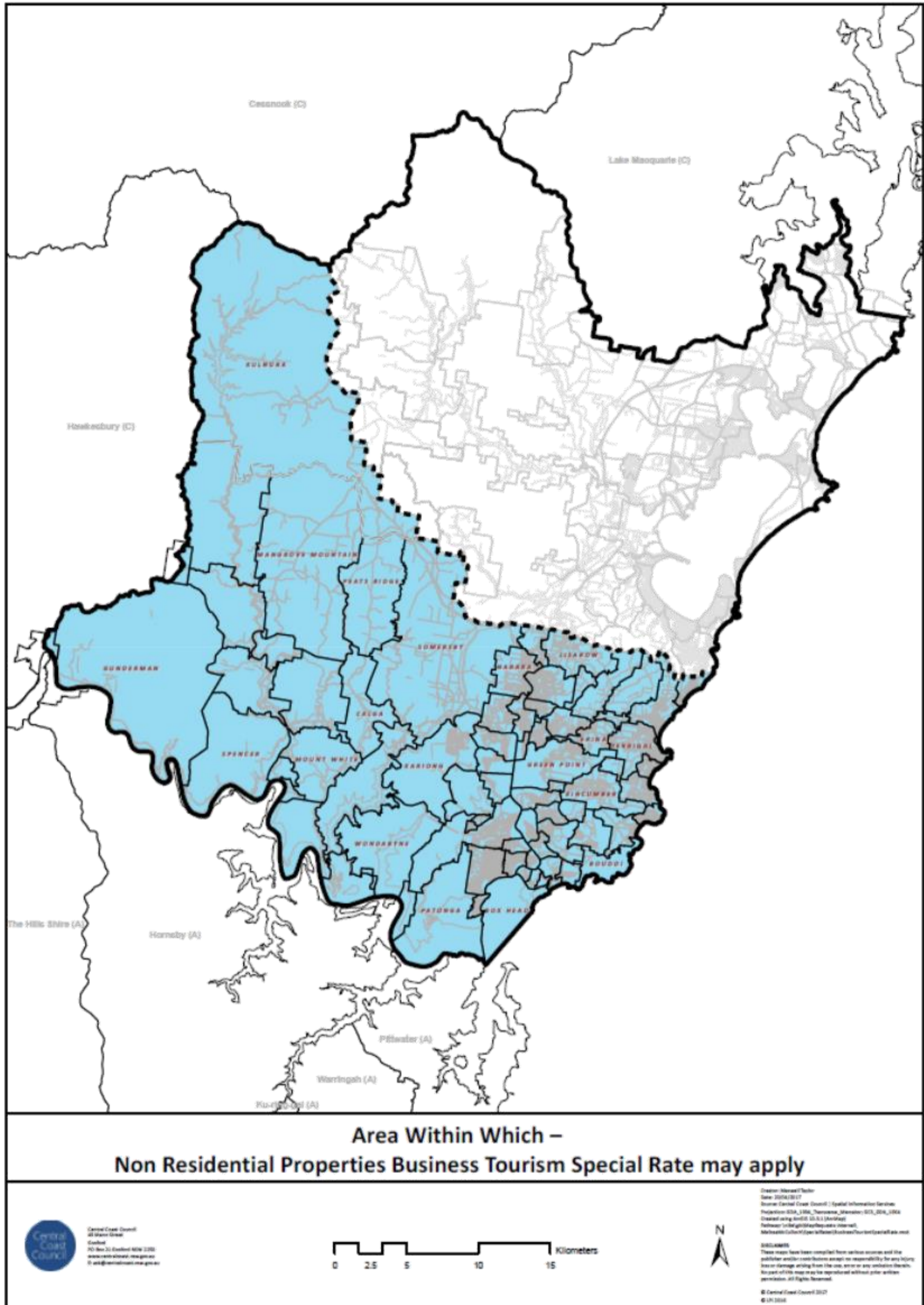
Council resolving to adopt the making the rates paper will allow for rates to be issued by 31 July 2020 in line with previous years.

Note Circular 20-20 from the Office of Local Government has provided an automatic extension to the payment date for ratepayers out to 30 September 2020. This allows Council to extend its issue date out to the 1 September. It is our recommendation Council issue the rates by the 31 July 2020 in line with previous years.

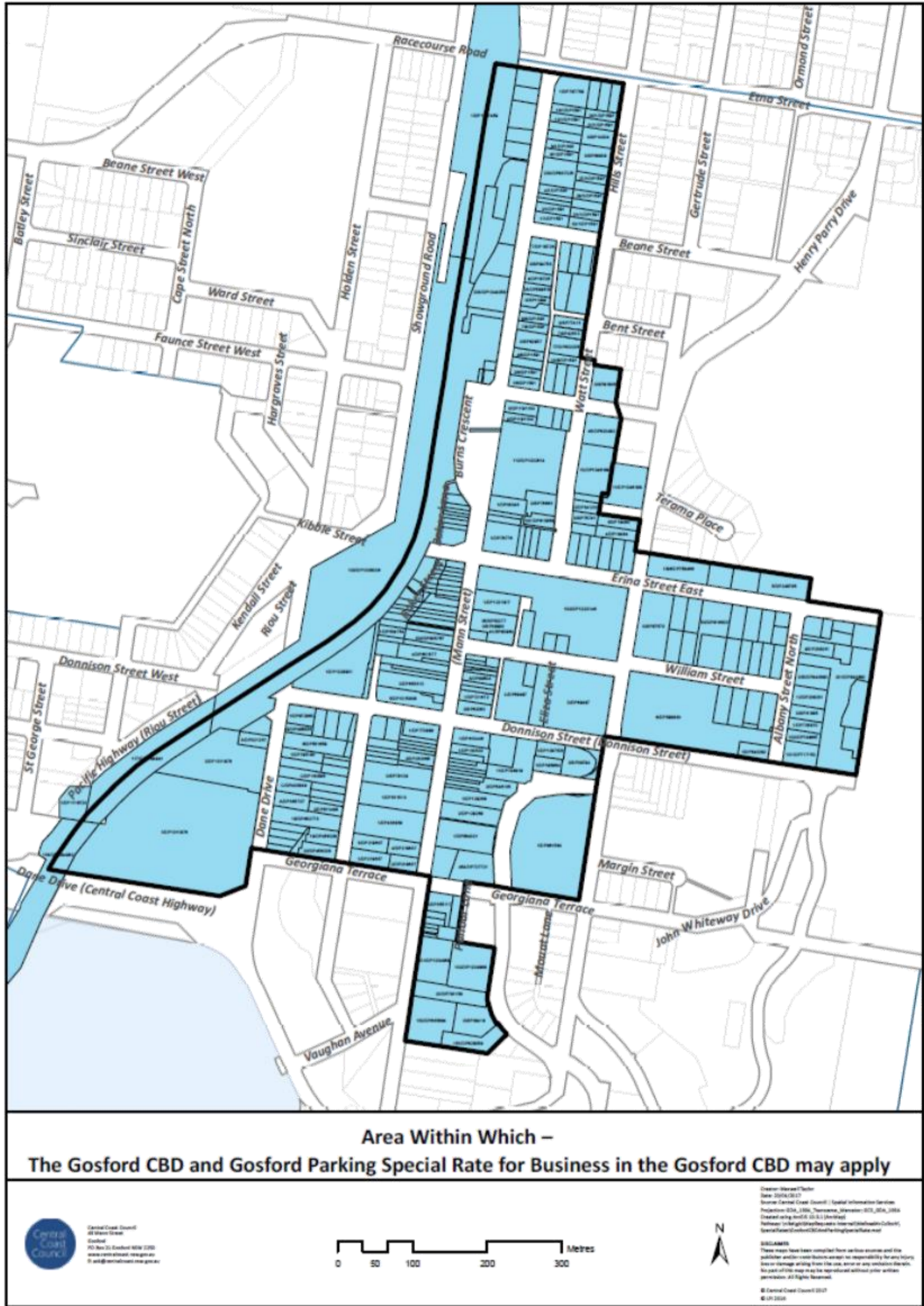
Attachments

1	Gosford Business Tourism Special Rate	D12737358
2	Gosford Central Business District Improvement and Parking Special Rate Map	D12737353
3	The Entrance Area Special Rate Map - Non Residential Properties 5	D1273735
4	Toukley Area Special Rate Map - Non Residential Properties	D12737356
5	Wyong Area Special Rate Map - Non Residential Properties	D12737357
6	Business Sub-Category Rates Maps	D12737359
7	Domestic Waste Management Charge Map	D12737360

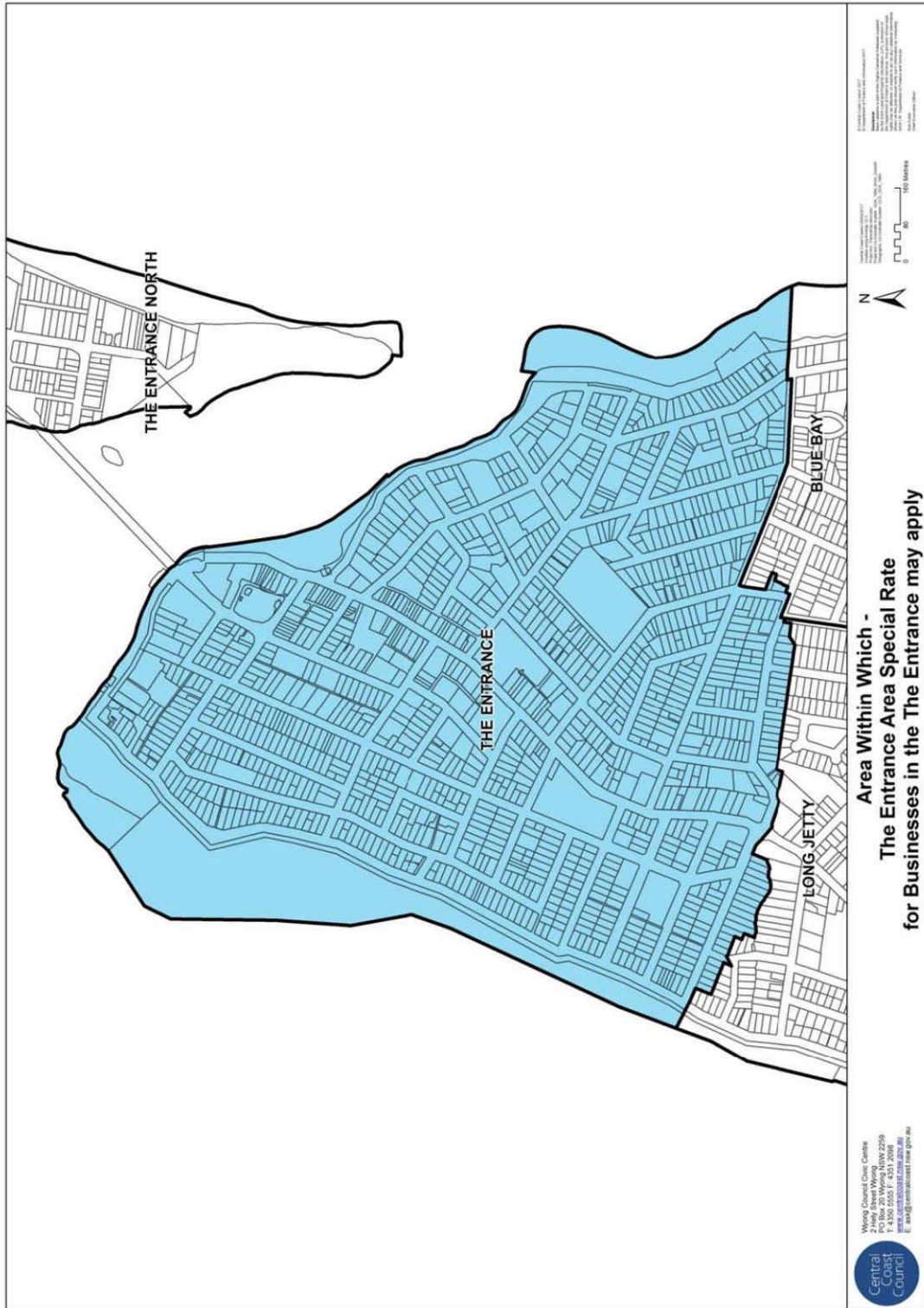
Business Tourism Special Rate



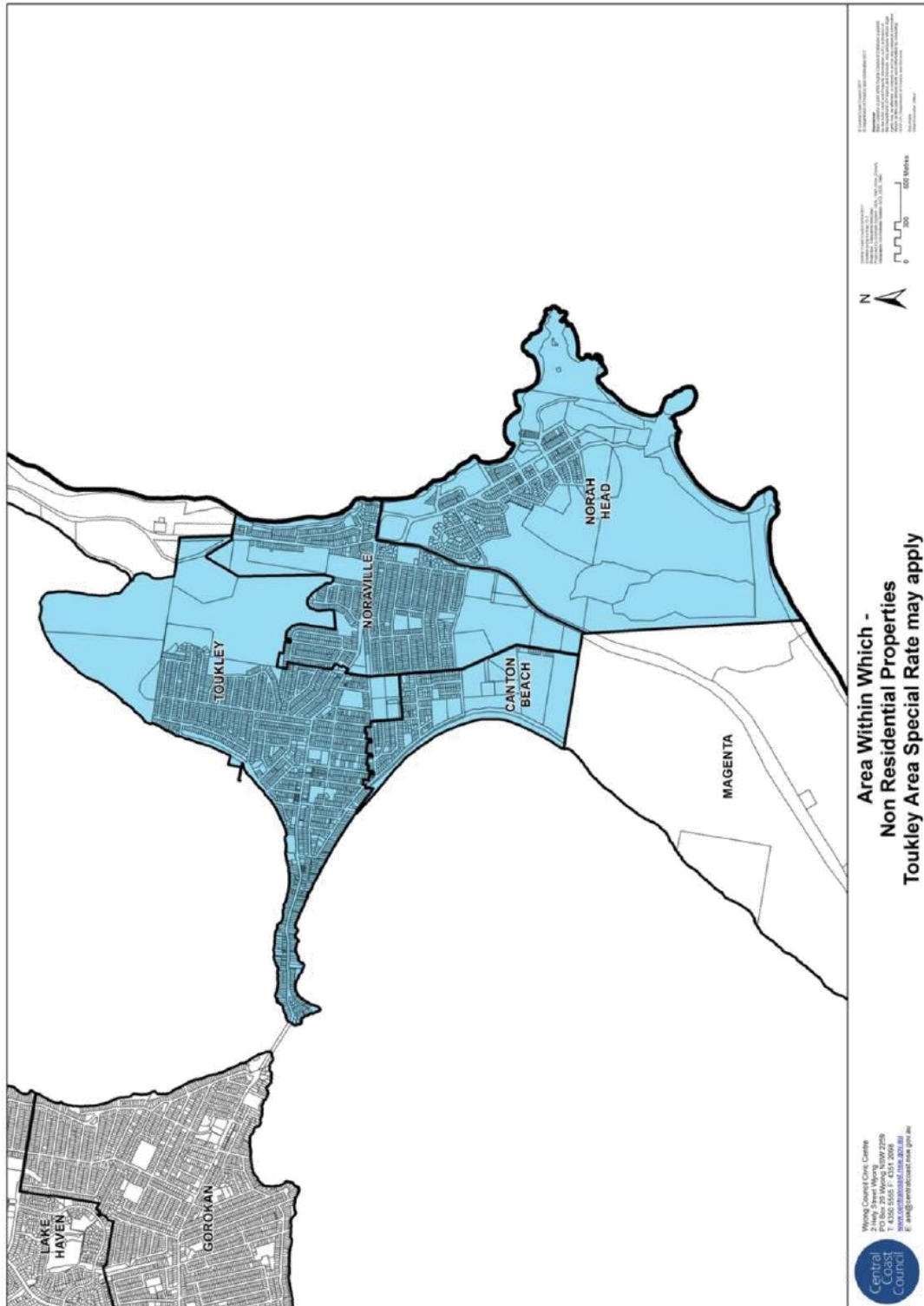
Gosford CBD Special Rate and Gosford Parking Special Rate



The Entrance Special Rate – Businesses in The Entrance



Toukley Area Special Rate



Woodward Drive Centre
2 Hwy Street Weyang
T: 4352 5555 F: 4351 3008
www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au
info@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

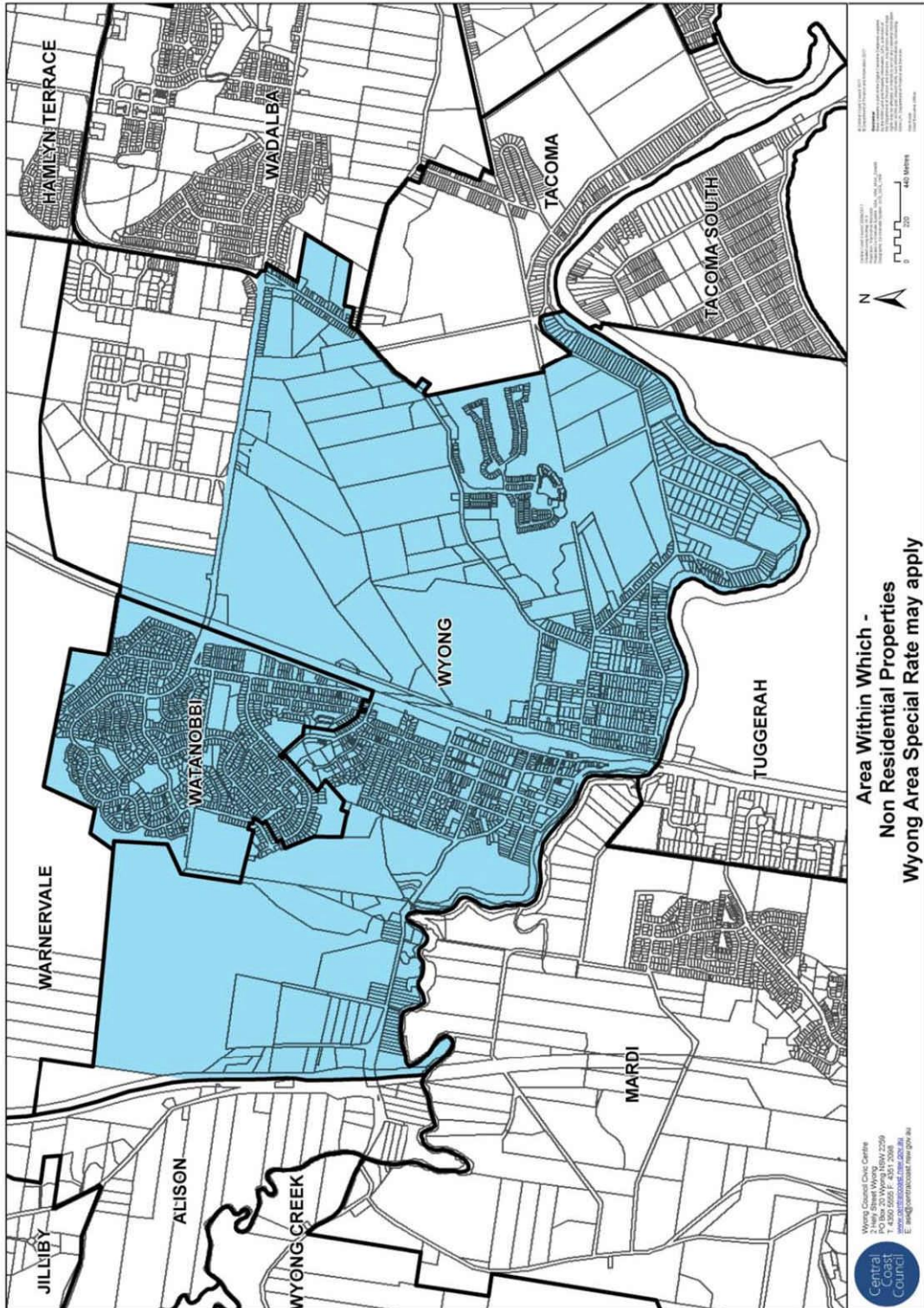


Area Within Which -
Non Residential Properties
Toukley Area Special Rate may apply

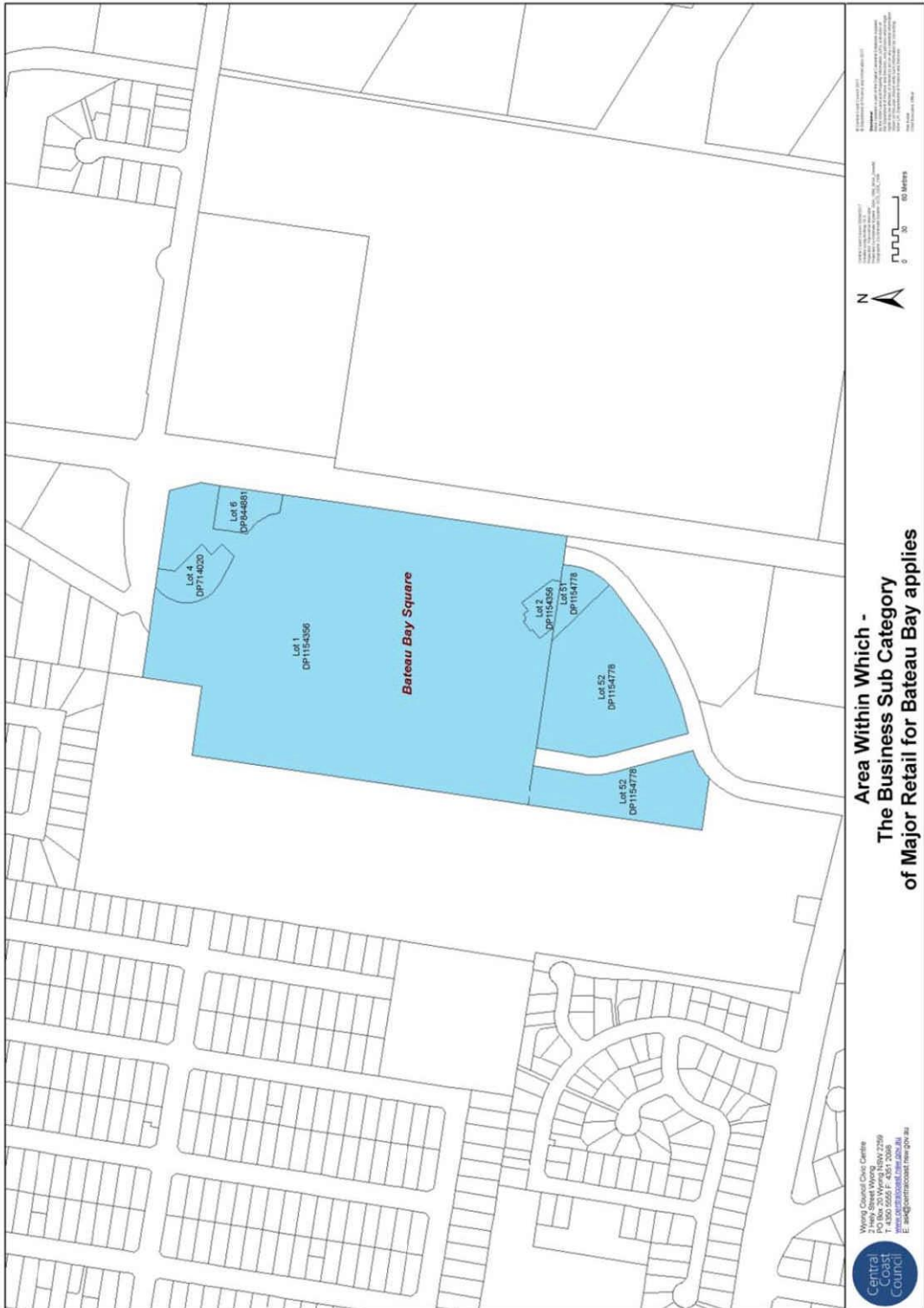


Map prepared by:
Geographic Information Systems
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Central Coast Council
2018

Wyong Area Special Rate



Business Major Retail - Bateau Bay



Business Major Retail – Lake Haven



Area within which the
Business Sub-Category of Major Retail
for Lake Haven Shopping Centre and Mega Centre applies

Warrumbidgee Council
2 New Street Warrumbidgee NSW 2680
T: 4350 5555 F: 4351 2000
www.warrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au
E: info@warrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au



Business Major Retail – Westfield Tuggerah



Wing Council Civic Centre
 2 New Street Wang
 WANGSWORTH VIC 3177
 T: 4300 5555 F: 451 2048
 www.wingcouncil.vic.gov.au
 © Wing Council 2018

Business Local Retail – Chittaway Bay



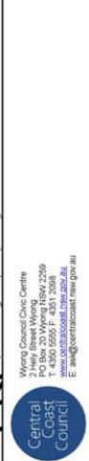
Wyang Council Civic Centre
PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259
Ph: 4352 0200 F: 4351 3699
E: info@wyangcouncil.nsw.gov.au

Area within which the
Business Sub-Category of Local Retail
for Chittaway Bay applies

0 10 20 Meters



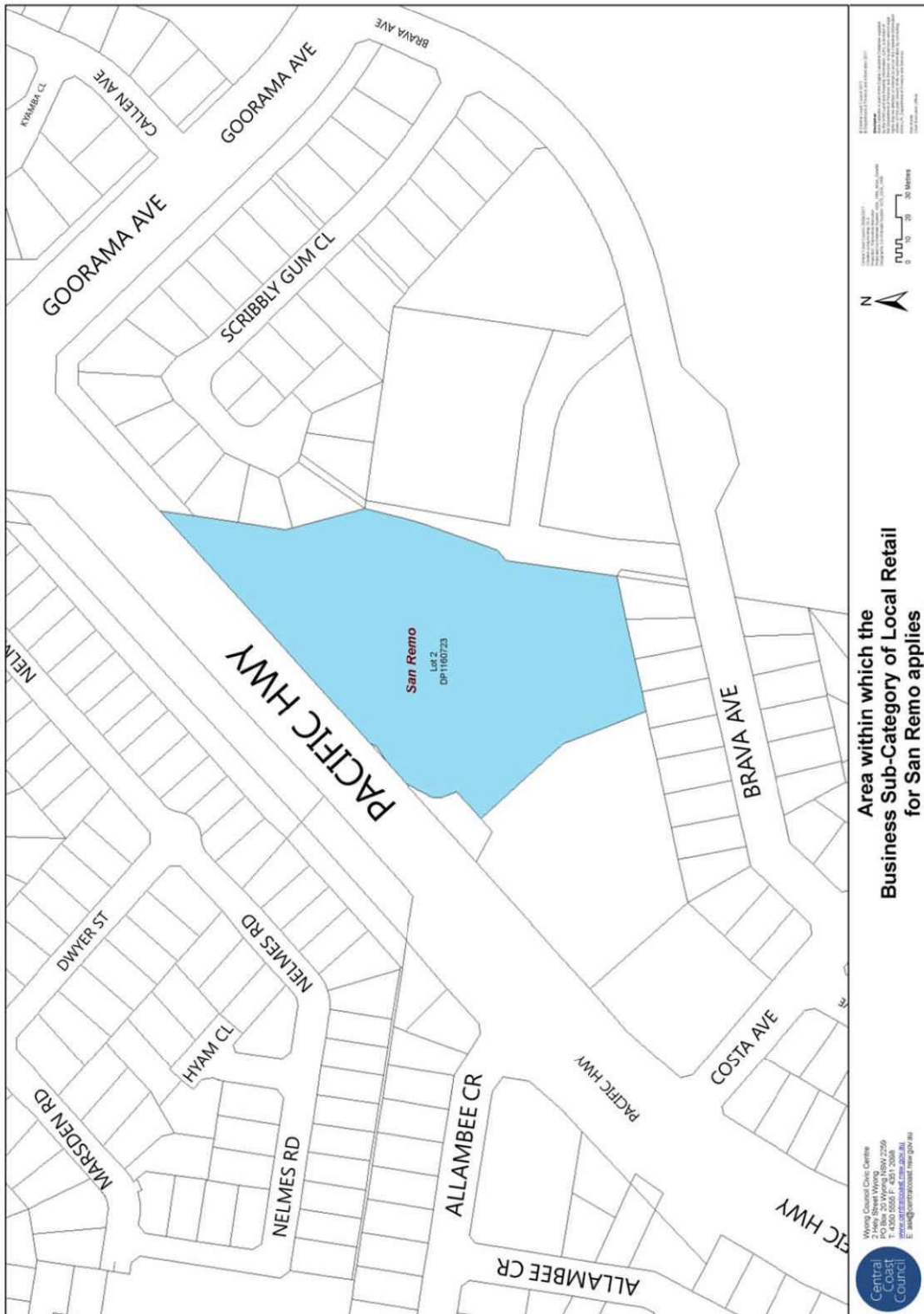
Wyang Council Civic Centre
PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259
Ph: 4352 0200 F: 4351 3699
E: info@wyangcouncil.nsw.gov.au



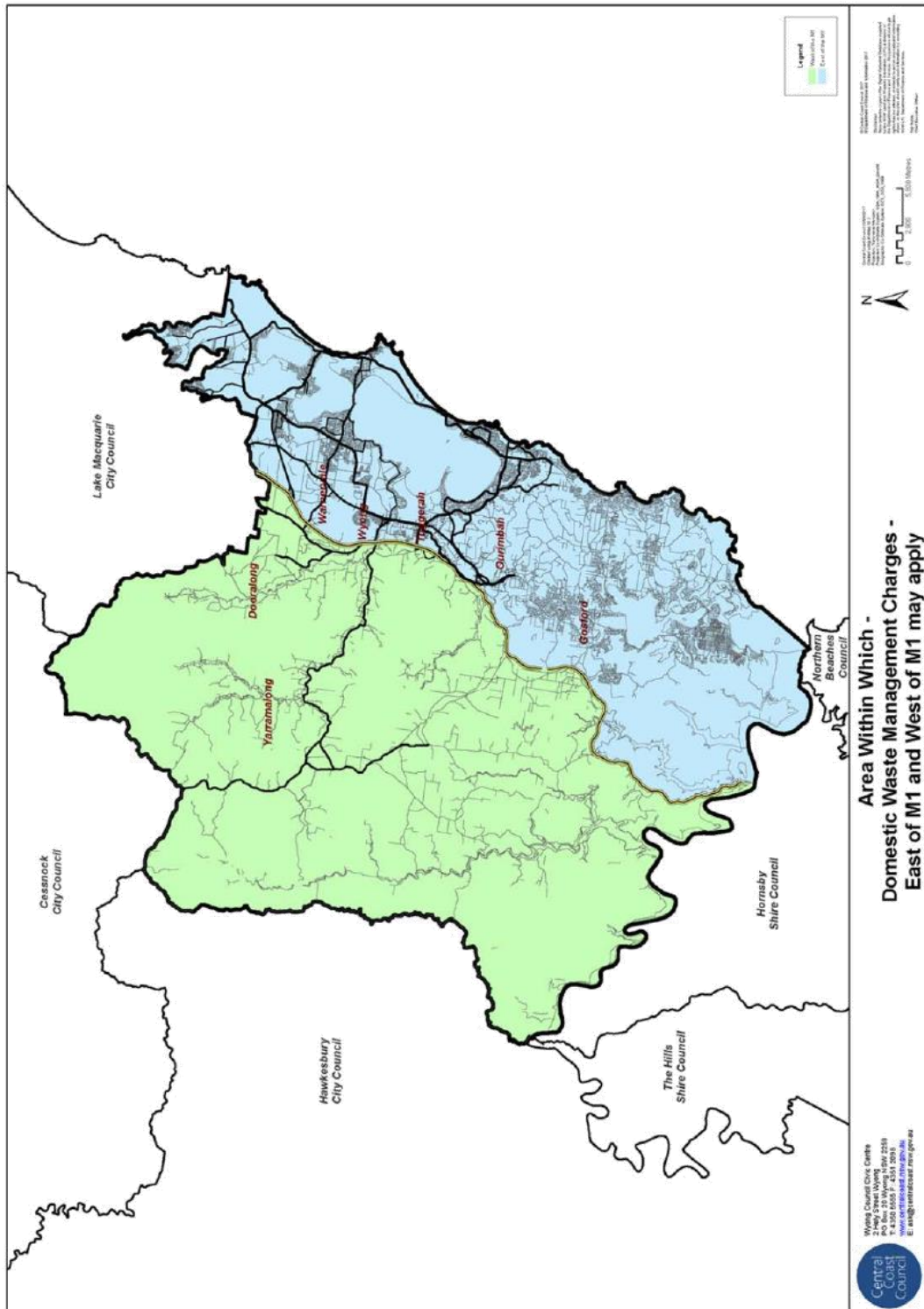
Business Local Retail – Lake Munmorah



Business Local Retail – San Remo



Domestic waste management charges Eastern area and Western area





Item No: 2.6
Title: Draft Drinking Water Quality and Recycled Water Quality Policies for Public Exhibition
Department: Water and Sewer

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2017/01400 - D13995158
Author: Kate Gibbs, Executive Support Officer
Manager: Danielle Hargreaves, Unit Manager Headworks and Treatment
Executive: Jamie Loader, Director Water and Sewer

Summary

This report is for Council to consider placing two draft statutory policies on public exhibition for the purpose of community consultation. They are the:

- Drinking Water Quality Policy; and
- Recycled Water Quality Policy

This report recommends that Council endorse these draft policies for the purposes of public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

Recommendation

- 1 That Council endorse the following draft policies for the purpose of community consultation:***
 - i. Drinking Water Quality Policy***
 - ii. Recycled Water Quality Policy***
- 2 That Council place the above draft policies on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.***
- 3 That Council request the Chief Executive Officer provide a further report back to Council on the outcomes of the public exhibitions.***
- 4 That if a policy receives no substantive submissions during the public exhibition period, Council approve the CEO adopting the draft policy as final, subject to minor administrative updates or corrections.***

Context

This report seeks Council endorsement of two draft policies for the purposes of community consultation. Each of the policies is an update to an existing policy of the former Wyong Shire

2.6 Draft Drinking Water Quality and Recycled Water Quality Policies for Public Exhibition (contd)

Council or Gosford City Council. The public exhibition of these draft policies is part of ongoing efforts to consolidate Council policies before 30 June 2020.

The draft policies do not vary any temporary measures related to COVID-19 that may be in place. They do not intend to change fees and charges.

Drinking Water Quality Policy

The draft Drinking Water Quality Policy is at Attachment 1. This policy is primarily based upon the *Drinking Water Quality Policy* of the former Gosford City Council and the *Policy for Drinking Water Quality* of the former Wyong Shire Council (WSC125) with references to current guidelines and standards. The intent of the revised policy remains the same. It demonstrates Council's commitment to providing continuous supply of drinking water that is consistent with the requirements of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines in consultation with NSW Health.

Recycled Water Quality Policy

The draft Recycled Water Quality Policy is at Attachment 2. This policy is primarily based upon the *Recycled Water Quality Policy* of the former Gosford City Council with references to current guidelines and standards. The intent of the revised policy remains the same. It demonstrates Council's commitment to the responsible and sustainable management and use of recycled water that is consistent with the *Australian Guidelines for Recycled Water*.

Consultation

It is recommended that the exhibition period be for 28 days. Council staff also encourage Councillor input during that time.

Options

- 1 Endorse the two draft policies for the purpose of undertaking public consultation.
- 2 Not endorse either draft policy for the purpose of undertaking public consultation.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal H: Delivering essential infrastructure

R-H4: Plan for adequate and sustainable infrastructure to meet future demand for transport, energy, telecommunications and a secure supply of drinking water.

2.6 Draft Drinking Water Quality and Recycled Water Quality Policies for Public Exhibition (contd)

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Council is aiming to have all policies consolidated by 30 June 2020 or as soon as practicable thereafter.

Attachments

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 1 | Drinking Water Quality Policy - Draft for public exhibition | D13995141 |
| 2 | Recycled Water Quality Policy - Draft for public exhibition | D13995140 |



Drinking Water Quality Policy

June 2020

Policy No: CCC053

Policy owner:	Headworks and Treatment Unit, Water and Sewer
Approved by:	Central Coast Council
Date of approval:	Day June 2020
Policy category:	Statutory
Content Manager No:	DXXXXX
Review by:	March 2022

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate Central Coast Council's (**Council's**) commitment to providing drinking water that is consistent with the requirements of the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG)*, except to the extent that NSW Health specifies otherwise, and other regulatory requirements.
2. This Policy documents Council's commitment to providing continuous supply of safe high-quality drinking water by implementing a Drinking Water Management System (**DWMS**).

Scope

3. This Policy covers all elected members of Council, all personnel employed by Council, any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities, and all activities of the Council.
4. All managers, employees, and contractors involved in the supply of drinking water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the DWMS.

Background

5. This Policy is based on a Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality developed for the water industry under the ADWG.
6. Council developed its DWMS consistent with the *Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality* required under the ADWG in 2018.
7. The DWMS is mandated by the *Public Health Act 2010 (NSW)* and *Public Health Regulation 2012*. The intent of the DWMS is to effectively facilitate the management of risks to drinking water quality.

General

8. Council is committed to managing its water supply effectively to provide continuous supply of safe drinking water that consistently meets the ADWG, except to the extent that NSW Health specifies otherwise, and regulatory requirements.
9. To achieve this, in collaboration and consultation with stakeholders and relevant agencies, Council will:
 - a. implement, maintain and periodically revise the DWMS consistent with the ADWG
 - b. use multiple barrier and risk-based approaches to identify and appropriately manage potential threats to water quality
 - c. manage water quality at all points along the delivery chain from the source to the consumer
 - d. maintain regular monitoring of the quality of drinking water at appropriate locations and effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and promote confidence in the water supply and its management
 - e. participate in relevant research and development activities and join professional associations and industry peak organisations to ensure continued understanding of drinking water quality issues and improvement of performance
 - f. maintain appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability, including investigation of incidents and review of response plans, procedures and protocols
 - g. contribute to the development and setting of industry regulations and guidelines, and other standards relevant to public health and the water cycle
 - h. provide training to employees associated with the catchment, water resources and drinking water systems
 - i. integrate the needs and expectations of our consumers, stakeholders, regulators and employees into our planning and decision-making process
 - j. continually improve our practices by regularly assessing performance against regulatory requirements, corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations

Compliance, monitoring and review

10. Suspected breaches or misuse of this policy are to be reported to the Chief Executive Officer. Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code of Conduct and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct.
11. This Policy will be reviewed, at a minimum, within 6 months of each local government election.
12. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this policy in a recognised Council record-keeping system.

Definitions

13. In this policy:
 - a. **Council:** Central Coast Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies
 - b. **Drinking Water Management System (DWMS):** Documents, procedures and other supporting information for the safe supply of drinking water that satisfies the requirement for a quality assurance program in the *Public Health Act 2010*
 - c. **The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG):** Guidelines promulgated by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2011, and the ongoing updates and revisions

Related resources

14. Legislation:
 - a. Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
 - b. Public Health Act 2010 (NSW)
 - c. Public Health Regulation 2012 (NSW)
15. Associated/Internal documents:
 - a. Council's Code of Conduct
 - b. Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

History of revisions

Amendment history	Details
<p>Original approval authority details</p>	<p>Chief Executive Officer / Council</p> <hr/> <p>XX/XX/20XX <insert Council Meeting date and minute number of resolution adopting the policy <remove if not needed></p> <hr/> <p>This Policy affirms Central Coast Council's commitment to providing continuous supply of safe high-quality drinking water by implementing a Drinking Water Management System. This policy replaces equivalent policies of the former Wyong Shire Council and the former Gosford City Council.</p>
<p>Version # <remove if not needed></p>	<p>XX/XX/20XX <insert Council Meeting date and 'minute number' of resolution adopting the policy <remove if not needed></p> <hr/> <p>CM document number</p> <hr/> <p><i>State reasons for amendments</i></p>



Recycled Water Quality Policy

April 2020

Policy No: CCC054

Policy owner:	Headworks and Treatment Unit, Water and Sewer
Approved by:	Central Coast Council
Date of approval:	Day June 2020
Policy category:	Statutory
Content Manager No:	DXXXXX
Review by:	March 2022

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate Central Coast Council's (Council's) commitment to responsible and sustainable management and use of recycled water that is consistent with the requirements of the [National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling](#), and other regulatory requirements.

Scope

2. This Policy covers all elected members of Council, all personnel employed by Council, any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities, and all activities of the Council.
3. All managers, employees and contractors involved in the supply of recycled water are responsible for understanding, implementing, maintaining and continuously improving the recycled water management system. Membership and participation in professional associations dealing with management and use of recycled water is encouraged.

Background

4. This Policy is based on a template developed for the water industry under the [Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling](#).
5. The Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling are designed to provide an authoritative reference that can be used to support beneficial and sustainable recycling of waters generated from sewage, grey water and stormwater.

General

6. Council supports and promotes the responsible and sustainable management and use of recycled water, and the application of a best practice multi-barrier management approach that consistently meets the [Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling](#), as well as recycled water user and regulatory requirements.
7. To achieve this, in collaboration and consultation with stakeholders and relevant agencies, Council will:
 - a. ensure that protection of public and environmental health is paramount
 - b. apply the principles of sustainability at all points along the delivery chain from source to recycled water use

- c. use a multi-barrier risk-based approach in which potential threats to water quality are identified, assessed and controlled
- d. integrate the needs and expectations of users of recycled water, community stakeholders, regulators and employees into planning and decision-making processes
- e. manage recycled water quality at all points along the delivery chain from source to recycled water user
- f. prepare, implement and periodically review end-user recycled water management plan and recycled water risk management plan to guide our activities and end-users on the safe use and handling of recycled water to minimise risks
- g. maintain communication and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders
- h. provide training to employees associated with the recycled water system
- i. carryout regular monitoring of control measures and recycled water quality and establish effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and promote confidence in the recycled water supply and its management
- j. develop and maintain appropriate contingency planning and incident response capability, including investigation of incidents and review of response plans, procedures and protocols
- k. participate in and support relevant research and development activities and join professional associations and industry peak organisations to ensure continued understanding of recycled water quality issues and improvement of performance
- l. contribute to the development and setting of industry regulations, guidelines and other standards relevant to recycled water
- m. continually improve our practices by regularly assessing performance against regulatory requirements, corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations

Compliance, monitoring and review

- 8. Suspected breaches or misuse of this policy are to be reported to the Chief Executive Officer. Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code of Conduct and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct.
- 9. This Policy will be reviewed, at a minimum, within 6 months of each local government election.

10. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this policy in a recognised Council recordkeeping system.

Definitions

11. In this policy:

- a. **Council:** Central Coast Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies.
- b. **National Water Quality Management Strategy:** Strategy to protect the Australia's water resources by maintaining and improving water quality, while supporting dependent aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, agricultural and urban communities, and industry.
- c. **The Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling:** Guidelines are designed to provide an authoritative reference that can be used to support beneficial and sustainable recycling of waters generated from sewage, grey water and stormwater.

Related resources

12. Legislation:

- a. Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

13. Associated/Internal documents:

- a. Council's Code of Conduct
- b. Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling

History of revisions

Amendment history	Details
<p>Original approval authority details</p>	<p>Chief Executive Officer / Council</p> <hr/> <p>XX/XX/20XX <insert Council Meeting date and minute number of resolution adopting the policy <remove if not needed></p> <hr/> <p>This policy demonstrates Central Coast Council's commitment to responsible and sustainable management and use of recycled water that is consistent with the requirements of the National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling, and other regulatory requirements.</p>
<p>Version # <remove if not needed></p>	<p>XX/XX/20XX <insert Council Meeting date and 'minute number' of resolution adopting the policy <remove if not needed></p> <hr/> <p>CM document number</p> <hr/> <p><i>State reasons for amendments</i></p>



Item No: 2.7
Title: Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club - Outstanding Loan Repayment
Department: Connected Communities

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/01641 - D13984737
Author: Taylor Marks, Senior Advisor Policy and Projects
Manager: Phil Cantillon, Unit Manager Leisure and Lifestyle
Executive: Julie Vaughan, Director Connected Communities

Summary

This report provides an update on the outstanding loan between the former Gosford City Council ('fGCC') and Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club Inc ('Terrigal Trojans').

Recommendation

- 1 That Council receive the report on Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club – Outstanding Loan Repayment.**
- 2 That Council acknowledge that Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club Pty Ltd have contributed a total amount of \$727,854, by way of cash and capital grants contributions directly toward the building.**
- 3 That Council apply the total contribution of \$727,854, to the current outstanding amount owed by Terrigal Trojans (\$554,014.45) to Central Coast Council, and it be determined that the loan has been satisfied entirely, superseding any previous resolution relating to the loan repayment.**

Background

In 1998, Terrigal Trojans were granted Development Consent to construct a toilet/amenity block and Clubhouse. At that time, discussions commenced regarding design concepts, building requirements and cost estimates for the build. Those discussions took place over a number of years between fGCC and Terrigal Trojans. The matter first went to Council on 5 October 2004.

At its meeting held 5 October 2004, the fGCC resolved as follows:

2004/239:

A If the approval of the Department of Lands is obtained to the erection and

lease of the premises proposed to be constructed at Terrigal Haven, Council agree to a loan of \$700,000 to the Terrigal Trojan Rugby Club Inc, subject to:

- 1 The payment of two instalments per annum (to include principal and interest) for the term of the loan.*
 - 2 Interest payable in line with the Commonwealth Treasury 15 year Bond Rate (currently 6.3%) and reviewed annually.*
 - 3 Interest on late payments being charged at 0.525% per month (6.3% pa).*
 - 4 The loan being guaranteed as indicated in the Terrigal Trojan Rugby Club's letter dated 18 August 2004.*
- B Consideration be given to \$200,000 being funded in a future Capital Works Program towards construction (thereby reducing the loan to \$500,000).*
- C Consideration be given to \$100,000 being funded from the current Capital Works Program and the project or projects postponed be funded in a future Capital Works Program.*
- D \$200,000 be released from Financial Strategy account F2110.002 towards the cost of the public amenity/toilet facility.*
- E Council defer consideration of the lease arrangement to ensure consistency with other such assets.*

The fGCC and Terrigal Trojans agreed to build a Community Facility in The Haven at Terrigal, that would provide both a Council facility and a clubhouse for the Terrigal Trojans, which would enable the original clubhouse to be demolished as part of the Terrigal Haven Plan of Management (1989).

2005

These matters returned to Council for consideration on two occasions in 2005, to finalise discussions in relation to annual rent and lease terms:

At its meeting held 22 February 2005, the fGCC resolved as follows:

2005/150:

- A The initial rent be \$2,210 subject to an annual review equal to the CPI index. The rental be subject to market review (discounted to 3.4%) each 5 (five) years.*
- B The difference between market rent and rent required be recorded as a donation to Terrigal Trojan Rugby Club Incorporated.*

- C *The rent of \$2,210 be paid into a reserve account for major maintenance works and eventual replacement of the building.*

At its meeting held 26 April 2005, the fGCC resolved as follows:

2005/355:

Council agree to a 10 year lease with a 10 year option for the proposed clubhouse to be developed at Terrigal Haven, Terrigal by Terrigal Trojans Rugby Football Club Inc.

The Terrigal Trojans Clubhouse build was completed in July 2005.

2006

In 2006, Terrigal Trojans were granted a 10 year lease with a 10 year option. The lease was signed on 20 April 2006 ('the 2006 lease').

- The lease was specifically for the upstairs area of the clubhouse.
- The fGCC provided Terrigal Trojans with a \$700,000 loan toward the construction of a toilet/amenity block and clubhouse, repayable within 15 years (2021).
- The fGCC contributed \$300,000 toward the 'Council Facility' aspects of the build.
- The fGCC provided Terrigal Trojans with reduced rent, being 3.4% of the market rate.

Terrigal Trojans proposed a further contribution from fGCC from future budgets, to the amount of \$200,000, which would result in a total repayment amount for Trojans of \$500,000. This was rejected in the first instance.

After the signing of the 2006 lease, Terrigal Trojans requested the lease be altered to combine rent and loan repayments, subject to agreement from the Department of Lands.

2008

As fGCC had not accepted the original request for a further \$200,000 contribution from future fGCC budgets, Terrigal Trojans raised this matter again in correspondence in 2008, which resulted in a Council Report being drafted for consideration.

At its meeting held 27 May 2008, the fGCC resolved in part:

2008/374:

- E *Council agrees to the Terrigal Trojan Rugby Inc's proposal to restructure the annual fee for the premises in accordance with the schedule submitted by the club which includes all payments and any outstanding interest and*

capitalizes the \$39,199.45 in interest arrears subject to Council's costs to redraft the lease. (This agreement is subject to the concurrence of the Minister for Lands.)

- F Any outstanding amount is to be paid before the end of the lease unless the option is taken up, in which case the outstanding debt must be paid before the end of the second lease.*
- G The annual fee from 20 April 2006, to the commencement date of the new arrangement will remain at \$2,210 pa CPI adjusted. (If the period is less than one year, the amount applicable is \$184.17 per month.)*
- H The interest component is to be a fixed rate of 6.24%.*
- I Portion of the new annual fee for the Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club Inc, currently \$2,210, is to be retained in the reserve account.*
- J If at any time money owed to Council or the Trust by the Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club Inc. is in arrears for 60 days, appropriate action to recover the money owed be taken.*
- K Council and the Crown Reserve Trust execute a deed that requires the Crown Reserve Trust to transfer the loan, principal and interest component to Council.*
- L The common seal be affixed to the documents, if required.*
- M Council give consideration to a grant of \$200,000 towards the works already completed, subject to a qualified quantity surveyors report and confirmation by an independent auditor, and a report be brought back to Council.*

As part of the Resolution, the final repayment date for the loan was extended to 2026 (which is the end of the Lease Option period).

In accordance with Part 'M' of the Resolution, a further Report went to Council outlining information relating to construction costs, and recommendations as to the \$200,000 Grant Funding request from Trojans. That Council Report recommended refusal of the \$200,000 Grant request, and alternatively proposed a lesser figure be provided to Trojans. A further Supplementary Report was put forward in the same week, with updated information based on surveyors reports on the value of each component of the build.

At its meeting held 4 November 2008, the fGCC resolved as follows:

2008/732: This matter be deferred for one week to allow sought discussions to be held between the Terrigal Trojan Rugby Club Inc and Council staff.

2.7 Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club - Outstanding Loan Repayment (contd)

The matter was then taken to Council on 11 November 2008.

At its meeting held 11 November 2008, the fGCC resolved as follows:

2008/743:

- A Council inform Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club Inc that their request for an additional grant of \$200,000 is refused.*
- B Council approve additional grant funding to the Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club Inc of \$127,185 ex GST.*
- C Council waive any accumulated interest associated with the additional grant paid.*
- D The additional grant be applied in the first instance to any outstanding monies owed to Council by the Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club Inc, as a result of the Amended Repayment Schedule.*
- E Funding for the additional grant be addressed through Council's budget review process.*
- F Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club Inc be advised of Council's Resolution.*

2009

Throughout 2009, as the Terrigal Haven is Crown Land, The Lands Department requested further information prior to granting consent. Specifically, they required evidence of market rent, justification as to the reduced rent being provided and a facility maintenance plan outlining the short, mid, and long-term maintenance of the clubhouse. The rent information was provided to the Lands Department on 14 September 2009. However, the facility maintenance plan caused considerable delay.

2010

On 8 February 2010, The Crown adopted an updated Plan of Management ('POM') for the whole Terrigal Haven Reserve site. The POM is still in effect for the site.

2011

During this time fGCC became aware of unlawful use of the café operations within the clubhouse and there were lengthy discussions relating to the commercial use of the café, and the issues with terminology/definitions, such as café, restaurant, and kiosk. Terrigal Trojans were instructed to down scale the commercial operations to a kiosk style operation at this time, which was originally intended under the Development Application approval as a

2.7 Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club - Outstanding Loan Repayment (contd)

community facility and with the permissible uses within the then Gosford Local Environment Plan No22 (LEP) zoning.

At its meeting held 27 September 2011, and following a Mayoral Minute, the fGCC resolved as follows:

2011/487:

- A Council agree to defer principal and interest payable by the Terrigal Trojan Rugby Club Inc until a LEP is made to allow commercial activities, and development consent granted for the use of the premises for commercial activities in accordance with an approved sub-lease.*
- B Council note that Terrigal Trojan Rugby Club Inc will scale down its facility to a kiosk style operation.*
- C Council note that seating will be permitted in accordance with the scale of Club functions being run.*
- D Council determine the definition of a 'kiosk style' operation.*

On 14 December 2011 ('the 2011 Deed'), a Loan Repayment Deed was entered into between fGCC, Terrigal Trojans and the Reserve Trust. That Deed expressed –

- The deferment of principal and interest payments until the LEP is made.
- The agreement that Terrigal Trojans will commence repayment of the loan within 3 months of the date of the LEP conditions being met.
- The agreement that Terrigal Trojans will scale down the commercial use of the premises in line with a kiosk style operation ancillary to the use of the premises as a community facility.
- The agreement that Terrigal Trojans would repay the whole of the outstanding principal prior to the end of the current lease period, being 2026.
- A new loan repayment schedule was attached providing for the loan to be repaid (principal and interest) by 19 April 2026.
 - A note that Council may reconsider the deferment of the loan if no LEP has been made within 12 months of the date of the Deed or the Terrigal Trojans fails to submit a DA or have not submitted a sublease or licence for lessor's consent within 3 months of the making of a LEP.

The balance of principal outstanding at the date of the 2011 Deed was \$612,014.45.

2012

It was determined that the Gosford LEP 2014 (that was in draft at the time), would permit the commercial activities within the permissibility of RE1 zoning. Accordingly, fGCC agreed to defer payment of principal and interest until the LEP was enforced.

At its meeting held 3 April 2012, the fGCC resolved as follows:

2012/169:

- A Council initiate the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 'Gateway' process pursuant to Section 55 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act by endorsing the preparation of a Planning Proposal to amend the land use table for the 6(a) zone in the Gosford Planning Scheme Ordinance and Interim Development Order No 122 to allow kiosks and restaurants, together with inserting the definition of kiosk (from the SI LEP 2011) as follows:

"kiosk' means premises that are used for the purposes of selling food, light refreshments and other small convenience items such as newspapers, films and the like with a floor area of less than 50 square metres"

Council then forward the LEP to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure requesting a 'Gateway' determination pursuant to Section 56(1) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and that Council staff prepare all necessary documentation and process the matter according to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure directives and this report.

- B *After public exhibition of the Planning Proposal, should the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure support it, if no submissions are received, the Planning Proposal is to be sent to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in order to make the plan.*

2015

In September 2015, Terrigal Trojans, proposed an amended payment schedule. The fGCC staff were satisfied with the proposal, and that was taken to Council for consideration and adoption. This was the last occasion that Terrigal Trojans matters were presented to Council.

At its meeting held 27 October 2015, the fGCC resolved as follows:

- A *Council accepts the repayment plan and associate conditions outlined in this report.*
- B *The position and obligations of the parties are recorded in a Deed or such other legal instrument as recommended by Council's General Counsel.*
- C *That appropriate legal or other mechanisms are included to ensure Council has maximum ability to recover the loan proceeds, or enforce payment, should the club default on its obligations.*

Outstanding Resolution – 27 October 2015

Despite, the Resolution of 27 October 2015, the actions from the Resolution are still outstanding. Specifically –

- Terrigal Trojans were to pay to fGCC \$180,000 on 22 October 2015 (in accordance with the schedule attached to the 27 October 2015 Resolution), and regular repayments thereafter;
- It was expressed in the Resolution that the initial payment should be made within 14 days of the signing of the lease;
- As the lease negotiations continued, but were not resolved, Terrigal Trojans did not pay the \$180,000 in accordance with the Resolution;
- On 27 July 2016, Trojans made a one-off payment of \$58,000 toward the outstanding loan amount, to continue lease negotiations. This reduced the total amount outstanding to \$554,014.45.

In 2016, fGCC's Property and Economic Manager arranged for external lawyers Moray & Agnew to prepare a Payment Deed which comprehensively covered the loan repayment obligations, default and enforcement and links the loan to the lease.

The Deed was sent to the Club's solicitor in April 2016 but despite numerous requests for comments, fGCC did not receive any formal response from the solicitor as the club committee were concerned that they would be personally liable for the loan of a community facility, which they raised with Council staff.

Following the formation of Central Coast Council ('CCC') on 12 May 2016, all matters relating to Terrigal Trojans became part of the Assets, Infrastructure and Business (AIB) Directorate.

2017

In 2017, despite negotiations not being resolved, Terrigal Trojans applied for Development Consent to extend the clubhouse. On 4 September 2017, Terrigal Trojans received a letter from Crown Lands, granting consent to lodge the DA. Further, on 16 November 2017, Terrigal Trojans were granted approval to lodge Development Application over Part Lot 6 DP 805477 The Haven, Terrigal.

2018

In October 2018, the Development Application to expand the restaurant/café area was approved. This permitted use of the restaurant/café with a deferment clause, noting that the lease plan with Council was amended to include the waste storage bin enclosure.

In November 2018, upon a re-structure of CCC, those matters then remained under the Leasing and Asset Management Unit, which was moved to the Connected Communities Directorate.

The terms of the current lease, including the permitted use clause, have not been expressly waived or varied by Council.

Café Operations

The club had commenced a sub-lease for a commercial café operation at the facility, with all income going to the club. At the commencement of the sub-lease, Council had not yet authorised the sub-lease under the head-lease. The DA does now permit café/restaurant, however, the lease itself is vague in allowing a purpose that is ancillary to the purpose of the reserve, which is defined under the Crown Lands Act 1993 or Crown Lands Management Act 2016, and as determined by the Minister.

The sub-lease has been by way of a Catering Agreement, given the uncertainty of bookings over the winter months, hence only being able to enter an agreement for a six month period at a time. The rugby season runs from April through to October, and during that time the clubhouse is used for every home game, finals matches, as well as, for presentation days, registration days, meetings and training, which prevents considerable options for other events and operations during the rugby season.

Terrigal Trojans have entered into three Catering Agreements since 2012, all of which have operated for only six months per year, and all of which have unfortunately proven unsustainable. The income to the club as a result has varied, and in total the total income from 2012 through to 2019 is \$35,282.

On 30 July 2019, Terrigal Trojans advised CCC that the café operations have now ceased. However, it is intended that they will reopen in the future, upon the completion of improvements to the building in accordance with the scope of works for the Stronger Communities Funding Agreement.

Community Use of the Clubhouse

The clubroom of the clubhouse is deemed a community facility of Council, which Terrigal Trojans acknowledge and support the use of.

Community Groups and users can currently book the Terrigal Trojans Clubhouse via an online link on their website: <https://terrigrugby.com/clubhouse-bookings/how-to-book-the-terrigrugby-clubhouse>

Council Staff and Terrigal Trojans representatives are in discussions relating to future booking options and logistics for general community use. Terrigal Trojans intend to continue to encourage external users to utilise the facility. The Club are in the process of employing an Events/Functions Manager, to support them in increasing utilisation of the facility for larger functions.

2.7 Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club - Outstanding Loan Repayment (contd)

The southern Clubroom area will feature memorabilia from the history of the Trojans and this area will be available for community use and private functions. This area also can be open and extended into the larger function area when required. This facility provides a unique function room for the community, with the capacity to seat approximately 160 people.

The downstairs 'canteen and can bar area' will be included in the usage of the oval, and will be available to any substantial use of The Haven Oval.

In addition to providing sporting activities, it is worthy to note Terrigal Trojans significant contribution to the local community, which again provides an additional unaccounted return of investment directly to the Central Coast community. Some examples of those contributions are as follows:

- Developing and running a Disability Rugby Programme
- Developing and running an Inclusive Rugby Programme
- Establishing Portugal Pathway Programme
- Annual Fiji Tour
- Assisting other smaller local Clubs with Grants
- Funding the installation of Public Defibrillator for The Haven
- The Bay Vikings Club contributions / Fundraising Days
- Hay Bale Deliveries to Farmers
- Club facility as an Emergency Response Centre
- Ongoing Charity Support
- Hosting and sponsoring Mental Health Awareness Forum and ongoing involvement with Mental Health organisations
- Hosting First Aid courses for community members
- Women in Sport promotion and support
- Supported community access to extended club house facility

Loan Repayment

The current outstanding loan balance is \$554,014.45.

From 2006 to 2011, Terrigal Trojans paid interest repayments, and Crown rent. The interest rate was the 15 year Corporate Bond rate (approx. 2.5%).

To summarise the history of repayments:

- The principal loan amount as agreed in 2006 was \$700 000.
- In 2008, a Grant of \$127,185 from fGCC was applied to the outstanding loan balance, following Resolution 11 November 2008 (Council Report 4 November 2008 and Supplementary Report).

As a result, the balance of the loan as at the end of 2008 was \$572,815.

2.7 Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club - Outstanding Loan Repayment (contd)

Between 2008 and 2011, a total of \$39,199 interest had been applied to the loan, bringing the total outstanding loan amount as at 2011, to \$612,014.

In 2016, Terrigal Trojans paid a one-off lump sum of \$58,000 toward the outstanding loan amount, bringing the total outstanding amount in 2016, and remaining, to \$554,014.45.

On 3 March 2019 Terrigal Trojans put forward a proposal, which included a revised payment plan.

- A loan term of 10 years, with a start date of 22/4/2016 and finish date of 22/4/2026;
- The total principle would be \$554,014.45, with interest calculated at 3% adjusted to a 10 year government bond rate (\$28,911.89);
- Indicative interest rates are at 2.09%. The total to be paid including interest is \$582,926;
- Terrigal Trojans also offered to provide Council with the NSW Government grant for roof upgrades of \$227,000 to be off set against the loan;
- That Terrigal Trojans place 50% of any future net commercial income from the café into a sinking fund for maintenance of the building and surrounds, upon the payment of the outstanding loan;
- Terrigal Trojans noted that they have provided the current catering agreement that is place with the tenant, with an annual fee of \$70,000.
 - CCC confirms that on 17 April 2019, CCC received the formal catering contract on that is currently in place between Terrigal Trojans and the Caterer (Terrigal Hospitality Services – Splash Café);
 - The hours of operation are Monday – Saturday 6am-12am, and Sunday 6am-10pm;
 - The area used is specified in the agreement;
 - The agreement commenced from 1/10/2014, for an initial three year period, and is currently operating on holdover provisions; and
 - The annual catering fee is \$70,000 plus indexation.

Terrigal Trojans requested that their *“equity, in-kind and grants secured for the building to be taken into consideration and off set against the loan balance”*. Terrigal Trojans also noted that *“no other community organisation has had to take a loan out from Council to upgrade a community building”*.

Following assessment of Terrigal Trojans contributions, it has been determined that they have contributed –

- Cash contributions - \$318,054.00
 - Painting (two occasions in 2016 and 2018) – total \$12,000
 - Reshaping oval bank in 2013 - \$1,500
 - Anti-Graffiti Paint protection in 2006 - \$5,000
 - Concrete extensions in 2013 - \$1,225
 - Drainage in 2013 - \$5,000
 - Drainage (second stage) - \$2,457
 - Scoreboard installation - \$15,872
 - Matching \$275,000 Grant with a cash contribution, due to be finalised by 30 June 2020.

In total, Terrigal Trojans have been successful in acquiring a total of \$846,344 in Grants from a number of funding sources. Those sources include a number of grants from the fGCC, NSW Government incl Gaming & Liquor, and Federal Government. Two of those grants in particular were applied directly to the maintenance and improvement of the building. For the purpose of assessing Terrigal Trojans contribution to the building, to potentially offset against the loan, it has been determined that Council include those two grants that were directly applied to the building. Those two grants total \$409,000 by way of –

- \$275,000 Grant in 2016 through the National Stronger Regions Fund which was contributed to club house extensions and maintenance (some of which were Council’s maintenance responsibilities); and
- \$134,800 Women in Sport Grant in 2020 which was used toward the upgrade and refurbishment of the club house

Therefore, it is evident that whilst Terrigal Trojans have an outstanding loan of \$554,014.45, they have contributed a total of \$727,854 in cash and grant contributions, directly to the improvement of the building.

Therefore, staff believe it is reasonable that the contributions made by Terrigal Trojans be applied to the remaining balance of the outstanding loan, and as a result would resolve the debt entirely. Terrigal Trojans will then continue to pay rent in accordance with the current agreement.

- Terrigal Trojans are required to pay \$2,210 per year, paid annually in accordance with the current lease. This fee is subject to increase annually in accordance with CPI. In 2019/2020 the rental fee was \$2,689.
- Terrigal Trojans are required to pay all outgoings, utilities, and waste in accordance with the current lease. An external rental valuation of the site was undertaken in July 2018, MJD valuers identified that an indicative market rent assessment of the café would be in the range of \$15,000 to \$25,000 per year. As noted under ‘Café Operations’ above, the Café operations have currently ceased.
- The new Facilities Leasing and Licensing Policy includes provision for dealing with sub-leasing, which will ultimately trigger further market rent review upon entering a new lease with the Terrigal Trojans. The new Policy will indicate any appropriate

2.7 Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club - Outstanding Loan Repayment (contd)

arrangement and subsidy based on the category that the group fall under, in accordance with the Policy criteria, which includes consideration of income.

Length of Tenure and Plan of Management for Terrigal Haven

The 2006 Lease was for a term of 10 years, with a 10 year option, with an end date of 20 April 2026. During previous negotiations, Terrigal Trojans have requested extended tenure due to their contributions to the building. Council's position is that any new lease will be required to be entered in accordance with Council's new Facilities Leasing and Licencing Policy that went to Council on 9 March 2020, and is currently on Public Exhibition for comment, and in accordance with the new Plan of Management ('POM') which will be adopted by 30 June 2021.

New legislation has arisen which requires a new adopted POM -

- The *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM) has now commenced. The CLM Act prohibits the renewal or grant of a new lease for an additional use until a POM has been adopted by Council under the *Local Government Act*, which expressly authorises the lease.
- The POM process may require a public hearing and approval by Council resolution. The unlawful commercial use may come under public scrutiny.

Options

- 1 Council to support the recommendations, that Terrigal Trojan's cash and grant contributions towards Council's asset are utilised to satisfy the loan in full. **This is the recommended option.**
- 2 Council could decide that Terrigal Trojan's cash contributions only (\$318,504.00) be used toward the loan and exclude any grant contributions. Terrigal Trojan's would have an outstanding loan balance of \$235,960.45, which would need to be reflected in a new Loan Repayment Deed. **Not recommended.**
- 3 Council could decide that Terrigal Trojan's cash and grant contributions towards Council's asset are not to be used towards the loan and the current debt remains. **Not recommended.**

It is recommended to progress Option 1.

Financial Impact

That the current outstanding debt owed to Central Coast Council be reduced from \$554,014.45 to Nil.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Liveable

Goal L: Healthy lifestyle for a growing community

L-L1: Promote healthy living and ensure sport, leisure, recreation and aquatic facilities and open spaces are well maintained and activated.

Risk Management

Council staff have spent considerable due diligence and time reviewing all received documentations and evidence from the club in providing the proposed recommendations.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

A resolution from Council by 30 June 2020 will allow this transaction to be reflected in the annual financial statements for the 2020 financial year.

Attachments

Nil



Item No: 2.8
Title: Out of Round Sponsorship Program Round 2
2019-20
Department: Connected Communities

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00039 - D14020279
Author: Glenn Cannard, Unit Manager, Community Partnerships
Executive: Julie Vaughan, Director Connected Communities

Summary

This report outlines the recommendation from the Sponsorship Review Panel to allocate the remaining funds from Round 2 of the Awarding Sponsorship Program 2019-2020 to the Central Coast Academy of Sport.

Recommendation

That Council allocate \$44,150.00 from the sponsorship budget, to be paid within the 2019-20 financial year to the Central Coast Academy of Sport.

Background

Sponsorship is a commercial arrangement in which Council provides a contribution in money or in-kind to support an activity in return for a certain specified benefit. Sponsorship is provided to assist groups, organisations and businesses seeking support for initiatives that provide benefits to our community. The Program was revised in July 2018 which now features two categories for funding available for up to three years:

Category 1 - Hero / Signature Initiatives – negotiated amount

This Category aims to encourage major, high profile events or initiatives to be established on or relocated to the Central Coast. Initiatives under this Category may be one-off or recurrent.

Category 2 – Regional Initiatives – up to \$50,000 per applicant

Initiatives under this Category may be one-off or recurrent noting up to 3 years funding is available. This Category aims to encourage:

- new, regionally significant events or initiatives for the Central Coast or
- existing events or initiatives to expand and become regional.

Sponsorship can be allocated for one year or multi-year.

Current situation/assessment

Founded in 2004, The Central Coast Academy of Sport (CCAS) is a non-profit sporting organisation that exists to provide locally based sports development opportunities for athletes, coaches, officials and administrators within the NSW Central Coast Local Government Area (LGA).

CCAS is dependant on support from the NSW Government, Local Council and corporate partners to ensure they have the necessary financial strength to operate on a day-to-day basis.

CCAS has been previously supported by both the former Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils, and also received previous financial support from Central Coast Council (CCC).

Details on the historic funding arrangements are included in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Historic funding arrangements

Financial Year	Investment
2013/13	\$15,000 x both Councils = \$30,000
2014/15	\$15,000 x both Councils= \$30,000
2015/16	\$15,000 x both Councils = \$30,000
2016/17	\$15,000 x both Councils = \$30,000
2017/18	\$20,000 x Central Coast Council
2018/19	\$40,000 x Central Coast Council

Over the last six months there have been numerous meetings with CCAS and CCC, culminating with a recent presentation to Councillors through a Councillor Briefing.

Information provided to CCC indicate CCAS meets all eligibility and program outcome requirements of the Awarding Sponsorship program.

Staff assessment and recommendations were presented to Council's Grants & Sponsorship Review Panel on Tuesday 2 June, and are summarised in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Recommendation Summary

Applicant	Title	Requested Amount	Funding Recommendation	Reason for Recommendation
Central Coast Academy of Sport	Annual Funding	\$45,000 plus average wage index annually for a four-year term 2020 to 2023.	\$44,150.00 for 2019/20 financial year.	<p>The applicant meets all Awarding Sponsorship Program eligibility requirements.</p> <p>The project achieves the Awarding Sponsorship program outcomes of :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising the Central Coast region's profile 2. Supporting the local economy and places 3. Creating employment opportunities 4. Encouraging visitation and supporting tourism 5. Business initiatives that deliver economic benefits

Consultation

Council's Sponsorship funding programs were open for applications from 1-29 February 2020. Throughout the open period the following promotion and consultation was conducted:

- Promotion on Council's web site and social media
- Print advertising in the Central Coast Express Advocate, Coast Community News, Peninsular News and Wyong Regional Chronicle
- Radio advertising on Central Coast radio stations
- Council screen savers at administration buildings, libraries and leisure centres
- Emails sent to Council's databases of previous Grant and Sponsorship applicants; Sports Association contacts; Events Team contacts; NSW Business Chamber contacts; This Is The Life partner list; and Access and Inclusion list
- Emails sent to Central Coast tourism industry via Tourism Central Coast
- Phone support offered by Council staff throughout the application period.

In addition, general Grant and Sponsorship information sessions and drop-in sessions were held during February at:

- Council's Wyong administration building
- The Erina Centre, Erina Fair

2.8 Out of Round Sponsorship Program Round 2 2019-20 (contd)

- Woy Woy Library
- Blue Haven Community Centre

In assessing applications, the Sponsorship team consulted with Council's debtors to determine that applicants:

- Did not have an outstanding debt to Council
- Had satisfied all previous funding acquittal requirements
- Had not already received funding from another Council source for the initiative applied for under either Grants or Sponsorship Program.

Individual consultation was also undertaken with some applicants to clarify various aspects of their application if required.

Options

- 1 Approval of the recommended application will provide a community benefit to residents of the Central Coast Local Government Area.
- 2 Non approval of the application, as recommended, may result in the project not being undertaken if the respective proponent is unable to secure alternate funding.

Financial Impact

There is an available budget of \$44,150 un-allocated in the 2019-2020 Sponsorship Program.

Expenditure is approved until the end of the 2019-20 financial year. Unspent funds will lapse on 30 June 2020.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 2: Smart

Goal A: Our community spirit is our strength

S-C1: Target economic development in growth areas and major centres and provide incentives to attract businesses to the Central Coast.

Risk Management

All Sponsorship programs have a written agreement detailing the deliverables required in timeframes and include requirements to provide acquittal in line with Council's policy and ICAC guidelines.

2.8 Out of Round Sponsorship Program Round 2 2019-20 (contd)

All successful grant applications will receive a letter of offer outlining Council's requirements of funding, service delivery and accountability for both Council and the funded organisation.

All successful applicants are required to submit a final project acquittal report no later than twelve weeks after the agreed completion date of the activity/project with copies of any photos, promotional materials and evidence of payment/purchase for each funded item.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Many of the Grant and Sponsorship applications are dependent upon support via Council's Grants and Sponsorship Programs. Should decisions be delayed or not supported, projects may not be undertaken.

Expenditure is approved until the end of the 2019-20 financial year. Unspent funds will lapse on 30 June 2020.

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 2.9
Title: Outcomes of consultation the draft Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy
Department: Environment and Planning

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2019/00041-004 - D13771043
Author: Rochelle Lawson, Senior Ecologist
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager, Environmental Management
Executive: Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the outcomes of the community consultation undertaken on the draft Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the draft Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy including amendments made in response to feedback during public exhibition which are summarised as follows:

- a Addition of a sentence addressing no net loss of biodiversity***
- b Additional information about the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) in Theme 2.***
- c Removal of Action 2.2.3 recommending the disposal of small parcels of Council owned land.***
- d Revised wording of Action 2.2.1 to clarify the purpose of engaging with the development industry.***
- e Additional explanatory text to accompany Map 2 related to land identified for acquisition for inclusion in the Coastal Open Space System (COSS).***
- f Revised wording for Principle 4 related to the sourcing of biodiversity offsets from within the Central Coast Local Government Area.***
- g Revised wording explaining the development of a local biodiversity offset policy.***
- h Addition of an action for the development of policy requiring that arrangements for the ownership and management of land with high biodiversity values to be finalised at the rezoning stage of a proposed development.***
- i Revised wording of Action 4.1.5 to ensure developer compliance with Central Coast Council's Flora and Fauna Survey Guidelines, vegetation management plans and consent conditions.***
- j Addition of information on page 7 about the area of the Central Coast Local Government Area that is within the national parks estate and in state forests.***

2.9 Outcomes of consultation the draft Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy (contd)

Background

At its Ordinary Meeting on 26 August 2019, Council resolved the following:

- 768/19 *That Council endorse the draft Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy for the purposes of community consultation.*
- 769/19 *That the draft Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy is placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 60 days.*
- 770/19 *That staff consider submissions received during the exhibition period and provide a report back to Council:*
- a Addressing the submissions received from the public during the exhibition period.*
 - b Proposing appropriate amendments to the Biodiversity Strategy with consideration of those submissions and seeking adoption of the Biodiversity Strategy by Council.*

Consultation

The draft Biodiversity Strategy was on public exhibition for a period of 60 days between Thursday, 12 September 2019 to Monday, 11 November 2019. The draft Strategy was exhibited online on Council's community consultation hub, Your Voice Our Coast, and hard copies of the draft Strategy were available at Council's Wyong and Gosford offices. Extensive promotion of the consultation period ensured the community were aware of the opportunity to provide feedback.

Promotion Avenue	Reach
Your Voice – Our Coast website	830 visits during consultation period Biodiversity Summary document was viewed 177 times Biodiversity Strategy document was viewed 182 times Frequently asked questions were viewed 60 times
Information sessions	2 sessions (Erina and Wyong)
Media release	12 September 2019
Print advertising	16 September 2019: Peninsula News 19 September 2019: Central Coast Express Advocate 19 September 2019: Coast Community News 25 September 2019: Wyong Regional Chronicle
E-News	Coast Connect E-News on 24 September 2019

2.9 Outcomes of consultation the draft Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy (contd)

Promotion Avenue	Reach
	Coast Connect E-News on 1 October 2019 Coast Connect E-News on 22 October 2019
Social media	Total reach of 11,792 on Facebook
Email	Sent to 4500+ stakeholders
Advisory Groups	Coastal Open Space System Advisory Committee briefing on 3 September 2019
Councillor briefing	29 July 2019

One hundred and forty four submissions were received, 28 of which were unique submissions from those who had read the draft Strategy and made specific comment.

Number of submissions	
28	Number of unique of submissions
25	Submissions not related to the Biodiversity Strategy*
91	Duplicate submissions of a number of template responses
144	Total number of submissions

* relevant topics raised in these submissions are included in the consultation report

The majority of respondents were individuals, who care deeply about local environmental issues. There were 6 submissions from industry and community groups.

Respondents	Number	Percentage
Individuals	19/28	67%
Community groups	3/28	11%
Industry groups	3/28	11%
Government	3/28	11%

No major objection to the draft Strategy has been raised by the general community and many comments of support and congratulations were received. In addition to the feedback received from this exhibition period, Central Coast Council received submissions to an online Sustainability Survey that was undertaken from 18 February 2019 to 17 March 2019. The results of the survey showed that 80.29% of respondents think biodiversity conservation, protection of native plants and animals, and ecosystem health is very important to the Central Coast, while 13.86% think it is somewhat important.

In addition, feedback on the draft strategy was provided to staff from the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Advisory Committee in response to a presentation on 3 September 2019 (prior to the strategy being publicly available). The feedback included the following

points, all of which are further addressed in the attached community engagement report (Attachment 1).

Feedback from COSS Committee	Response
Stronger protection for the COSS through an additional E5 zone	The Biodiversity Strategy focusses on the future security of Council's natural reserves, including COSS, and therefore no additional inclusions to the Strategy have been made in response to this feedback as staff believe it is adequately addressed. An E5 or additional public conservation zone is not provided for under the Standard Instrument Principle Local Environmental Plan and as such is not available for application by Council.
Consideration of corridor mapping in planning determinations	Wildlife corridors are among the many factors that are considered in development assessment, and the corridor map presented in the Strategy helps to provide certainty as to the biodiversity issues that must be addressed where development is proposed. See Map 4.
A target in the strategy to achieve no net loss of biodiversity	The Strategy's aim is to protect and enhance the landscape and biodiversity values of the Central Coast. One of the principles for land use planning (page 57) is to source offsets from within the LGA, which would be necessary to achieve no net loss of biodiversity within the Central Coast LGA. Loss of trees and vegetation not captured by the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (as well as Part 5) is proposed to be accounted for through a local policy and compensation fund (addressed on page 48, 69 of the Strategy). The goal of zero net loss of biodiversity has been added to page 25 of the Strategy to make it clear that this is Council's intention.
Greater emphasis on the COSS	Most of the Strategy (3 of 5 themes) is about planning, protecting, managing, expanding and resourcing Council's natural bushland areas, such as the COSS, as there is considerable community support for ensuring important bushland is protected in public ownership.
Reliance on biodiversity offsetting means that biodiversity is lost	The strategy does not rely on biodiversity offsetting, however it is one funding and protection option available to Council. Biodiversity offsetting is acknowledged to have limitations in that it still allows biodiversity and habitat to be lost. If Council participates in the biodiversity offset scheme, it is a way to fund land management on Council reserves.

Feedback from COSS Committee	Response
	By Council not participating in the scheme, development outcomes will not be altered (i.e. development would still go ahead if approved) and the offsets may not be located in our LGA.
Mechanisms such as the allocation of a percentage of rates into a restricted fund for environmental land acquisition	Funding options to manage and acquire Council bushland will be further explored (Action 2.2.2). This may include consideration of allocating a fixed percentage of Council's budget towards biodiversity initiatives, similar to a model that was applied by the former Gosford City Council. In considering such an approach, further scrutiny would need to be given by the organisation in regards to its capacity to financially support a model like this, and if viable, what an appropriate percentage would be. A new rate levy is not recommended within the Strategy and any determination to pursue an additional rate levy would be at the instruction of Council.
Exploration of heritage listing as a protection mechanism for Council's environmental lands	A heritage study will be undertaken to inform the comprehensive Central Coast Local Environment Plan. Nominations for heritage listing can be made at any time to Council for consideration. It is not specifically addressed in this strategy.

The key points raised in the 28 unique submissions and the template submissions from this exhibition period have been summarised into 26 themes and are detailed in the attached community engagement report. The general environmental comments (not related to the Strategy) are also captured by the themes.

The 26 themes are as follows:

- Goals of the Strategy
- Biodiversity Offsets
- Oppose development on the Central Coast
- Loss of urban trees, local species, threatened species
- Coastal Open Space System
- Action 2.2.3 Develop Land Disposal Plan
- Action 3.3.3 Engage with development industry
- Community participation and recreation
- Consultation of draft Biodiversity Strategy
- Biosecurity
- Climate change
- Conservation priorities
- Sustainability, local employment and public transport
- Data and information provision

2.9 Outcomes of consultation the draft Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy (contd)

- Environmental Land Acquisition Program
- Biodiversity Management Advisory Committee
- Zoning/LEP controls review and individual property concerns
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Re-zoning process
- Conservation fund
- Land to which the Strategy applies
- Estuaries, lakes, lagoons and marine
- Heritage listing
- Timing of implementation
- Add photos
- Biodiversity Offset Scheme

Financial Impact

The Implementation Plan within the Strategy has indicative costings associated with individual actions. Once adopted, the Strategy will form part of a business case and / or development of future Council operational plans and budgets in order to develop the relevant policies and plans and implement the identified actions set out in the Strategy.

The Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy includes an implementation plan on pages 78 –83. The implementation plan includes indicative costings associated with many of the individual actions where they are currently known. Once adopted however, the Strategy will form part of a business case and/or development of future Council operational plans and budgets in order to develop the relevant policies and plans and also to implement the identified actions set out in the Strategy. The indicative financial impact of implementing the actions that are not currently funded by Council's general fund or from external sources is in the order of \$650,000 per annum.

There is the potential for other actions identified in the implementation plan to be funded via other sources and mechanisms. The acquisition of environmental lands, for example, can be funded by existing restricted reserve funds available for the acquisition of Coastal Open Space System (COSS) lands and Clause 14 environmental land acquisition. Approximately \$9 million is available in these two restricted funds.

The NSW Government's Biodiversity Offset Scheme provides the potential to generate funds for the implementation of several actions of the implementation plan. Council is currently working with the NSW Government's Biodiversity Conservation Trust on the development of Biodiversity Stewardship Sites under the Biodiversity Offset Scheme. The potential exists to generate several million dollars for the on-going management of Biodiversity Stewardship sites established under the Biodiversity Offset Scheme, as well as to generate funds for the management of biodiversity actions elsewhere on the Central Coast. The market for biodiversity offsets credits is currently immature, however the potential exists for a mature market to provide substantial financial returns to land owners engaged with the biodiversity offset market.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Green

Goal F: Cherished and protected natural beauty

G-F1: Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas, and the diversity of local native species.

Risk Management

The Biodiversity Strategy targets and actions rely on other closely-related Council strategies, environmental programs and corporate systems. There is a certain amount of cross-over because the management of environmental values is central to Council's business. It acknowledges that components of other work programs will support the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

If adopted, a project-based approach will be considered for undertaking the conservation management program, including the environmental lands acquisition program.

No critical dates are identified, although it is recommended to adopt an overarching Biodiversity Strategy in a timely manner in order to guide Council's approach to biodiversity management on the Central Coast. This is particularly relevant following introduction of recent legislation (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016).

Attachments

- | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Central Coast Biodiversity Strategy with Highlighted Changes | D14024335 |
| 2 | Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy - Public Exhibition Review | D14024339 |
| 3 | Central Council Biodiversity Strategy 2020- Overview | D13811031 |

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

2020



Black wattle (Callitriche serratifolia)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan



Biodiversity is complex, beautiful and an essential part of what makes the Central Coast a special place. We share our home with iconic species such as the Powerful Owl, Bush Stone-curlew, Squirrel Glider and White's Seahorse.





Biodiversity is a broad term for the many species and ecological processes that are essential for maintaining our community's health and the amenity of the Central Coast and its landscapes. As well as having economic, social and quality of life benefits, nature has intrinsic values that need protection.

The Biodiversity Strategy is the first single strategy that combines the progress of the two former Councils in conservation planning and presents a scientifically-robust roadmap for the future of the biodiversity of the Central Coast.

Council appreciates the critical importance of biodiversity to its area, and to its community. Alarming, many species are declining in numbers and some are facing extinction in our own patch. The Community Strategic Plan recognises the high priority that people place on protecting and preserving our local natural beauty, bushland and waterways in its 'Green Theme'.

The Biodiversity Strategy highlights the roles that Council has to support biodiversity: as a land use planning authority, a community leader, and a major landholder and land manager. Council currently manages over 6,000 ha of land in the Central Coast local government area primarily for its natural values, and the goal is to increase this in the future.

This Biodiversity Strategy outlines Council's administrative and policy framework for responding to the actions identified to progress and implement on-ground change. The Biodiversity Strategy guides Council's own actions and informs the actions of the community and a wide range of other organisations who together will shape the future of the Central Coast.

March 2020

Central Coast Council

Biodiversity Strategy 2019

Illustrations by Dr Tanya Hoolihan

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Superb fairy-wren - (Malurus cyaneus)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

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White-bellied sea-eagle (Haliaeetus leucogaster)
 Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Summary

Two of the main drivers for preparing the Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy are firstly to respond to the outcomes of community engagement where the care and protection of the natural environment was identified as important to the Central Coast community and second, the amalgamation of the former Gosford and Wyong local government areas (LGA). The document builds on the two former Councils' biodiversity strategies and plans, and guides the new Council to protect, enrich and embellish existing biodiversity values.

Areas with high natural, social or landscape values are considered critical for long-term protection and management and occur throughout the Central Coast on both publicly-owned land (such as national parks, state forests and Council-owned reserves) and privately-

owned land. This Strategy outlines a framework for the identification of priority conservation areas and proposes a plan for their protection, whether that is by being in public ownership or through private land conservation.

Habitat loss and fragmentation are the largest contributors to loss of biodiversity in the local area. Climate change is an additional threat which is only starting to be understood in terms of conservation planning and land management.

Of the Council land portfolio, approximately 6,000 ha of bushland (which is 4% of the total area of the LGA) is



held primarily for the purpose of preserving natural and heritage values. Part of the portfolio may have a primary purpose of water supply, flood mitigation or visual amenity, however it also preserves natural and heritage values. This is in the context of 46,808 ha in national parks and 21,798 ha in State Forest.

This Strategy sets out an ambitious but deliverable 5-year program to direct conservation planning and on-ground activities on the Central Coast for the long-term. It seeks to establish a framework to guide conservation efforts while planning for biodiversity conservation as an integral part of future development.

The specific actions and targets are organised into the following five themes:

1. Planning and managing biodiversity in Council's natural areas
2. Ensuring adequate resourcing to enable Council to effectively manage its natural areas and expand the conservation estate
3. Promoting community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation
4. Protecting biodiversity through land use planning and information management
5. Demonstrating leadership in biodiversity conservation

Working together with the community, the measures outlined will help secure the future of biodiversity in the Central Coast region, and benefit the community and future generations.



Sacred kingfisher - (*Todiramphus sanctus*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Introduction and Biodiversity Values

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of all life including plants, animals, fungi, insects and microorganisms, their genes and the ecosystems that they form. Biodiversity is considered at three levels: genetic, species and ecosystem.

The Central Coast LGA extends from the Hawkesbury River in the south to Lake Macquarie and the Watagan Mountains in the north, and from the forests of Dharug National Park in the west, to the coastline.

Its forested scenic landscapes, peaceful sandy beaches, dynamic and productive estuaries, lakes and lagoons, and sandstone escarpment areas are appreciated by residents and visitors to the region.

It is also the traditional lands of the Darkinjung and Guringai people who have had a long connection with the region's landscapes and ecosystems.

On the Central Coast, there are thousands of different species of plants and fungi and hundreds of different animals (including birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects). There are at least 83 distinct vegetation community types, each with their unique suite of interacting species and ecological conditions.

The urban trees and remnant vegetation in each suburb together make up the regional tree canopy and contribute to landscape scale connections between larger patches of natural areas. The individual plants and animals that residents see in their local environment make up populations, communities and ecosystems. These local biodiversity values scale up to landscapes, the region and ultimately the biosphere.

The importance of biodiversity at a local scale parallels its global importance: our economy and quality of life depends on it. The \$874M Central Coast tourism industry is dependent on high quality and functioning natural ecosystems, as is human health and well-being. Worldwide, the main threats to biodiversity are human population growth, resource over-consumption and climate change. Locally, these threats translate to habitat loss associated with vegetation removal and urbanisation, invasive plants and animals, and environmental degradation.

Structure of the Biodiversity Strategy

The Biodiversity Strategy document has four sections (Figure 1).

The first section explains the need for a biodiversity strategy in light of recent significant changes such as the amalgamation of the former Gosford City Council and former Wyong Shire Council and significant NSW legislation reform. It also identifies the biodiversity values of the Central Coast LGA and current threats that have already caused substantial local and regional biodiversity loss.

The second section sets out the objectives and strategic context within the national and NSW legislative frameworks and within Council’s other related strategies and policies.

The third section provides an administrative and policy framework and specific actions for achieving the goals of the Strategy. This section provides direction for the proposed Conservation Management Program and Environmental Land Acquisition Program.

The last section is a detailed implementation plan for Council to achieve the stated goals and meet the targets set out in the Strategy. The actions are allocated to specific teams within Council and progress against the actions will be reported in future Strategy updates.

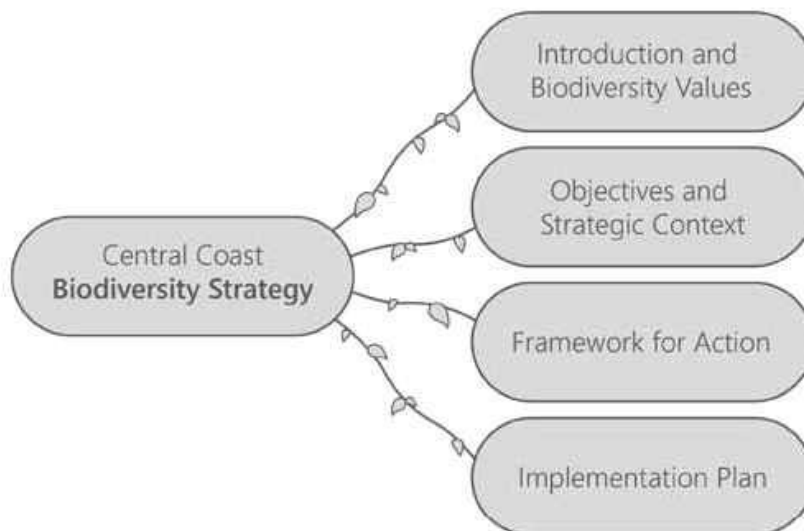


Figure 1: Structure of the Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy



*Red-necked wallaby - (Macropus rufogriseus)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan*

What has the Central Coast Community asked Council to do?

The Central Coast Council Community Strategic Plan 2018–2028 outlines the adopted direction of Council for the next decade. The actions set out in the Biodiversity Strategy will contribute to the vision, which is *to maintain a healthy, connected, and socially just community that cherishes and protects our natural landscapes, and balances social and economic needs with the protection of the environment and its irreplaceable biodiversity.*



One – Central Coast, Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028

“The values of the Central Coast community are strongly tied to its natural areas and ecosystems, such as beaches, waterways, ridges, estuaries, lakes and valley floors. The parks, gardens and natural bushland contribute to the lifestyle, culture and beauty of the region.

Large bushland and wetland areas are important for our air and water quality and provide homes for birds, animals and native plants.

We value open space that is expansive and connected and that enables passive recreation activities such as walking, cycling and getting together with family and friends. Our natural areas can be quiet and peaceful places for contemplation and enjoyment of natural beauty that enhances our emotional wellbeing as well as places for active engagement like playing sports and running on the beach.

We are committed to leaving a positive legacy for future generations through responsible stewardship of our natural areas – this is our shared responsibility as residents of the Central Coast. We encourage our community to contribute to that stewardship by minimising resource use (energy, water, and waste) and treating these natural areas with respect.”

The community values that "the natural environment is well cared for and protected" as recognised in the Community Strategic Plan, prepared following extensive community engagement. Themes emerged in participant's concerns and ideas on the environment (Table 1).



Table 1: Community engagement outcomes relating to the natural environment:

Important Community Value	Community Desire	Related CSP Objective
Abundant bushland areas, parks and green spaces	Council should take a proactive approach to protect and manage the natural environment under its care	F1 Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas and the diversity of local native species
Access to clean and well-maintained lakes and waterways	Council's Estuary Management Plan, catchment management program, Waterwatch Program and lagoon and coastal protection programs are important	E2 Improve water quality for beaches, lakes and waterways by minimising pollutants and preventing litter entering our waterways
New developments are built with consideration for the environment and local heritage	Development is removing habitat, trees and corridors – local and state government land use planning needs to protect these values	I3 Ensure land use planning and development is sustainable and environmentally sound and considers the importance of local habitat, green corridors, energy efficiency and stormwater management
Council works in the best interests of the community	Council should map wildlife corridors and extend corridors and protected areas	F2 Promote greening and ensuring the wellbeing of communities through the protection of local bushland, urban trees, tree canopies and expansion of the Coastal Open Space System (COSS)
The community is concerned about the impacts of climate change	Our community is active in environmental protection, and Council should acknowledge and encourage this by undertaking community education about wildlife and local vegetation	E1 Educate the community on the value and importance of natural areas and biodiversity and encourage community involvement in caring for our natural environment F4 Address climate change and its impacts through collaborative strategic planning and responsible land management



Assorted fungi - pretty grisette (*Amanita xanthocephala*), collared earth star (*Geastrum triplex*), *Phlebopus marginatus*, *Cortinarius* sp., *Leratiomyces cereus*, orange bracket. Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolthan

The preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy is in direct response to the importance that the community places on the environment and is included as part of a suite of Council strategies aimed at implementing key Community Strategic Plan objectives. Other strategies include:

- the Urban spatial Plan;
- the Greener Places Strategy, aimed at maintaining an urban tree canopy;
- the Sustainability Strategy, a pathway to a more sustainable region; and
- the Comprehensive Local Environmental Plan.

Achieving Balance

Biodiversity contributes to, and at the same time, competes with other social and economic values, including the need for land for urban development (Figure 2). These competing interests can be resolved through community engagement and excellent strategic planning, to which this Strategy contributes.

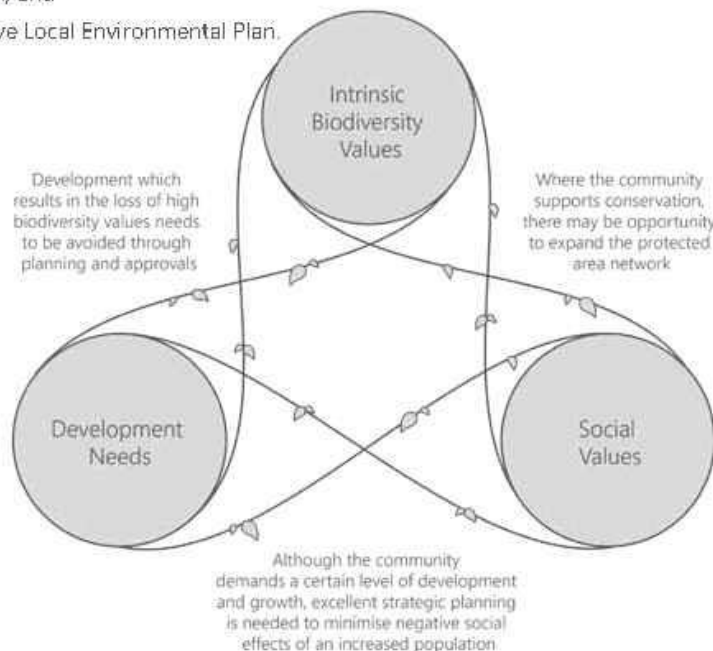


Figure 2: Acknowledging the complexity of integrating biodiversity and social values when prioritising for biodiversity conservation. Adapted from Whitehead AL, H Kujala, C Ives, A Gordon, PE Lentini, BA Wintle, E Nicholson & CM Raymond (2014). *Integrating biological and social values when prioritizing for biodiversity conservation*. Conservation Biology. doi: 10.1111/cobi.12257

The social services that Council's natural areas provide to the community include opportunities for nature based recreation (e.g. bushwalking, mountain bike riding), educating the community about the natural environment, and opportunities to undertake scientific investigation. Providing opportunities for the community to increase its understanding and appreciation of the natural environment, the threats to biodiversity, and the actions that can be taken to minimise their impacts is an important role for Council.

The reserves are known to support items of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal significance or interest, however many knowledge gaps exist in the location and best management practices of these sites. Involving the local Indigenous community in the management of sites of Aboriginal significance is essential in ensuring that management is culturally appropriate.

Biodiversity Values of the Central Coast

The biodiversity of the Central Coast is the result of complex processes of evolutionary history over long time periods. The biodiversity can be described in terms of ecosystems, vegetation communities, and the species of which these are comprised. A general summary description of these is provided in this section.

Over 2,100 native plant species have been recorded in the Central Coast LGA. An additional 798 exotic plant species have been recorded. There are 384 native bird, 108 native mammal and 122 native reptile and amphibian species on the Central Coast. Some of these are migratory or nomadic and use the region intermittently or seasonally. According to the Atlas of Living Australia there are 1090 species of insects and spiders recorded in the former Gosford LGA and 584 species in the former Wyong LGA. And those are just the ones that have names.

Iconic and Unique Species

Our magnificent biodiversity is of national and regional importance. For example, the Central Coast community can be proud that:

- our coastlines provide key breeding sites for the little tern and other migratory shorebirds;
- regionally important populations of squirrel glider, greater glider and yellow-bellied glider call the Central Coast home;
- we have a large diversity of microbat species;
- Kincumba Mountain Reserve and The Scenic Road Bushland Reserve are home to long-nosed potoroos;
- we have at least four permanent flying-fox maternity camps;
- there is a population of wallum froglet in the Porters Creek Wetland;
- our estuaries and coastal lakes are immensely important for the fisheries industry; and
- 46,808 ha or 25% of the Central Coast is national park.

The following are examples of species endemic to the region, meaning that they grow nowhere else in the world as they are particularly adapted to the local soils and conditions:

- Somersby mintbush (*Prostanthera junonis*)
- Blue-leaved darwinia (*Darwinia glaucophylla*)
- Tranquillity mintbush (*Prostanthera askania*)
- *Grevillea diffusa* subsp. *filipendria*
- *Grevillea oldei*
- *Grevillea shiressii*
- *Genoplesium insignis*
- *Microtis angusii*
- *Thelymitra adorata*
- *Corunastylis* sp 'Charmhaven'
- Heart-leaved stringybark (*Eucalyptus oblonga*)
- Charmhaven apple (*Angophora inopina*)
- Magenta lilly pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*).



Pink wax flower - (Eriostemon australasius)
Illustration - Dr. Tanya Hoolahan



Short-beaked echidna - (Tachyglossus acuteatus)
 Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoalihan

Ecosystem Drivers and Processes

The underlying geology determines the ecosystems on the land's surface, contributing to ecosystem diversity. The Central Coast formed as a delta during the Triassic period, which is characterised by three geological formations: Hawkesbury Sandstone, the Narrabeen Group and Wianamatta Shale. Quaternary sands are found along the edges of the major rivers and valley floors.

The topography of the LGA ranges from mountains and steep sandstone escarpments with narrow ridges to the west, descending to wide valley systems to the east. The Hawkesbury River collects water from the Mangrove, Popran, Mooney Mooney, and Mullet Creeks before reaching the ocean. Brisbane Water drains into Broken Bay. The entire coastal zone is characterised by estuaries, lagoons, dunes and rocky headlands.

The climate of the Central Coast is moist and temperate, with unpredictable and significant rainfall events. Rain usually falls as either east coast lows or as heavy spring/summer thunderstorms. Winters are mild, especially on the coast, with only the occasional frost. Gosford, for example, has temperatures ranging from mean maxima of 18° C in winter to 28° C in summer.

Flora and Fauna Species

Different ecosystems associated with the variety of land forms provide for many special species, such as the glossy-black cockatoo, which is dependent on casuarina trees, eastern pygmy possums, which feed on banksia flowers in wet heath, the wallum froglet which is associated with wallum swamps on coastal plains and the red-crowned toadlet, which breeds in the drainage lines on sandstone escarpments. The diversity of ecosystems provides for high densities of some species, such as squirrel gliders that feed on winter-flowering eucalypts, banksias and the exudates of some eucalypts and acacias. The habitat of green-thighed frogs is varied, having been found in vegetation as diverse as rainforest and grassy woodland, but seems to be restricted to areas which flood after heavy rains.

Marine and estuarine habitats (tidal sandflat, tidal mudflat, lake, rocky shores, beach, and ocean) are used by a wide range of resident and migratory wading, estuarine, ocean and shore birds.

Fungi are the invisible framework of all ecosystems (both terrestrial and aquatic). They play a critical role in decomposition and nutrient cycling, help create and stabilise soils, form relationships with plant roots which are highly beneficial for the survival of plants, and provide habitat and a food resource for a multitude of other organisms.

Without fungi, plant-based habitats would not exist. Fungi are the second-most diverse group of organisms in the world after arthropods.

Arthropods are vital to the functioning of all ecosystems. Insects are ecosystem engineers, decomposers, pollinators, soil aerators and serve as food for many groups of animals such as fish, birds and mammals.

Ecosystem Types

1. Rainforest

Rainforest is typically a rich, moist forest with a diverse composition of rainforest species. There are five types of rainforest which are restricted to sheltered gullies of the sandstone escarpment areas, in riparian zones on the coastal floodplains or on sand dunes and coastal headlands. They total 6,943 ha in area, of which 98 ha is Coastal Sand Littoral Rainforest. Examples of littoral rainforest can be seen at Wyrabalong National Park and Munmorah State Conservation Area.

2. Forest and Woodland

Wet sclerophyll forests, dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands make up the largest proportion of vegetation on the Central Coast, with 40 different types identified.

Riparian, moist and mesic forests occur along the edges of creeks and rivers and on sheltered slopes and gullies on the Narrabeen Sandstone in the west. Examples include Coastal Narrabeen Ironbark Forest, Alluvial Riparian Blackbutt Forest and Coastal Sand Bangalay Mesic Forest. Along the Hawkesbury River and its tributaries there are deeper soils which support taller alluvial forests, but much of this area has been cleared as access to harvest the taller trees was possible from the river.

Exposed headlands, outcrops of sandstone, and elevated ranges and footslopes support dry sclerophyll forests dominated by eucalypt tree species. For example, in Dharug National Park, Hawkesbury Peppermint Apple Forest occurs on sheltered slopes and minor drainage lines within the sandstone ranges, with a ground layer of grasses and herbs.

More of the dry sclerophyll forests are conserved in the west than the forests of the coastal plain, which are now only found in small remnant patches along the coast. These forests provide high value winter food sources for migratory birds, flying-foxes, gliders and possums, and complement the flowering of the swamp forests.

Woodland occurs on exposed crests or in dry rainfall areas, for example, Exposed Hawkesbury Woodland. *Corymbia* and *Angophora* occur as widely spaced trees over a diverse heathy understory.

There are very small areas of Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland (UCSW) threatened ecological community remaining. Originally this was the vegetation on the dunes and swales and their associated swamps and creeks on the coastal sandplains at Umina, Woy Woy and Pearl Beach. Historically, this flatter area has been drained and used for housing. The UCSW's entire area is reduced to less than 14 ha and as such, is one of the smallest threatened ecological communities.

3. Swamp Forest

Swamp forests are often dominated by swamp mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*) and *Melaleuca* paperbark species with a dense shrub layer. These vegetation communities grow in poorly drained and waterlogged soils, along watercourses or floodplains and on the fringes of estuaries. Examples include Alluvial Floodplain Redgum Forest, Coastal Sand Swamp Forest and Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest.

One of the main ecological functions of swamp forests is their value as a food source for migratory birds and for flying-foxes which move across large areas.

4. Heath / Scrub

Dry heath is generally restricted to coastal areas and on elevated sandstone ridges with impeded drainage on rock or in dunal areas (e.g. Bouddi Sandstone Coastal Heath and Coastal Sand Banksia Scrub). Although not widely distributed, coastal heath is well represented in the national park reserves in the south (Brisbane Water, Bouddi, and Wyrabalong National Parks).

Coastal heaths are often associated with acidic soils which can be waterlogged. Coastal Sand Wallum Heath is found in the north of the region at Munmorah State Conservation Area, Soldiers Beach and Norah Head. This vegetation community provides habitat for the rare wallum froglet and has disappeared from about 40 per cent of its former range, making it regionally significant for conservation.

Species diversity in heathlands is generally very high with the plant families Ericaceae, Myrtaceae, Proteaceae, Fabaceae and Restionaceae being particularly well represented.

Wet heath /scrub is associated with stunted vegetation in locations where drainage is impeded due to impervious clay layers and includes hanging swamps of the sandstone plateaux. Examples of Narrabeen Impeded Wet Heath occur in Bushells Ridge, Chain Valley Bay and Wyee. Coastal Floodplain Wet Heath occurs principally within the Porters Creek Wetland, south of the Warnervale airport.

5. Wetland

There are many coastal wetlands in the region mapped by the State Environment Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018. The vegetation community types associated with these wetlands are diverse and, in most cases, have been declared threatened ecological communities.

Nine Wetlands of National Significance are located within the region: Avoca Lagoon, Brisbane Water Estuary, Budgewoi Lake Sand Mass, Cockrone Lagoon, Terrigal Lagoon, Tuggerah Lakes Estuary, Wamberal Lagoon and Wyong Racecourse Swamp.

Porters Creek Wetland is the single largest coastal wetland in the region being 12% of the region's total wetland area (624 ha) and provides habitat for many species. A survey undertaken in 1999 recorded 168 species of plants, macroinvertebrates from 70 families, 62 bird species including 9 migratory species, and 25 mammal species including 7 species of bats.

Baumea sedgeland is only found in a few localities near Avoca and Cockrone Lagoon and around the estuaries of Brisbane Water, whereas *Juncus* sedgeland is known from estuaries in Lower Mangrove and Spencer along the larger river systems.

6. Mangrove Swamp

Estuarine Mangrove Scrub occurs immediately within and adjacent to tidal estuaries, such as along the Woy Woy Inlet, on the edges of Brisbane Water, along the Hawkesbury River and its tributaries, along Erina Creek and the southern shore of Lake Macquarie. The vegetation community is dominated by grey mangrove (or river mangrove in and near major rivers) with a ground layer devoid of any other plants.

Mangroves are well known as nurseries for fish and a source of food for wading birds and crabs. They also serve as soil stabilisers against erosion caused by wave action. Mangroves are often found on the fringes of saltmarsh, and can encroach on saltmarsh communities. Mangroves are protected under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

7. Saltmarsh and Seagrass

There are a considerable number of estuaries in the Central Coast region supporting mangroves, seagrass beds, saltmarsh / grassland, and inter-tidal sand and mudflats.

Estuarine Saltmarsh / Grassland occurs immediately within and adjacent to tidal estuaries and is dominated by saltmarsh (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora* subsp *quinqueflora*) or grasses (*Zoysia macrantha*). Estuarine Saltmarsh is found in Crangan Bay, Cockle Bay, Davistown-Saratoga and on Tuggerah Lake Estuary foreshores.

Coastal saltmarsh is a threatened ecological community. The on-going threats to saltmarsh include illegal in-filling, grazing, weed invasion and recreational vehicles.



Pink wax flower - (*Eriostemon australasius*) Mountain devil (*Lambertia formosa*), broad-leaf drumsticks (*Isopogon anemonifolius*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolthan

Saltmarsh protects the coastline from storm erosion and acid sulphate soil exposure. Saltmarsh provides a valuable source of food in the form of crabs, molluscs and many insects for wading birds, many of which are migratory.

Seagrasses occur in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries. Common species are *Zostera capricorni* (eelgrass) and *Halophila spp.* (paddleweed).

Important seagrass areas occur in the Brisbane Water, Hawkesbury River and Tuggerah Lake Estuary. Brisbane Water supports an endangered population of the seagrass, *Posidonia australis*. Seagrasses are important habitat for a range of fauna species, including the White's sea horse (*Hippocampus whitei*) and as habitat for a range of estuarine fish such as bream (*Acanthopagrus sp.*).

8. Maritime Grassland

Natural grasslands in the Central Coast typically occur in exposed coastal places where growth of shrubs is inhibited by strong onshore winds. Coastal Headland Grassland vegetation community is part of the *Themeda* Grassland on Seacliffs and Coastal Headlands threatened ecological community. Examples can be found at Wyrabalong National Park, Bouddi National Park, Mt Ettalong Reserve and Munmorah State Conservation Area.

Coastal Sand Beach Spinifex occurs on ocean beaches above the high water mark, particularly those that have not been disturbed through excessive recreational use or invasion by bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*

subsp. *rotundata*).

9. Freshwater Rivers

Freshwater rivers and streams are important habitat for a range of species, including platypus, along with a range of macroinvertebrates and rainforest stream frogs, such as the stuttering frog. Riparian vegetation provides an important resource for a range of specialised aquatic and terrestrial fauna that feed along waterways (e.g. fishing bat, kingfishers, water dragons) or spend a portion of their lifecycle in water. Riparian vegetation also provides leaf and litter input to streams that forms the basis of the food chain in freshwater streams. Important freshwater streams on the Central Coast include the upper reaches of the Wyong River in Olney State Forest and the upper reaches of Mooney Mooney Creek which flow through Brisbane Water National Park.

9. Marine

The marine environment is outside of Council's responsibility; however, 75.5 km of coastal zone creates the eastern boundary of the LGA.

The Bouddi National Park Marine extension protects a range of threatened species, migratory species, and habitats including sandy beaches, intertidal rocky shores, and open ocean. It stretches from Bullimah Beach to Bombi Point (approximately 3.5 km of shoreline) and out to sea for 400 m, protects about 20 ha of marine and rock platforms, including invertebrates.



Straw-necked Ibis - (*Threskiornis spinicollis*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoodihan

Threats to Biodiversity

Australia's biodiversity is in rapid decline. According to the 2016 State of the Environment (SoE) report, the main pressures affecting the Australian environment today are the same as reported in the previous SoE report of 2011: climate change, land-use change, habitat fragmentation and degradation, and invasive species. There are no indications that these pressures have decreased since 2011, and there is evidence that some have increased (e.g. coastal waterways are threatened by new classes of pollutants such as microplastics and nanoparticles, dumped waste in the marine environment and invasive species generally).

Globally, all species are affected by climate change. Nearly half of species on Earth are experiencing local extinctions.¹ This means that hundreds of species have already lost the race to adapt to new climate conditions and have vanished from their local habitat, even though levels of climate change so far are modest relative to those predicted in future.

In Australia, climate change is an increasingly important and pervasive pressure on all aspects of the environment. Australian average temperatures have increased by 1 °C since 1910 and there is evidence that change in climate is altering the structure and function of natural ecosystems, and affecting heritage, economic activity and human wellbeing.² As the concentration of CO₂ in the lower atmosphere continues to increase every decade (up to 450 ppm in the next 10 years) temperatures will rise. It is not known for certain what affects this will have on Earth's geosystems, however it is clear that the impacts of climate change are increasing, and some of these impacts may be irreversible.

If global trends are any indication of how local conditions may change, the Central Coast region can expect higher temperatures, an increase in bushfires, more intense rainfall contributing to more floods, more droughts, and sea level rise. Expected impacts on local plant and animal species include lowered populations, asynchronous flowering and emergence of pollinators, local extinctions and the spread of new diseases and weeds.

¹ John Wiens (2016) Climate-related local extinctions are already widespread among plant and animal species. PLOS Biology doi:10.1371/pbio.2001704

² Australia SOE 2016

Key Threatening Processes

Key threatening processes that could apply in the LGA that are currently listed on the schedules of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* are:

- Aggressive exclusion of birds from woodland and forest habitat by abundant noisy miners, *Manorina melanocephala*
- Alteration of habitat following subsidence due to longwall mining
- Alteration to the natural flow regimes of rivers and streams and their floodplains and wetlands
- Anthropogenic climate change
- Bushrock removal
- Clearing of native vegetation
- Competition and grazing by the feral European rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
- Competition and habitat degradation by feral goats, *Capra hircus*
- Competition from feral honey bees, *Apis mellifera*
- Death or injury to marine species following capture in shark control programs on ocean beaches
- Entanglement in or ingestion of anthropogenic debris in marine and estuarine environments
- Forest eucalypt dieback associated with over-abundant psyllids and bell miners
- Herbivory and environmental degradation caused by feral deer
- High frequency fire resulting in the disruption of life cycle processes in plants and animals and loss of vegetation structure and composition
- Importation of red imported fire ants, *Solenopsis invicta*
- Infection by psittacine circoviral (beak and feather) disease affecting endangered psittacine species and populations
- Infection of frogs by amphibian chytrid causing the disease chytridiomycosis
- Infection of native plants by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*
- Introduction and establishment of exotic rust fungi of the order Pucciniales pathogenic on plants of the family Myrtaceae
- Introduction of the large earth bumblebee, *Bombus terrestris*
- Invasion and establishment of exotic vines and scramblers
- Invasion and establishment of scotch broom, *Cytisus scoparius*
- Invasion and establishment of the cane toad, *Bufo marinus*
- Invasion of native plant communities by African olive, *Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*
- Invasion of native plant communities by *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*
- Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses
- Invasion of the yellow crazy ant, *Anoplolepis gracilipes* into NSW
- Invasion, establishment and spread of lantana, *Lantana camara*
- Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including aquatic plants
- Loss of hollow-bearing trees
- Loss or degradation (or both) of sites used for hill-topping by butterflies
- Predation and hybridisation by feral dogs, *Canis lupus familiaris*
- Predation by *Gambusia holbrooki* (plague minnow or mosquito fish)
- Predation by the European red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*
- Predation by the feral cat, *Felis catus*
- Predation, habitat degradation, competition and disease transmission by feral pigs, *Sus scrofa*
- Removal of dead wood and dead trees.



Purple swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

The key threatening processes list in the Species Profile and Threats Database under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* includes all of the above. The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* list adds degradation of native riparian vegetation along water courses, introduction of fish to river catchment and marine areas and the removal of large woody debris from rivers and streams.

Council's natural areas, as well as most remnant vegetation community types in the LGA, are currently affected to some degree by most of the above threats. In particular, Council targets weed invasion, grazing or predation by feral or domestic animals, firewood collection, rubbish dumping, and clearing of native vegetation as part of its land management planning.

Threatened Species, Populations and Ecological Communities

The quantifiable result of the many threats to biodiversity mentioned above is that certain vegetation community types and flora and fauna species become so far reduced in extent or numbers that they are at risk of local extinction. If criteria are met and a panel of experts agree, a species, ecological community or population can be eligible for listing as being threatened with extinction. Listed entities have more legal protection and are eligible for funding for their management and restoration.

Species and populations specifically listed in the schedules of the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as threatened and that occur, or are likely to occur, in the Central Coast LGA are listed in Appendix A. There are 53 plants, 67 birds, 27 mammals, one insect, four reptiles, 9 amphibians and two populations on the list.

A total of 15 threatened ecological communities are known to occur in the Central Coast LGA (Table 2).

Table 2: Threatened ecological communities in the Central Coast local government area

Threatened Ecological Community	NSW status	Commonwealth status
Coastal Saltmarsh in the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Endangered	Vulnerable
Coastal Upland Swamp in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	Endangered
Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Endangered	-
Kincumber Scribbly Gum Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Critically Endangered	-
Littoral Rainforest in the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Low Woodland with Heathland on Indurated Sand at Norah Head	Endangered	
Lowland Rainforest in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Pittwater and Wagstaffe Spotted Gum Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	-
Quorrobolong Scribbly Gum Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	-
River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Endangered	-
Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Endangered	Endangered
Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Endangered	-
Sydney Freshwater Wetlands in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	-
<i>Themeda</i> Grassland on Seacliffs and Coastal Headlands in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Endangered	-
Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	-



Sugar Glider - (Petaurus breviceps)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Objectives and Strategic Context

Purpose of the Biodiversity Strategy

The Strategy recognises that the irreplaceable biodiversity values described earlier are important to the community and the purpose of the Strategy is to:

Provide an administrative and policy framework to support the protection and management of biodiversity on the Central Coast.

The desired outcome of the Strategy is to protect and enhance the landscape and biodiversity values of the Central Coast, which includes maintaining functional connections between areas of habitat, maintaining core habitat as well as restoring marginal habitat, preserving threatened and iconic species and ecological communities, preserving significant Aboriginal cultural places, and protecting the scenic amenity of the region.

Mechanisms identified within this strategy seek to appropriately offset local biodiversity loss in order to try and achieve a zero net loss of biodiversity on the Central Coast.

The Strategy sets out a 5-year program to direct and drive conservation planning and on-ground activities. It seeks to establish a framework to guide conservation efforts while balancing the needs of the community for future development.

Council acknowledges that effective conservation planning is considered over a much longer period, and a time horizon of 50 to 100 years should be the basis for the objectives, programs and principles in the Strategy. However, the reality is that administrative frameworks are not static and therefore the Strategy will require a review and update 5 years after adoption and periodically thereafter.



Wyong sun orchid (*Thelymitra adorata*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

The objectives of the Strategy are to:

1. Define Council's role in biodiversity conservation in the context of other government strategic conservation planning and private land conservation.
2. Identify specific actions to allow Council to meet the relevant objectives of the 2018-2028 Community Strategic Plan and 2018-19 to 2022-23 Delivery Programs.
3. Summarise conservation priorities for the Central Coast in a way that provides a context for decision-making and strategic planning.
4. Identify measurable targets and specific actions for Council.

Legislative and Policy Context of the Biodiversity Strategy

The focus of Council, State Government and Commonwealth Government biodiversity legislation, policy and plans is to promote and support biodiversity conservation and provide for the protection and management of the environment.

Activities in all councils in NSW are subject to legislation that seeks to ensure environmental protection, including state and federal legislation implementing international treaty obligations. Important legislative mechanisms that apply to the Biodiversity Strategy are identified below.

- Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999
- *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* 1983
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016
- *Biosecurity Act* 2015
- *Coastal Management Act* 2016
- *Crown Land Management Act* 2016
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979
- *Fisheries Management Act* 1994
- *Local Government Act* 1993
- *Local Land Services Act* 2013
- *Rural Fires Act* 1997
- *Water Management Act* 2000
- SEPP (Coastal Management) 2018
- SEPP (Environment) 2017
- SEPP 44 (Koala Habitat Protection)
- SEPP (Vegetation in Non-rural Areas) 2017

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016, together with the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017, outlines the framework for addressing impacts on biodiversity associated with development and clearing in NSW. The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme is a framework to avoid, minimise and offset impacts on biodiversity, and to ensure land that is used to offset impacts is secured in-perpetuity.

Aside from legislation, there is a range of planning documents that guide and influence local plans and strategies, including this Biodiversity Strategy.

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030

The Commonwealth Government strategy identifies three national priorities for action to help stop the decline in Australia's biodiversity. These priorities for action are:

1. Engaging all Australians in biodiversity conservation through:
 - mainstreaming biodiversity
 - increasing Indigenous engagement
 - enhancing strategic investments and partnerships.
2. Building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate by:
 - protecting diversity
 - maintaining and re-establishing ecosystem functions
 - reducing threats to biodiversity.
3. Getting measurable results through:
 - improving and sharing knowledge
 - delivering conservation initiatives efficiently
 - implementing robust national monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, offsets are considered during the assessment phase of an environmental impact assessment where the impact is significant and an offset provides an appropriate benefit to compensate for any residual impact on a protected matter.

A local biodiversity offsets policy and process that is aligned with the Commonwealth offset principles is explored in this Strategy.

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2018

The Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy guides the Biodiversity Conservation Trust's investment in private land conservation. The state-wide program operates at the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) sub-region scale. The Strategy does not identify the Central Coast as a priority investment area in the context of the whole of NSW. This leaves an opportunity for Council to identify local conservation priorities in collaboration with NSW Government agencies and support private landholders to participate in the Biodiversity Conservation Trust private land conservation program.

Central Coast Regional Plan 2036

One of the four goals of the Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 (NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2016) is "to protect the natural environment and manage the use of agricultural and resource lands". Direction 12 in this Plan is to "protect and manage environmental values".

Importantly, the Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 recognises the need to identify land with high environmental values (including existing conservation reserves, native vegetation of high conservation value, threatened ecological communities and key habitats, important wetlands, lakes and estuaries, and sites of geological significance) and also to identify, protect and manage a network of biodiversity corridors.

The Plan identifies the following five actions:

- 12.1 - *Identify terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity values and protect areas of high environmental value to sustain the lifestyle, economic success and environmental health of the region.*

The Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy identifies priority conservation areas (see map 3) and includes actions to further an assessment as part of the Comprehensive LEP process.

- 12.2 - *Identify and strengthen biodiversity corridors as places for priority biodiversity offsets.* Council has mapped local biodiversity corridors as a first step in providing protection for connectivity through the planning process (see map 4).
- 12.3 *Undertake a precinct approach to biodiversity offsetting in northern Wyong to protect riparian corridors and terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and achieve the conservation, landscape and development objectives of the North Wyong Shire Structure Plan.* The Department of Planning, Industry & Environment is responsible for developing a long-term Central Coast Conservation Plan (see below). The Biodiversity Strategy is aligned with the objectives of the Plan and will both inform and be informed by information gathered through that process.
- 12.4 *Strengthen the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) by expanding its links and extending new corridors to balance growth in the north of the region and protect the network of natural areas across the region.* Theme 2 of this document responds to this action, as far as it being Council's role as a public land manager.
- 12.5 *Sensitively manage natural areas on the fringe of the urban areas and in the west of the region to mitigate land use incompatibility issues and provide important quality of life and tourism benefits for the region.* Local and site based decision-making will consider relevant issues through strategic planning and development assessment processes, and will take the Biodiversity Strategy into account.

By aligning the actions of the Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy with the Central Coast Regional Plan actions, Council demonstrates a robust and consistent policy framework is in place which provides a basis for decision making and funding eligibility.

Strategic Conservation Planning

Both State and Commonwealth legislation provides for strategic biodiversity approvals which can occur on a site, precinct or broader scale.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is undertaking strategic conservation planning in the Central Coast region to balance expected growth with the protection of biodiversity at a landscape scale.

This strategic conservation planning exercise provides an opportunity to align with the Biodiversity Strategy to establish an enduring conservation legacy for the Central Coast.

Strategic conservation planning will identify the most important biodiversity areas to avoid and a package of measures to protect these values and offset biodiversity impacts, on a region-wide basis.

The Central Coast Strategic Conservation Plan will support an application for Strategic Biodiversity Certification under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and Strategic Assessment under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Approval of the Central Coast Strategic Conservation Plan will be sought from the respective NSW and Commonwealth ministers for the environment.

Strategic conservation planning provides an alternative to the current process where conservation and development decisions are made on a site by site basis and, if achieved, will streamline the delivery of housing and growth across the Central Coast.

Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Councils operate within an Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework. Council's strategic plans (including this document) provide the link between the Community Strategic Plan (a 10 year timeframe) to 4-year delivery plans and annual operational plans. Progress against targets is measured and reported back to the community in annual reports.

Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement / Urban Spatial Plan

The Urban Spatial Plan is Council's vision for growing the Central Coast in a sustainable manner that enhances its character, preserves its natural attributes and improves our quality of life. It aims to provide a spatial framework to guide the Central Coast region's future growth and development over the next 20 years. The Urban Spatial Plan will inform the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

The LSPS is the primary strategic tool to express the desired future for the LGA as a whole, and specific areas over the next 20 years. It is a legal requirement under Part 3B of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

The LSPS will:

- be the basis of strategic planning, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters;
- identify the planning priorities over the next 20 years having regard for the objectives of the CSP and CCRP 2036;
- define the actions required to achieve the identified planning priorities; and
- establish the basis for the monitoring and reporting of those actions.

The Biodiversity Strategy will be an integral component of a suite of strategic plans that will support the LSPS.

Other Council Plans and Programs

The Biodiversity Strategy targets and actions rely on other closely-related Council strategies, environmental programs and corporate systems. There is a certain amount of cross-over due to the fact that the management of environmental values is central to Council's business.

The Biodiversity Strategy does not attempt to address in detail the targets and activities within Council's programs, even within the environmental management and protection work streams. It acknowledges that components of other work programs will support the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy.



Golden-crowned Snake - (*Cacophis squamulosus*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan



Scrub she-oak (Allocasuarina distyla)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Framework for Action

The goals and associated actions and targets to achieve the Biodiversity Strategy fall into five broad themes.

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5
Planning and Managing Biodiversity in Council's Natural Areas	Ensuring adequate resourcing to enable Council to effectively manage its natural areas and expand the conservation estate	Promoting community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation	Protecting biodiversity through land use planning and information management	Demonstrating leadership in biodiversity conservation

The actions under the first three themes will be delivered by the proposed Conservation Management Program (CMP). The CMP is a comprehensive program of works covering natural asset planning and management, expansion of Council's natural area estate, and community involvement in biodiversity conservation (Figure 3). Output documents from the CMP such as strategies, plans and policies, will be prepared as key actions of the themes.



Figure 3: The main components of the Biodiversity Strategy and associated key strategies, plans and policies

While Theme 5 focuses on Council's corporate responsibilities, Theme 4 provides a link between biodiversity protection and the strategic planning framework. Council is in a unique position having two roles: a public land owner and manager; and a planning and consent authority. In collaboration with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and the DPIE there are opportunities to strategically manage high biodiversity value land using funding generated by developers offsetting unavoidable impacts in urban growth areas.

The following sections describe each theme and explain why it is relevant to Council. A table summarises the goals, actions and targets, and is followed by more detail or background information for certain key actions.



Powerful owl - (*Ninox strenua*), Tuckeroo - (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoalihan

Theme 1:

Planning and Managing Biodiversity in Council's Natural Areas

Importance to Council

Council is a major landholder and land manager with legal responsibility for managing over 6,000 ha of irreplaceable and high value bushland on behalf of the community. Carefully planning the effort and resources expended across Council is critical to a well-managed network of reserves.

The establishment of the amalgamated Central Coast LGA has provided an opportunity for Council to review its approach to natural area management and ensure that it is cost efficient, effective at achieving biodiversity management goals, and aligns with recent changes to NSW legislation.

The area of bushland that Council is responsible for increases due to land dedications through the planning and approvals process and land acquisition. It is important for Council to find a way to prioritise its resources and effort and track the effectiveness of its investment through site management planning. Reserves are generally considered as isolated management units; however, a land management decision support system would view the reserves as a consolidated network of assets, allowing more strategic planning at a landscape scale.

Recent advances in spatial resolution and access to remotely sensed data, and the proliferation of citizen science will complement Council's field data collection program and lead to innovative uses of datasets to guide management actions. For example, use of historical satellite images and future modelling scenarios can contribute to Council's understanding of threats to biodiversity and the most effective management solutions.



Eastern Horseshoe bat - (Rhinolophus megaphyllus)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Once thorough management planning has been undertaken, implementing the plans is critical to achieving on-ground biodiversity improvement. On-ground activities typically include weed control, vertebrate pest control, access and visitor management, use of fire, habitat augmentation and long-term legal protection.

Long-term legal protection has benefits to the community in terms of securing public assets for future generations, and to Council as a way to attract funding for their maintenance and management. In perpetuity legal conservation agreements afford the highest level of on-going protection.

Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 1)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 1.1: Comprehensively plan for the management of biodiversity in Council's natural areas		
1.1.1*	Identify criteria for prioritising reserve management based on biodiversity and social values, and threats to biodiversity	By the end of 2020/21, criteria within a decision support system help make resourcing decisions for natural area management that or deliver natural area management objectives
1.1.2*	Develop and resource a program to prepare and review site management plans for Council's natural areas (as well as Plans of Management as required by the LG Act)	By the end of 2023/24, all natural reserves have an up-to-date site management plan (or POM) in place
1.1.3	Identify climate change as a direct threat to natural areas in site management plans, including actions to mitigate impacts	By the end of 2023/24, progress is made towards planning for impacts associated with climate change for the majority of natural reserves such as identifying vulnerable species and new weed threats
Goal 1.2: Improve biodiversity in Council's natural areas		
1.2.1*	Implement site management plans to rehabilitate degraded bushland and coastal ecosystems.	By the end of 2023/24, implementation of site management plans is progressed in at least 50 reserves
1.2.2	Prepare a policy for natural area encroachment management, and resource and implement a program to identify and manage threats to natural areas from encroachment	By the end of 2020/21, Council has a formal process and policy in place and has commenced managing natural area encroachment
1.2.3	Develop and implement a program for planning and undertaking ecological and/or cultural burns on Council managed land that complements hazard reduction burning (in line with the Bush Fire Management Committee adopted program)	By the end of 2023/24, appropriate fire management intervals will be incorporated into the Conservation Management Program, with a schedule for prescribed burning in place
Goal 1.3: Improve information held on the biodiversity values of Council's natural areas		
1.3.1	Collect and manage data to inform land management (e.g. vegetation condition, population size or locations of habitat for threatened species or ecological communities, invasive weed and vertebrate pest incursions, nest boxes installed or other information)	By the end of 2023/24, information about specific land management issues is collated into a central information management system
1.3.3	Use traditional Indigenous knowledge and management techniques for threatened species recovery and conservation management where available and appropriate	Established and maintain relationships with traditional owners
Goal 1.4: Improve the long-term protection status of Council's natural areas		
1.4.1*	Explore available options for formal legal protection and management of Council reserves and formulate recommendations for conservation mechanisms	By the end of 2020/21, reserves strategically identified for formal protection and active land management
1.4.2	Establish conservation agreements as per recommendations in 1.4.1	By the end of 2023/24, identified reserves (see 1.4.1) are legally secured under long-term protective arrangements

* Key actions explained in more detail below

Key Actions Explained

Theme 1 - Goal 1.1 Actions 1.1.1 & 1.1.2

Comprehensive Management Planning

Achieving **Action 1.1.1** relies on Council identifying criteria for prioritising reserves and management issues based on biodiversity values, social values and known threats to biodiversity. The Conservation Management Program (CMP) is the way in which Council will plan for the maintenance and improvement of the values of its natural areas. The CMP will strategically guide investment in land management that increases their resilience to known future threats, such as fragmentation of the landscape, loss of connectivity, decline in habitat condition, climate change and unknown future threats.

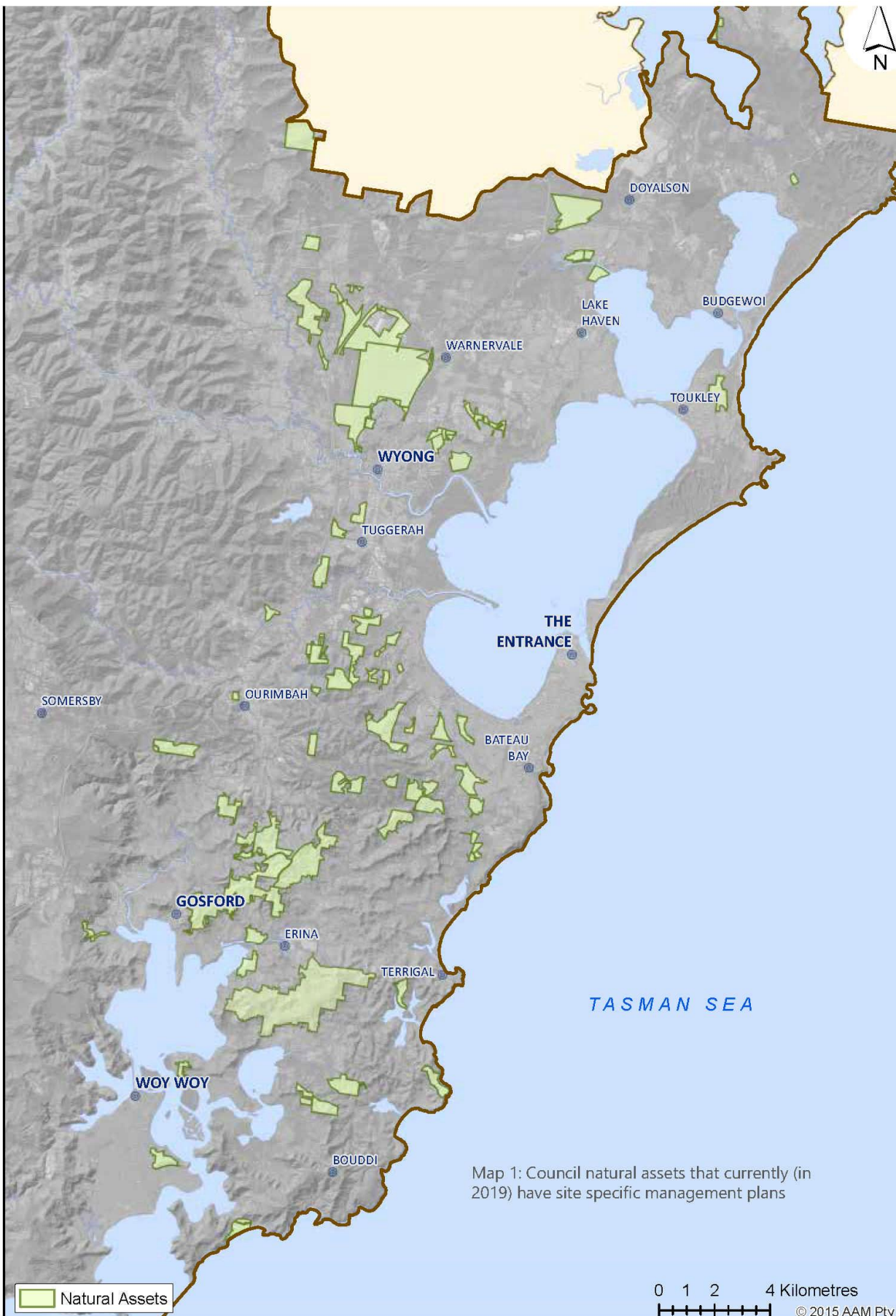
Action 1.1.2 aims to prepare site-specific management plans that guide restoration and improvement in biodiversity values in a way that prioritises available resources. Multi-year plans ensure that management issues are fully considered and that funds are spent on the priority issues affecting biodiversity, rather than the most apparent ones.

Site management plans can take many forms: Plans of Management (which are required for land classified as Community Land under the *Local Government Act 1993*); vegetation management plans; vertebrate pest control plans; threatened species management plans, bush fire plans; or other site management plans. The choice of plan type is dependent on factors such as the size of the reserve, specific management needs, and whether the land is subject to a legal agreement.

In 2019, there are 47 Council reserves that have final site management plans. Map 1 shows the Council reserves with current management plans, most of which are being periodically reviewed and implemented. The action (1.1.2) aims to continue this program until all reserves have management plans of some type, whether that is in the form of Plans of Management, site management plans or other types of plans. With a better understanding of all the reserves and their management needs, Council aspires to becoming a more effective land manager and achieve on-ground nature conservation outcomes.



Eastern rosella (*Platycercus eximius*), flannel flower (*Actinotus helianthi*) - Illustration - Dr Tanya Hooltham



Theme 1- Goal 1.2 - Action 1.2.1

On-ground Land Management to Improve Biodiversity Values

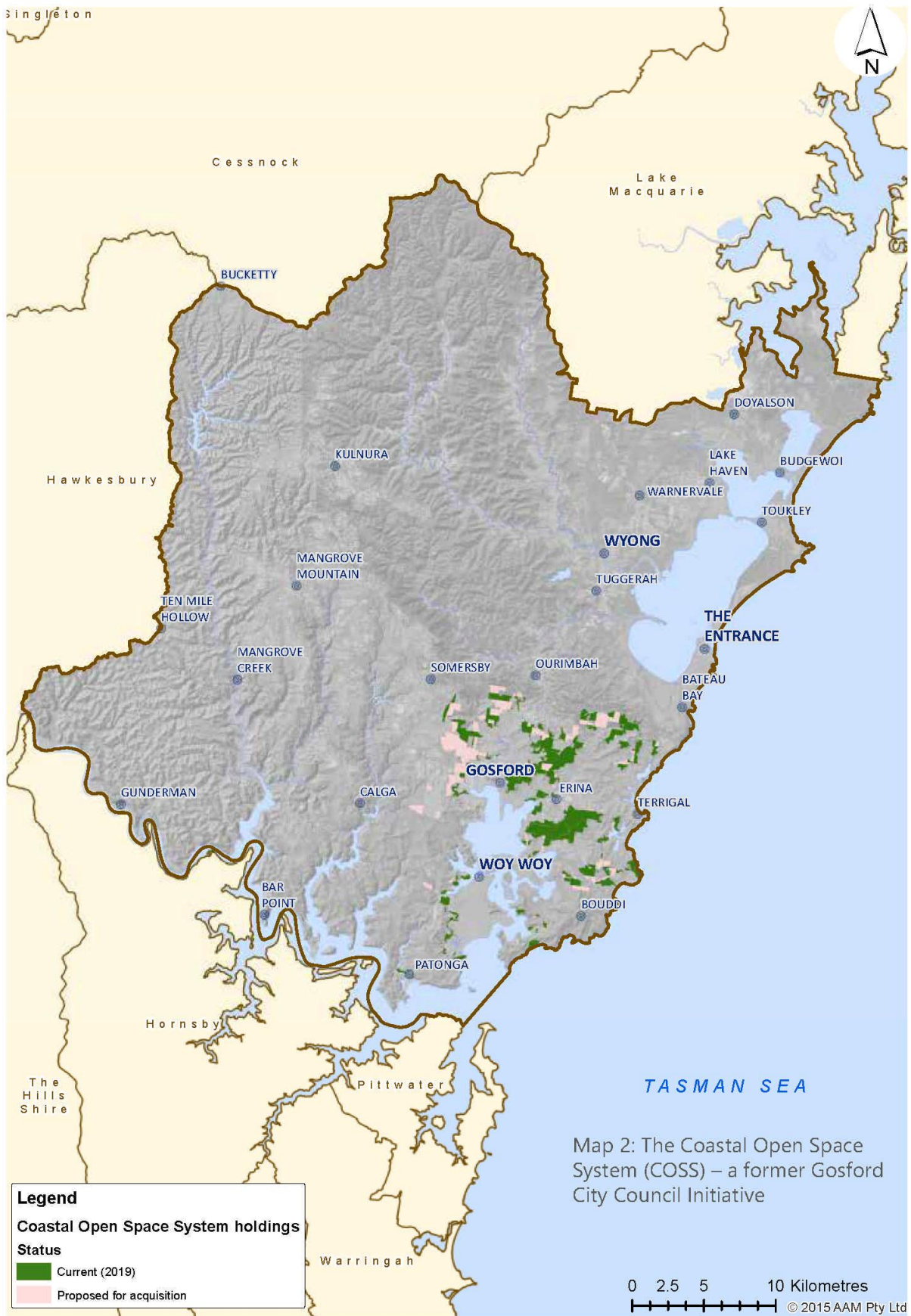
Action 1.2.1 is to rehabilitate degraded bushland and coastal ecosystems by implementing site management plans. Specifically, on-ground actions include applying the National Standards for the practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia, planting vegetation for a future climate and vertebrate pest control.

Site-specific plans refer to a set of typical on-ground actions, which may include the following:

- weed control (unwanted woody and herbaceous plants);
- vertebrate pest control (e.g. foxes, rabbits, wild dogs, feral cats);
- enhancement of habitat and structure for fauna (revegetation or infill planting, installing nest boxes, creating new hollows, creating water features, adding ground elements (e.g. logs));
- visitor management (i.e. directing pedestrian and vehicle traffic away from sensitive areas) and recreational trails and facilities;
- installing signage (educational, interpretative, directional or prohibitive);
- fencing, gates and access control to prevent dumping, damaging activities and encroachment;

- bush fire risk management and appropriate burn frequencies;
- local community engagement (e.g. Landcare groups); and
- monitoring of vegetation condition and other biodiversity values to determine the success of management actions.

Vertebrate pest management is a shared responsibility between landholders, community, industry and government and requires a coordinated approach across a range of scales and land tenures. NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) has a lead role in managing terrestrial and freshwater aquatic pest incursions. The Greater Sydney Local Land Services (LLS) supports the strategic and coordinated delivery of vertebrate pest management activities and has a regulatory role. Council has a duty to manage the biosecurity risks posed by vertebrate pests on Council owned or managed land. There are long-term regional programs to manage European red foxes and wild dogs, which Council implements on Council land. Council participates in releases of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (Calicivirus) and undertakes additional control measures, as required, to control wild rabbits on Council land. Council is also involved in notifying the DPIE and LLS if Council receives any reports in relation to new incursions or alert species, such as the cane toad, to enable a rapid management response.



Theme 1 - Goal 1.4 - Action 1.4.1

Long-term Protection of Natural Areas

Action 1.4.1 relies on Council to explore available options for formal protection of Council reserves. A key achievement of the Biodiversity Strategy will be to articulate Council's position on placing long-term agreements on Council reserves for the purpose of protecting their biodiversity, social and landscape values *in perpetuity*, and formulating a strategic plan to achieve this.

The two former Councils used the various protection mechanisms that were available to them at the time to secure natural areas. Former Wyong Shire Council placed Property Vegetation Management Plans over 306 ha of Council reserves. Former Gosford City Council entered into BioBanking agreements and voluntary conservation agreements. These and other historic *in perpetuity* agreements signed by the former Councils under previous schemes and legislation are still valid and the agreements are on the title certificates for these properties.

Former Gosford City Council managed the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) as a network of reserves supporting native vegetation to achieve environmental and community benefits. The Council-owned reserves making up the COSS network are mostly classified as Community Land and categorised as Bushland as defined by the *Local Government Act 1993*. However, the COSS is not a legal mechanism for protecting and conserving land in the long term. Since 1990, a total of 113 parcels of land covering 817 ha has been purchased, dedicated or transferred to Council for inclusion in the COSS program. As of amalgamation, the COSS network was 2,598 ha in size (Map 2). Land proposed for acquisition is private land that has been assessed as having values that are consistent with those of the public COSS reserves. Properties identified as proposed COSS are subject to voluntary acquisition by Council for inclusion in the public COSS reserve system. Affected properties have COSS messages on their property (former sec 149) certificates.

The concept of COSS should not be replaced, but rather enhanced by the opportunities presented by the amalgamation, new NSW Government legislation and associated funding for threatened species habitat management.

Council undertook a review of the COSS program which evaluated the operation of the program, identified the key elements of its success and highlighted opportunities for a future improved network. Of the 32 actions of the 2010 COSS Strategy, 22 had been at least partially completed **by the former Gosford City Council**.

Council, as a land manager of important environmental lands, will continue to work towards long-term legal protection of publically-owned conservation areas across the entire LGA. Council's long-term protection options under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* include the following two types of conservation agreements:

1. Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement
 - Provides permanent protection and management of biodiversity and allows for the creation of biodiversity credits;
 - Landholders receive upfront and ongoing payments by selling credits they receive in recognition of management actions; and
 - Credits can be used to offset approved development impacts.



Red Cedar - (*Toona ciliata*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

2. Conservation Agreement

- Permanent or 15 year agreements
- Typically used for higher conservation values and land where management actions are already being undertaken to protect existing biodiversity values
- These agreements do not apply to offsetting as they do not generate biodiversity credits

Under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, a conservation agreement may be used to protect high biodiversity value areas or protected matters.

Figure 4 shows a possible framework for deciding which type of long-term protection agreement is the most appropriate for a Council reserve. There are certain thresholds and ecological criteria that can be used to distinguish between the intent of the agreement types. One of the main distinctions between a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement and a Conservation Agreement is the ability of the agreement to generate credits that can be used to offset development impacts.

The Biodiversity Strategy actions under **Action 1.4.1** will bring Council closer to making informed decisions about the most appropriate mechanisms for the legal protection of natural areas.

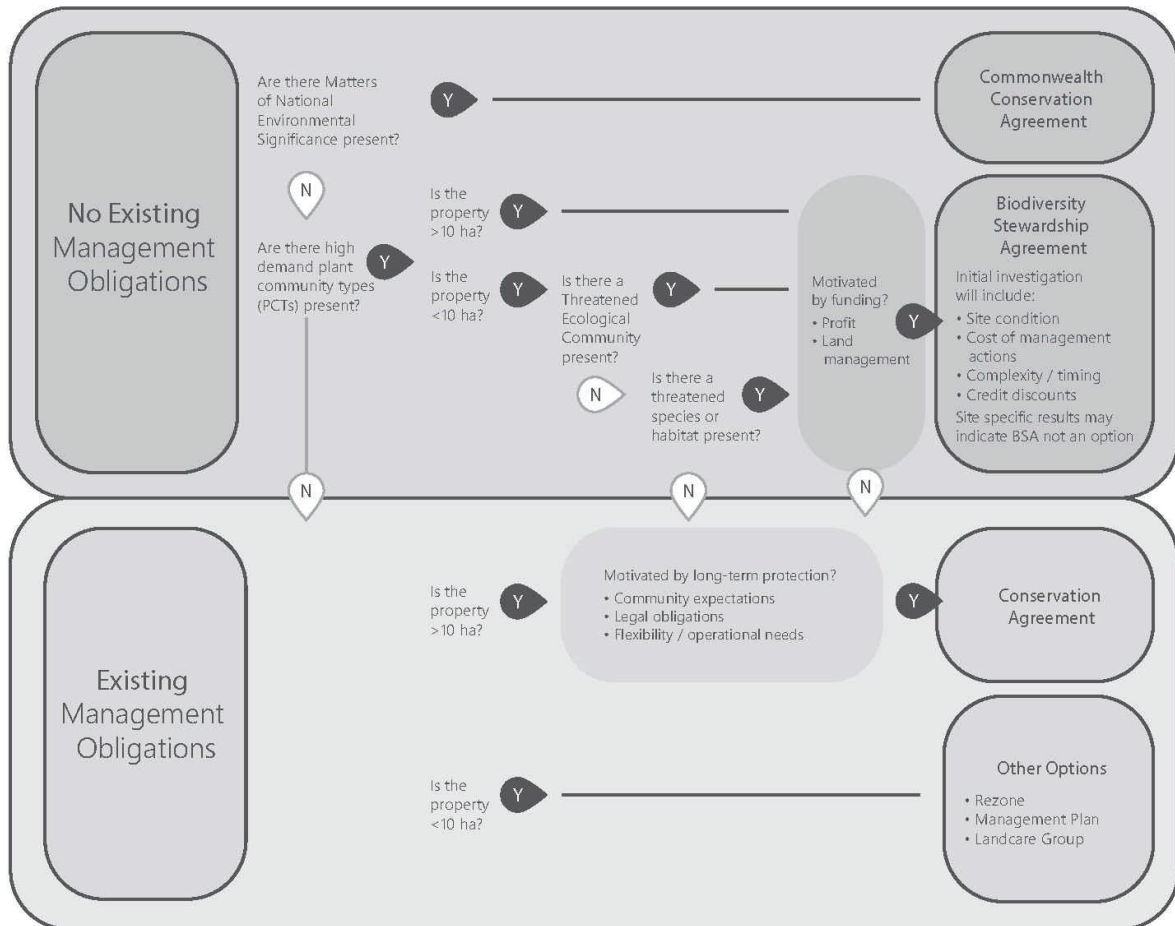


Figure 4: A decision-making framework for conservation agreement types available to Council

Theme 2: Ensuring adequate resourcing to enable Council to effectively manage its natural areas and expand the conservation estate



Waratah - (*Telopea speciosissima*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hootihan

Importance to Council

Maintenance of Council's natural areas is a requirement, as with any other public asset that is valued by the community, and a responsibility of Council's. The threats to natural areas are not always able to be eradicated, and therefore they generally present long standing management issues. A long-term funding commitment is essential for their upkeep. One of the key proposals of the Biodiversity Strategy is the Conservation Management Program, providing it with responsibility for biodiversity management and adequate resources and corporate support to do so.

The Strategy investigates mechanisms available to both secure land management funding and funding to expand the conservation estate. The following theme describes the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and how the funds generated by the sale of biodiversity credits will go back into the Conservation Management Program and the Environmental Lands Acquisition Program, the program nominated to acquire private land for the purpose of conservation. Land currently identified as 'proposed for acquisition' (Map 2) and other land identified for acquisition will be acquired under the Environmental Lands Acquisition Program as opportunities arise and funding allows.

Objective F2 of the Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028 is: Promote greening and ensure the wellbeing of communities through the protection of local bushland, urban trees, tree canopies and expansion of the Coastal

Open Space System (COSS). Theme 2 aims to deliver on this objective for the whole LGA. The Coastal Open Space System (COSS) was an initiative of the former Gosford City Council. The two main elements of the COSS were: a) public land managed for biodiversity, heritage, education and scientific endeavours and recreation in the natural setting; and b) private land identified for addition to the COSS through acquisition. The term COSS has been used within the community as shorthand for the protection of biodiversity, even where this occurs outside the physical boundaries of the COSS reserves and the land identified for future inclusion in the COSS. Consulting the community on a name/brand for Central Coast Council's natural reserve system would provide advice to Council on how to brand the consolidated conservation estate.

As part of expanding the conservation estate, Council will accept and acquire land where biodiversity outcomes are achievable and affordable. Higher biodiversity value land will be preferred in considering commitment to a long term management obligation on behalf of the community with the aim to more efficiently use resources across the conservation estate. Historically, Council has accepted land from developers that is not suitable for development, or that was identified for acquisition. Going forward, Council will carefully consider the land that it is asked to accept and ensure that it meets certain standards. Council will only accept dedication of conservation land that is of high biodiversity value and is either funded or capable of generating its own funding. Internal processes will be developed to support this policy as part of the actions within Goal 2.3.

Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 2)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 2.1: Adequately resource the Conservation Management Program		
2.1.1*	Invest in a long-term commitment to the Conservation Management Program	By the end of 2020/21, operational budget planning recognises the CMP as an on-going program
2.1.2*	Build expertise and qualifications in preparing and managing conservation agreements, community engagement on land management activities, and compliance enforcement for natural areas	By the end of 2021/22, all of Council's natural assets are managed by an adequately trained and resourced team of professional land managers
2.1.3	Investigate the benefits of investing in recruitment, training and leadership to establish and retain natural area management personnel (e.g. bush regeneration team, Indigenous officers, recreation planners, grants and trust officers)	By the end of 2019/20, undertake a cost benefit analysis to assess Council's requirements for a bush regeneration team and other positions
Goal 2.2: Implement a funding program for land management and acquisition		
2.2.1*	Establish funding for the management and acquisition of land identified by the Conservation Management Program and Environmental Lands Acquisition Program	Commencement of a Central Coast Conservation Fund by the end of 2021/22
2.2.2*	Investigate other funding options for Environmental Lands Acquisition Program	By the end of 2021/22, the feasibility of other funding options has been assessed
Goal 2.3: Expand Council's conservation estate		
2.3.1*	Strategically plan Council's Environmental Land Acquisition Program	An Environmental Lands Acquisition Program plan has been prepared and resourced by the end of 2019/20 for a 20+ year timeframe
2.2.2	Purchase environmental land as per recommendations from 2.3.1	On-going
2.3.3*	Develop criteria and an internal process for evaluating environmental land acquisition and land dedication opportunities	By the end of 2019/20, land acquisition criteria are being used as part of a land acquisition process

* Key actions explained in more detail below

Adequately Resource the Conservation Management Program



Christmas Bells - (*Blandfordia grandiflora*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Key Actions Explained

Theme 2 - Goal 2.1 - Actions 2.1.1 & 2.1.2

The goals and actions of the Biodiversity Strategy are best achieved where a robust program guides its implementation. By endorsing this Strategy, Council supports the Conservation Management Program as the coordinated approach to biodiversity management in the Central Coast Council.

Action 2.1.1 calls for the Operational Plan budget to acknowledge the CMP as an on-going program. **Action 2.1.2** refers to the staff resources required to run all aspects of the program, from land management and compliance enforcement, to program management and establishing legal conservation agreements.



Australian Pelican - (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoalihan

Theme 2 - Goal 2.2 - Actions 2.2.1 & 2.2.2

Funding Mechanisms for Land Management

Action 2.2.1 recommends that Council implements a funding model for land management. Traditional sources of funds are grants and philanthropic trusts to complement Council's operational budgets. The Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) provides an alternative option for in perpetuity management funding. An initial investigation will be required to determine each reserve's suitability for the Scheme, and other funding sources.

Specialist GIS, ecology and finance skills are required to prepare a Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report (BSSAR) for each potential natural asset. The application for an agreement is based on this document and the credit report contained therein and is submitted to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust for review and approval. Where it is in Council's best interests, Council would negotiate a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. The agreement will require a signature from the CEO following internal financial and legal advice. The generation and sale of biodiversity credits creates an obligation on Council to undertake the management actions required by the legal agreement.

For reserves not suitable for the BOS, other funding sources will be required, including general revenue.

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* commenced on 25 August 2017. The BC Act along with the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* outline a mandatory framework for addressing impacts on biodiversity from development and native vegetation clearing. The foundation of the framework is avoiding, minimising and offsetting impacts on biodiversity from development through the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS).

The BOS creates a consistent and scientifically-based approach to biodiversity assessment and offsetting for all types of development. The assessment methodology is referred to as the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM). The assessment requires a comprehensive investigation of the biodiversity values of the site, the use of an on-line calculator and standardised reports. The calculator tool calculates the credits either required or generated at a site (depending on if the site is to be developed or protected and managed in perpetuity).

The BOS will establish an open market for the trading of biodiversity credits (referred to as either 'ecosystem credits' or 'species credits'). The market will operate in the same way as a stock market and credit prices will fluctuate in response to market forces.

An offset is referred to as a Biodiversity Stewardship Site and an agreement between the land owner and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust formalises the arrangement. The agreement is registered on title and is in effect in perpetuity. On-going management funds are paid to the land owner annually to undertake the agreed management actions on the site.

Funding Mechanisms for Land Acquisition

Actions 2.2.1 and **2.2.2** recommend that Council investigate and implement mechanisms for funding the acquisition of land identified as having high biodiversity value. The following options are considered to be the extent of the legal and policy mechanisms available to Council in order to generate funding for environmental land acquisition. They will be further explored through implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy.

1. Central Coast Conservation Fund

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* establishes a mechanism for the generation and sale of credits to offset impacts associated with clearing of native vegetation for the purposes of enabling development. The proceeds from the sale of credits from Biodiversity Stewardship Sites established on Council-owned land may be used for any purpose, according to the *Biodiversity Conservation Act*, however funding land acquisition for adding to the conservation estate is recommended in this Strategy. The money would be held as restricted revenue, in a revolving trust account, which would have strict procedures for its management, auditing and expenditure, and only to be used in accordance with the Biodiversity Strategy objectives and the fund's purpose. **Action 2.2.1** is to set up such a fund with appropriate accounting procedures, nominally named the Central Coast Conservation Fund.

The Fund could also collect other sources of contributions, such as those generated from a local biodiversity offsets policy (see Theme 5 for details), fees and charges, a special rates levy, tax deductible donations or grants (Figure 5).

2. Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) mechanisms

Voluntary Planning Agreements are planning agreements which are established under the provisions of Section 7.4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The agreement can be entered into when an amendment to an LEP has been sought (rezoning). VPAs can be utilised for the conservation or enhancement of the environment, and have been used by Council in the past for such purposes.

VPAs can be utilised to require the payment of monetary contributions not levied under existing S.7.11 plans and/or require the provision of infrastructure, works in kind or land dedication as negotiated between the landowner and Council. State Significant Development (SSD) and State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) can also utilise VPAs for biodiversity and conservation purposes.

3. Replacement Minimum Lot Size Provisions

Historically, the former Wyong Shire Council and former Gosford City Council had mechanisms through their Environmental Planning Instruments to acquire land for conservation purposes. Both former Councils had clauses known as minimum lot size provisions:

- The Wyong Local Environmental Plan 1991 (repealed) (Clause 14(3) (b)) permitted a variation to the minimum lot size requirements for land zoned 7(c) Scenic Protection Small Holdings. The clause enabled the subdivision of land below the minimum 2 ha to 1 ha, subject to the dedication of land to Council, or the payment of a monetary contribution to Council for the purchase of land for the purposes of public reserves (zoned 7(a) Conservation) or the improvement or embellishment of other public reserves (zoned 7(a) Conservation).

- The contribution fund is commonly referred to as the Bonus Provision Fund and currently has a value of approximately \$4.8 million. At present, these funds are being used for the purposes intended by the clause, i.e. for the acquisition of land suitable for public reserve purposes.
- The Gosford Interim Development Order No. 122 (Clause 18(4)) operated in a similar manner. The fund currently has a value of approximately \$4.6 million. At present, these funds are being used for the purposes intended by the clause, i.e. for the acquisition of land to add to the COSS.

Under the draft consolidated Central Coast LEP, there is no provision to collect contributions for the acquisition of environmental land. This cannot be dealt with as part of the draft Consolidated Central Coast LEP because a Central Coast Environmental Lands Acquisition Program Plan would be required to support these types of funding

mechanisms. The plan would identify the types of conservation land to be prioritised for future conservation purchase as well as the administrative procedures to support the new funding mechanisms. Once developed, an LEP-based conservation incentive clause could then be introduced via a separate planning proposal or by way of the Comprehensive Central Coast LEP. For further discussion on this option, see Theme 4.

4. Tree or Vegetation Compensation Fee

Council currently approves over 100 private tree clearing applications per year. There is an opportunity in the future to collect a fee in lieu of replacement trees being planted when it is not feasible or desirable to do so.

The fees collected could be used to revegetate Council natural areas or purchase additional environmental lands.

The funding mechanisms discussed are summarised in Figure 5.

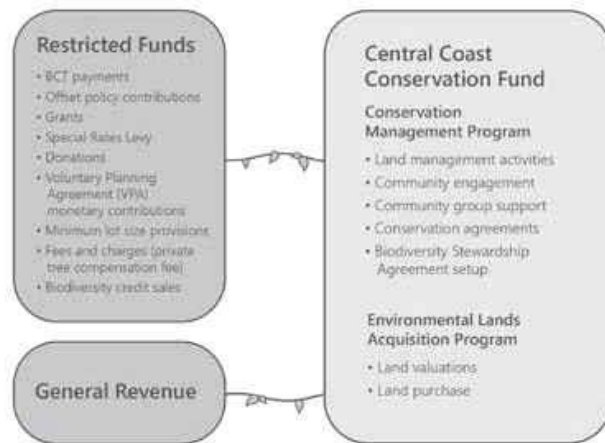


Figure 5: A proposed Central Coast Conservation Fund would collect money from various sources and hold it in a trust account for the purpose of conservation management or land acquisition.

Theme 2 - Goal 2.3 - Actions 2.3.1 & 2.3.3

Expanding the Conservation Estate

Action 2.3.1 requires Council to develop a strategic plan for expanding the conservation estate. An Environmental Lands Acquisition Program would be established to plan, oversee and implement expansion of the conservation network.

There are two motivations for expanding the conservation estate: protecting the highest biodiversity value lands in public ownership while providing for long-term management; and participation in the biodiversity offset market. As discussed above, the money generated from the sale of biodiversity credits could be used to fund land management and additional environmental land purchase.

A Environmental Land Acquisition Program Plan will be prepared, which will detail the opportunities and Council's plan for acquiring land for the purpose of meeting the projected local biodiversity credit demand. Purchasing the right land is key to generating the most valuable biodiversity credits, which will in turn fund the acquisition of more environmental land. Prioritisation of areas for acquisition will be based on plant community types in high demand from an offsetting perspective, threatened ecological communities, highly cleared and poorly represented plant communities, high priority threatened species, key habitat for threatened species and wildlife corridors.

Council's analysis of the likely demand for biodiversity credits within the Central Coast LGA has examined how projected urban growth is likely to drive the demand for credits into the next decade. The desktop analysis was limited to ecosystem credits and was based on plant community type mapping (an aggregation of local vegetation community types into a consistent NSW vegetation classification system).

Assuming that the predicted development will result in a loss of 1,446 ha of native vegetation, approximately 62,832 ecosystem credits would be required to offset the loss. Under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, biodiversity is managed at a regional level, with local impacts able to be offset at other locations in the region and potentially outside of the Central Coast LGA. One of the core principles of the Biodiversity Strategy is to ensure that local impacts are offset within the Central Coast LGA. The Environmental Land Acquisition Program Plan will address how to offset the impacts of local development through the establishment of Biodiversity Stewardship sites to provide local biodiversity credits, which will facilitate the development objectives of the Central Coast Regional Plan.

There is an investment opportunity for Council to purchase land matching the required plant community types and enter into the Biodiversity Offset Scheme market like any other land owner. The Plan will ensure investment in biodiversity is strategic and provides value for money outcomes. For the Plan to be self-funded and perpetual, a substantial initial investment of approximately \$2M-\$5M is likely to be required. This can be met with existing restricted funds held for the purpose of land acquisition and is compliant with the purpose of the Clauses.



Previous agreements, land classification (i.e. Community Land vs Operational Land) and land zonings also affect the value of the site to generate biodiversity credits. It may be the case that lands already protected under agreements or within the COSS program will be low priority as offsets because of the discounting that will be applied by the Biodiversity Assessment Method calculator.

Evaluating Land Acquisition Opportunities

As part of **Action 2.3.2**, Council will develop criteria for guiding decisions around land acquisition to ensure that land purchased meets the adopted standards of the Environmental Lands Acquisition Program and that the purchase represents value for money for Council.

The acquisition of environmentally significant land will be integral to a wider strategy for landscape protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the Central Coast LGA. Land purchase may be triggered by one or more of the following:

- Property owner contacts Council asking whether Council is interested to buy;
- Council contacts property owner and expresses an interest in buying land;
- Real estate advertisement (agent or owner) that is of interest to Council; or

- Land that has been identified as proposed for acquisition for COSS comes onto the market (agent or owner).

The following five criteria are suggested for the prioritisation analysis for land acquisition:

1. Strategic value to Council
 - a) The land will consolidate and build on existing areas managed for nature conservation and is consistent with a longer term strategic conservation plan. Contribution to landscape ecological function is prioritised.
 - b) Adjacent reserve access plans such as gates, fencing, fire trails etc. to be built would be enabled.
 - c) Timing of opportunity is critical to success of a negotiation (i.e. an offer has been made to Council or land management issues are immediate).
 - d) How urgent the acquisition is for either strategic purposes or that the window for acquisition is small (i.e. the land is on the real estate market).
 - e) The land represents an opportunity for Council to add a poorly represented ecosystem type into the public reserve network.



Eastern sedge frog (*Litoria fallax*), Peron's tree frog (*Litoria peronii*), broad-palmed rocket frog (*Litoria latopalmata*) and green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hootman

Theme 2

2. Value for money
 - a) The land represents good value for money in terms of the outright cost to Council or the size of the parcel.
 - b) Council's ability to fund the acquisition (i.e. the budget has been identified or a funding source is apparent).
 - c) The land will enable a biodiversity stewardship agreement under the Biodiversity Offset Scheme and generate funding.
3. Intrinsic biodiversity values
 - a) The land represents and contains high biodiversity values in the Central Coast and the land has biodiversity attributes that warrant high-level protection.
 - b) The land will add to an identified or potential biodiversity corridor consistent with the Biodiversity Strategy.
 - c) Native vegetation condition is good and contributes to high quality habitat.
4. Threats to biodiversity and development needs
 - a) Severity of management issues is not insurmountable with appropriate funding and effort.
 - b) The land is identified as meeting some or all of the above criteria and is not adequately protected under statutory mechanisms and is under threat of inappropriate development or other inappropriate land use.
5. Social values
 - a) Scenic value.
 - b) Recreation value.
 - c) Education and scientific research opportunities.
 - d) Cultural, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal values.



River mangrove (*Aegiceras corniculatum*)
Illustration - Dr. Tanya Hoolihan

Theme 3: Promoting community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation

Importance to Council

The Central Coast community is passionate about the environment in which they live and work and community appreciation for biodiversity is high. Council will proactively encourage this interest and sense of pride through its education program and proposed environmental participation programs. Community participation takes many forms, such as joining the Landcare Program or participating in citizen science and monitoring programs, or landowners protecting their land with long-term agreements and management plans.

Community appreciation for environmental values can be enhanced when people have appropriate access to nature-based activities. However, not all recreational uses are compatible with biodiversity conservation. Council will review its current approach to recreational use of natural areas, especially places vulnerable to damaging and inappropriate activities. Where needed, Council will limit access to ensure the protection of biodiversity values and reduce management costs.

As part of supporting the academic community in active participation in biodiversity conservation, Council is providing access to conservation areas, or data and information that can help researchers and students working on conservation and ecology projects. Improved ecological understanding feeds into effective management programs.



Gynea lily (Doryanthes excelsa)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoalihan

Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 3)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 3.1: Planning for community appreciation and understanding of the value of local biodiversity conservation		
3.1.1*	Prepare a Biodiversity Education Plan to promote community appreciation of Council's natural areas	By the end of 2020/21, a Biodiversity Education Plan has been finalised and funded for implementation
3.1.2*	Provide guidance for biodiversity management on private land with published guidelines for land owners	Biodiversity Guidelines have been published by the end of 2020/21
3.1.3*	Prepare and publish a Nature-based Recreational Strategy for Council natural areas	By the end of 2021/22, a Recreational Strategy with Council's plan for nature-based recreation in reserves is published
3.1.4	Prepare a policy on public access to natural areas	By the end of 2020/21, a public land access policy has been endorsed by Council
Goal 3.2: Strong community involvement and participation in biodiversity conservation		
3.2.1	Develop a community biodiversity participation and education program	By the end of 2019/20, commence a biodiversity education program including citizen science
3.2.2*	Provide technical advice and assistance for community involvement in biodiversity conservation agreements (including staff resources and a grant/loan program) to reduce the barriers to entering conservation agreements	By the end of 2020/21, establish the resourcing and parameters for a community grants program and prepare technical educational materials
3.2.3	Provide additional ongoing support and resources for the Central Coast Landcare Program to address the community's demand	Maintain or increase the level of support with demand for the Central Coast Landcare Program
3.2.4	Further develop and continue existing community partnerships where appropriate and in the best interest of the Conservation Management Program	Continue providing annual support to partners and support additional partner projects when the opportunity arises
Goal 3.3: Public access to biodiversity information and promotion of understanding of the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy		
3.3.1	Investigate a tertiary education program for partnering with universities and other groups that study biodiversity with a view that the information will be shared publically	By the end of 2023/24, a tertiary education program has been established that provides support, grants or project ideas to students
3.3.2	Provide public access to Council's geospatial data and reports relevant to biodiversity	Publish vegetation community type mapping data by the end of 2019/20
3.3.3	Engage with the development industry to improve biodiversity outcomes through development assessment	Organise and hold at least one engagement event by 2024

* Key actions explained in more detail below

Key Actions Explained

Theme 3 - Goal 3.1 - Actions 3.1.1 & 3.1.2 & 3.1.3

Planning for Community Appreciation and Understanding

A Biodiversity Education Program will be formulated within a Plan as part of **Action 3.1.1**. The Program aims to promote community appreciation through participation in nature education and biodiversity conservation. The program will include providing support, technical advice and assistance for community involvement in biodiversity conservation agreements on private land (**Action 3.1.2**).

Action 3.1.3 is to publish a nature-based recreational strategy. Nature-based recreation is defined as outdoor recreation activities that are:

- dependent on the natural environment;
- have an appreciation of nature as a key motivational factor;
- do not require substantial modification to the natural environment; and
- are environmentally sustainable as determined by an on-going monitoring program.

Nature-based recreation provides for learning opportunities and may be important in fostering a nature conservation ethic and an appreciation of the environment in participants. The demand for nature-based recreation opportunities exists and is anticipated to grow as the population of the Central Coast increases.

Theme 3 - Goal 3.2 - Actions 3.2.2

Community Involvement and Participation

There are significant opportunities for private landholders to make a contribution to regional biodiversity conservation and protection and at the same time, cover some of the land management costs. Through **Action 3.2.2**, Council will take a proactive role in building awareness in the community of the available opportunities. As there are costs associated with the initial investigations for conservation agreements, Council proposes to investigate a grant or loan program funded by the Central Coast Conservation Fund to assist land owners by reducing the cost barrier.

The Private Land Conservation Program is a NSW Government program delivered by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) to protect and enhance biodiversity in NSW. Under the Program, the BCT enters into voluntary agreements with landholders to commit to protect and manage high value biodiversity on their properties. Council will liaise with the BCT to ensure their conservation programs are synergistic.

There are three mechanisms available for private land conservation:

1. Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

- Provide permanent protection and management of biodiversity and allow for the creation of biodiversity credits.
- Initial investigations will entail a cost.
- Management costs per hectare of land generally range between \$3,000 per hectare (low) to \$30,000 per hectare (high) which affects both the Total Fund Deposit and the individual price of credits, and therefore marketability of the credits.

2. Conservation Agreements

- Typically used for higher conservation value land where management actions are being undertaken to protect existing biodiversity values.
- Costs associated with set up are lower.

3. Wildlife Refuge Agreements

- Entry level agreement that supports simple and effective land management.
- Low cost.

Theme 4: Protecting biodiversity through land use planning and information management

Importance to Council

Theme 4 defines those actions that allow the legal implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy by embedding its aims and objectives into the local policies and strategies that guide development assessment and strategic land use planning within Council.

In formulating a framework for action, Council has developed the following five core principles to provide guidance for decision-making and other Council functions in order to achieve the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy, especially in the context of future planning decisions and climate change impacts.

Reliable and accurate information and data is important to the planning and assessment process. Council will identify where it lacks information on biodiversity values to support decision-making and find ways to fill the gaps and share information with other government agencies.

The following three key information products will be used by Council to shape future land use policy and decision-making and will be the basis for the future Central Coast protected area network with information updated over time:



Coachwood - (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Principles for Land Use Planning

1. Preserving local and regional biodiversity is highly valued at Central Coast Council and is properly considered in all functions of Council.
2. Ensuring the protection of areas of high environmental value from the impacts of development, including corridors, is a priority for Council.
3. Loss of biodiversity is to be avoided, with mitigation measures and offset measures applied only where impacts from development are unavoidable.
4. Biodiversity offsets, when necessary, are to be sourced from within the LGA (Wyong, Yengo and Pittwater BRA sub-regions) where feasible and practical.
5. Council's role as a public land manager is a core Council function and includes expanding and managing and maintaining the conservation estate.

1. Areas of high conservation value (i.e. high quality habitat, presence of iconic, rare and threatened features, and their contribution to the biodiversity of the region);
2. The connectivity between areas of high conservation value (i.e. biodiversity corridors); and
3. Locally significant vegetation.

1. Areas of High Conservation Value

Identifying areas of high conservation value is a critical process in the development of regional land use policy and urban development planning. Information on biodiversity values informs strategic planning and helps guide further in-depth studies which are required as part of the planning and assessment process. As stated above in the Principles for Land Use Planning, protecting areas with high biodiversity value, including corridors, is a priority for Council.

A spatial analysis to identify conservation priority areas has been undertaken by Council which quantifies the ecological trade-offs of planned and proposed development scenarios. The analysis is based on biodiversity values such as observed records of species, suitable habitat, species distribution models, threatened species and threatened ecological communities (NSW and Commonwealth listings). Current representation of high biodiversity values in the protected area network (national parks, state conservation areas and Council reserves) was considered. Areas of high biodiversity value that are at risk of local extinction due to development pressure are identified as higher priority for protection and rehabilitation, and therefore high conservation priority.

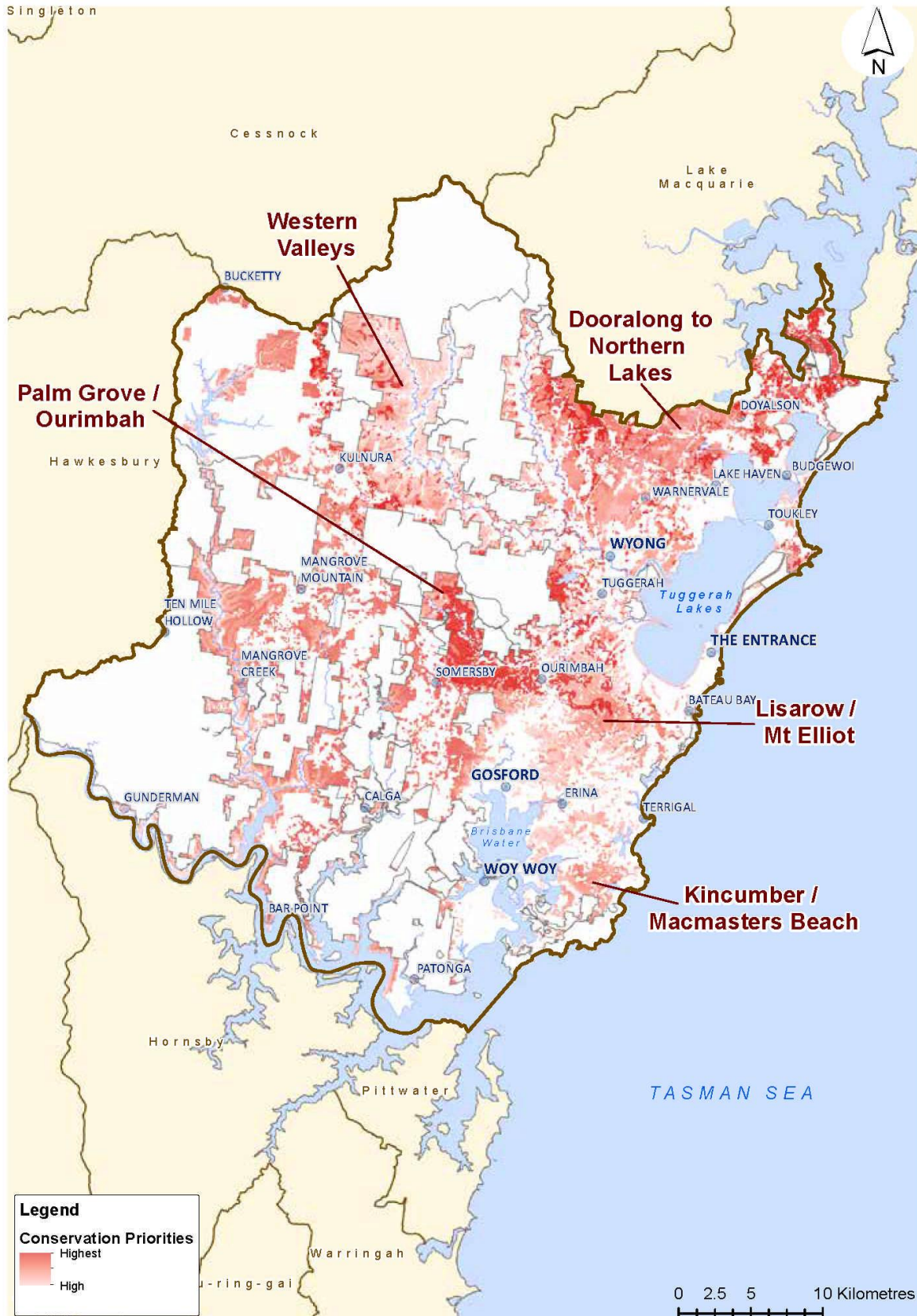
Spatial prioritisation of biodiversity values highlighted important areas for conservation as Dooralong to Northern Lakes, Warnervale, the Western Valleys, Palm Grove / Ourimbah, Lisarow / Mt Elliot and Kincumber/ Macmasters Beach (see Map 3). Expanding the protected area network to include these areas would significantly improve the representativeness of the network.

While about 50% of the LGA is owned and managed as state forest and national park, these areas protect less than half of the biodiversity in the LGA. Without formal protection, the remaining biodiversity values are potentially at risk of being lost to clearing and development.

If an additional 2640 ha of land was conserved within the identified priority areas (see Map 3), a total of 85% of the region's biodiversity values would then be protected (an increase from the current 50%). Therefore, by conserving land in suitably sized parcels in the priority areas, a minimal increase in the reserve area will provide the greatest biodiversity outcome.

Further details of the analysis can be found in reports referenced in Appendix B.

In addition to the conservation priority areas identified above, there are other areas that are of importance for particular listed threatened species, populations or ecological communities, such as: Tuggerah Lakes shoreline (Coastal Saltmarsh in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions), Norah Head (Low Woodland with Heathland on Indurated Sand at Norah Head), Bateau Bay, Forresters Beach, Tumbi Umbi (*Eucalyptus oblonga* population) and the Woy Woy Peninsula (Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion).



Theme 4

Map 3: Areas of high biodiversity conservation value outside the current protected area network within the Central Coast LGA. Data source: Office of Environment and Heritage (2018) and Kujula and Whitehead (2015). Disclaimer: Map is subject to future updates. For use at the scale of the LGA only.



New Holland honeyeater - (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*), Banksia - (*Banksia spinulosa*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

2. Connectivity and Biodiversity Corridors

Maintaining and restoring connections between protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value are vital to landscape health and biodiversity of the region. These areas of remnant vegetation are also sometimes referred to as 'green corridors' or 'wildlife movement corridors'. Council has undertaken an analysis of corridors that identifies broad regional scale connections and local scale links (down to individual trees in some cases) as potential movement pathways. Gaps in the network of linkages can occur as cleared paddocks and roads and are identified as opportunities for rehabilitation or wildlife crossing structures, if appropriate.

Defining the difference between 'core habitat' and 'corridor' was a key component of the Central Coast Wildlife Corridor project. The following criteria were used to create the core habitat class using Council's vegetation community type mapping:

- Protected public land - all substantial parcels of public land, e.g. State Conservation Areas, are considered core habitat;
- Vegetation condition - vegetation that is in moderate to good condition¹ is considered core habitat;

¹Vegetation condition is based on four classes:

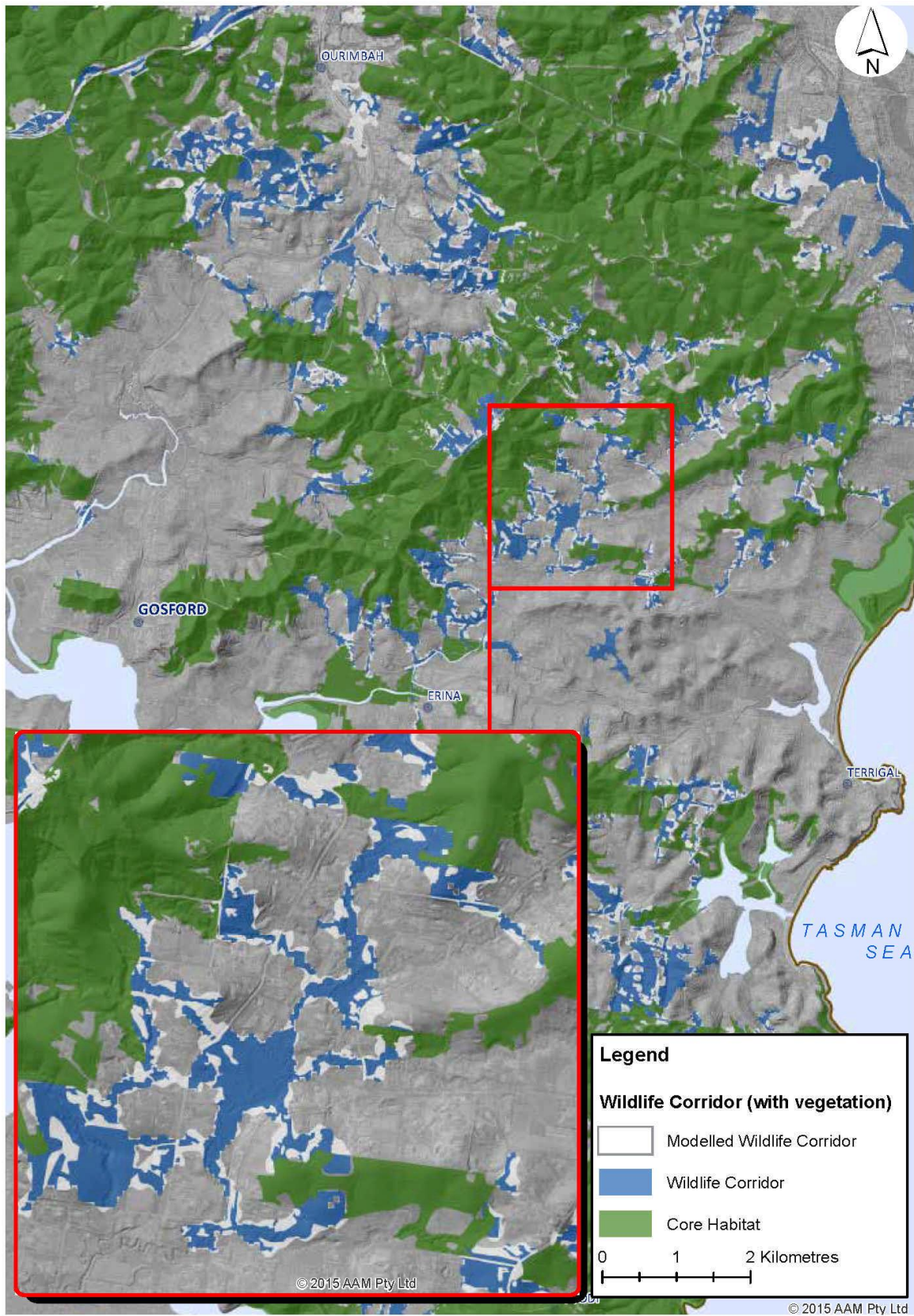
- Moderate to good (most areas of remnant bushland)
- Low (highly disturbed and weedy vegetation)
- Very low (could be reinstated as vegetation theoretically, e.g. golf courses, parks)
- Built environments (little to no vegetation)

- Polygon shape/configuration - core habitat areas have a low perimeter to area ratio; and
- Proximity to other areas of core habitat - i.e. if a patch of vegetation is non-linear and considered contiguous with a larger block of remnant vegetation, then it is included as core habitat.

Core habitat is used in the Central Coast Biodiversity Corridor Map to provide the user with a picture of where the large remnants are located so that it is clear where the wildlife movement opportunities lie between them. The corridor network is displayed as a combination of mapped extant vegetation nested within modelled corridors (using the Spatial Links Modelling Tool).

Places where the modelled corridor does not contain vegetation, for example, cleared paddocks or sparse vegetation, are priority locations in the landscape for rehabilitation through the introduction of vegetation to enhance the functionality of the entire corridor network (see white areas in Map 4). However, the white areas do not remove opportunities for allowable development.

Further details of the analysis can be found in a report referenced in Appendix B.



Theme 4

Map 4: Example of the Central Coast Council Biodiversity Corridor Map showing core habitat in green, local scale corridors in blue and modelled corridors in white. Data source: Harré (2018)

3. Locally Significant Vegetation

A review of all plant community types (PCT) mapped in the Central Coast LGA (by Council in 2018) has identified 10 that have been greater than or equal to 70% cleared (i.e. less than 30% of their original extent remains across all of its range in NSW) (Table 4). The percent cleared figures for these plant community types are expert derived, that is, not based on a spatial analysis of pre-European settlement modelling and extant vegetation community type mapping.

While the majority of the highly cleared plant community types are also threatened ecological communities, two are not currently listed (PCT 1625 and PCT 1644). In addition, both of these plant community types have less than 15% of their pre-European settlement range remaining.

Table 4: Highly cleared (greater than 70%) plant community types (PCT) in the Central Coast local government area listed in order of per cent cleared.

PCT ID	Plant Community Type Name	Class	Formation	TEC	Per cent cleared
1645	Old Man Banksia - Rough-barked Apple - Bangalay shrubby open forest on coastal sands of the Central Coast	South Coast Sands Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	Yes	98
1723	<i>Melaleuca biconvexa</i> - Swamp Mahogany - Cabbage Palm swamp forest of the Central Coast	Coastal Swamp Forests	Forested Wetlands	Yes	92
1720	Cabbage Gum - Forest Red Gum - Flax-leaved Paperbark Floodplain Forest of the Central Coast	Coastal Floodplain Wetlands	Forested Wetlands	Yes	90
1625	Red Bloodwood - Sydney Peppermint - <i>Podocarpus spinulosus</i> shrubby open forest of the southern Central Coast	Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	No	88
1644	Coast Tea Tree - Old Man Banksia coastal shrubland on foredunes of the Central and lower North Coast	South Coast Sands Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	No	86
1536	Tuckeroo - Lilly Pilly - Coast Banksia littoral rainforest	Littoral Rainforests	Rainforests	Yes	78
1718	Swamp Mahogany - Flax-leaved Paperbark swamp forest on coastal lowlands of the Central Coast	Coastal Swamp Forests	Forested Wetlands	Yes	74
1589	Spotted Gum - Broad-leaved Mahogany - Grey Gum grass - shrub open forest on Coastal Lowlands of the Central Coast	Hunter-Macleay Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrub/grass sub-formation)	Yes	71
1527	Bangalow Palm - Coachwood - Sassafras gully warm temperate rainforest of the Central Coast	Northern Warm Temperate Rainforests	Rainforests	Yes	70
1697	Kangaroo Grass - Coastal Rosemary grassland on coastal headlands	Maritime Grasslands	Grasslands	Yes	70

A review of the current extent of vegetation across the Central Coast LGA (excluding the national park and state forest estate) identified 20 plant community types which have less than 100 hectares remaining (Table 5).

Table 5: Poorly represented (less than 100 ha remaining) plant community types (PCT) in the Central Coast local government area listed in order of area remaining.

PCT ID	Plant Community Type Name	Extant area (ha)
1741	<i>Lepironia articulata</i> sedgeland	0.8
1700	Dwarf Casuarina - Prickly-leaved Paperbark - Hairpin Banksia Coastal Heath of the Central Coast and lower North Coast	2.4
1204	Spinifex beach strand grassland, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	4.4
1725	Swamp Mahogany - Broad-leaved Paperbark - Swamp Water Fern - Plume Rush swamp forest on coastal lowlands of the Central Coast and Lower North Coast	6.3
836	Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple open forest on poorly drained lowlands of the Central Coast, Sydney Basin Bioregion	6.9
1697	Kangaroo Grass - Coastal Rosemary grassland on coastal headlands	17.8
1625	Red Bloodwood - Sydney Peppermint - <i>Podocarpus spinulosus</i> shrubby open forest of the southern Central Coast	21.0
978	Needlebush - banksia wet heath on sandstone plateaux of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	25.8
781	Coastal freshwater lagoons of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	26.4
1645	Old Man Banksia - Rough-barked Apple - Bangalay shrubby open forest on coastal sands of the Central Coast	31.3
1746	Saltmarsh Estuarine Complex	38.3
1071	<i>Phragmites australis</i> and <i>Typha orientalis</i> coastal freshwater wetlands of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	42.4
659	Bangalay - Old-man Banksia open forest on coastal sands, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	46.9
925	<i>Melaleuca nodosa</i> closed shrubland on alluvium of the Central Coast, Sydney Basin Bioregion	71.8
1588	Grey Ironbark - Broad-leaved Mahogany - Forest Red Gum shrubby open forest on Coastal Lowlands of the Central Coast	73.9
1681	Smooth-barked Apple - Cabbage Palm - Broad-leaved Mahogany woodland on Wallarah Peninsular	79.7
1724	Broad-leaved Paperbark - Swamp Oak - Saw Sedge swamp forest on coastal lowlands of the Central Coast and Lower North Coast	83.0
691	Blackbutt - Tallowwood dry grassy open forest of the southern NSW North Coast Bioregion	84.7
1701	Prickly-leaved Paperbark - Fern-leaved Banksia heath on coastal headlands of Central Coast	92.2
1619	Smooth-barked Apple - Red Bloodwood - Brown Stringybark - Hairpin Banksia heathy open forest of coastal lowlands	96.0

The plant community types identified in Tables 4 and 5 have high local significance and high conservation priority as a direct result of historical reduction in extent. Drivers for the loss and degradation of these communities are likely to be urbanisation, increased human population and climate change. The Conservation Management Program will further

investigate these drivers of change and the consequences for the future broader landscape. Actions arising in the Biodiversity Strategy relate to updating the analysis of local significance with local-scale vegetation community type mapping (rather than the coarser plant community type mapping) and updated versions of the NSW plant community type mapping for the east coast.

Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 4)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 4.1 High biodiversity value areas are appropriately identified, protected and restored as part of future land use planning investigations		
4.1.1*	Develop a zoning framework for environmental zones supported by the spatial mapping project to inform comprehensive zoning amendments and spatial overlays for environmental lands	Through an amendment/s to the Comprehensive LEP, have developed and implemented a zoning framework for environmental lands
4.1.2*	Create additional local provisions or development standards/controls through the Comprehensive LEP/DCP project	A comprehensive review of local provisions for biodiversity conservation undertaken including consideration for opportunities for bonus lot subdivision and biodiversity planning controls
4.1.3*	Update assessment procedures for planning proposal applications ensuring biodiversity values are fully considered and impacts to listed entities are avoided at the rezoning stage of developments	All rezoning of land is consistent with the principles of the Biodiversity Strategy and the zoning framework (on-going)
4.1.4	Preparation of a local policy which requires at the rezoning stage the finalisation of arrangements (e.g. Biocertification) for the <i>in perpetuity</i> ownership and management of land with high biodiversity values	By the end of 2020/21, a policy has been drafted
4.1.5	Identify appropriate mechanisms to achieve rehabilitation and enhanced landscape connectivity through the rezoning and development assessment process (such as Vegetation Management Plans)	Achieve rehabilitation of areas identified by rezoning and development assessment process through compliance with VMP and conditions (on-going)
4.1.6	Ensure developer compliance with Council's Flora and Fauna Survey Guidelines, vegetation management plans and conditions	Council has adequate resources allocated to review and enforce ecology consent conditions for all developments
Goal 4.2 The level of local biodiversity knowledge is adequate to support decision-making, conditions of consent and strategic planning		
4.2.1	Produce and keep up-to-date spatial information and analyses about areas of high biodiversity value and threats to biodiversity	By the end of 2019/20, Council will have up-to-date spatial information available for planning (e.g. vegetation community types, biodiversity corridors, conservation priorities)
4.2.2	Identify strategic planning data needs (e.g. vegetation community type mapping and updates, priority threatened species surveys)	On-going
4.2.3	Develop and use geospatial data to inform and guide strategic planning to identify critical locations where vegetation, habitat, connections or species must be avoided and protected	By the end of 2021/22, a geospatial tool is in use
4.2.4*	Design and invest in a Central Coast Biodiversity Monitoring Program in line with State and Commonwealth Government programs	By the end of 2020/21, scope a comprehensive and consistent MER program for natural areas

4.2.5	Explore options to internally share biological resource information such as receiving sites for natural resources such as soil, seeds, tree barrels, hollows, etc	By the end of 2020/21, options for sharing data internally have been explored
4.2.6	Collate all public biodiversity offsets geospatially	By the end of 2020/21, biodiversity offsets information available geospatially to Council staff through Geocortex
4.2.7	Provide regular updates to the Biodiversity Values Map held by NSW Government	On-going
4.2.8	Investigate additional State or Commonwealth threatened species or ecological community listings based on local significance information	As monitoring and spatial analyses reveal candidate listings (on-going)

* Key actions explained in more detail below



Orb Weaver
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Theme 4

Key Actions Explained

Theme 4 - Goal 4.1 - Actions 4.1.1 & 4.1.2 & 4.1.3

Implementing the Biodiversity Strategy through Land Use Planning

Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) gives legal effect to strategic planning priorities and actions contained within local planning strategies, including those related to the protection of biodiversity. The LSPS will provide broad strategic direction on biodiversity actions and priorities, and associated mapping

Council supports the implementation of appropriate planning controls to protect biodiversity in relevant planning instruments, and will seek to ensure that the Comprehensive LEP strengthens protection of biodiversity within the LGA.

The Biodiversity Strategy aims to give Council the direction to be able to negotiate with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to implement planning controls that are effective in protecting biodiversity.

Land Zoning Investigations

Under **Action 4.1.1** and as part of the Comprehensive LEP process, Council will prepare a zoning framework supported by spatial mapping to inform comprehensive zoning amendments to environmental zones based on contemporary biodiversity values and principles.

The Biodiversity Strategy provides guidance for the development of the zoning framework, through the five core Principles for Land Use Planning (see page 57).

The framework is to consider the current application of zones for Environmental Conservation (zone E2), Environmental Management (zone E3), Environmental Living (zone E4) and Large Lot Residential (zone R5), as well as any land identified through the Biodiversity Strategy with high ecological value.

Other factors to be considered in the framework include:

- objectives of the Environmental zones and range, application and suitability of permissible or prohibited land uses;
- the methodology and considerations applied for the zoning of existing environmentally zoned lands;
- Relevant DPIE Practice Notes
- "on the ground" application of the zones;
- the value that landscapes and landforms with lower biodiversity priority provide for scenic amenity and connectivity;
- relevant State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs), for example SEPP 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas; Vegetation SEPP, Coastal Management SEPP;
- Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions 2.1 Environmental Protection and 2.2 Coastal Management;
- legislation such as the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*; and
- outcomes of relevant strategic conservation planning processes.

Land Use Planning Provisions

Four additional local provisions and/or development requirements for the purposes of regulating and assessing development as future amendments to the applicable LEP are to be further considered as part of **Action 4.1.2** are discussed below.

1. *Local Environmental Plan Terrestrial, Riparian and Environmentally Sensitive Mapping Layers*

Some NSW councils have introduced local biodiversity values maps which trigger additional considerations for biodiversity conservation and protection purposes for the assessment of development. Such maps promote biodiversity conservation at a local scale. Maps and considerations implemented through this mechanism could relate to range of local conservation priorities, including biodiversity conservation priorities, corridors and landscape connectivity, riparian land and wetlands.

Councils which have implemented similar provisions include Sutherland, through Sutherland LEP 2015, and Ku-ring-gai, through Ku-ring-gai LEP 2015, Lake Macquarie City Council through Lake Macquarie LEP 2014 and Lithgow Council through Lithgow LEP 2014.

2. *Subdivision of land to support conservation outcomes*

This local provision relates to the ability for the subdivision of land below the minimum lot size, provided that the lot created is conserved in perpetuity for the purposes of biodiversity conservation.

This mechanism would be most readily applied to residential subdivisions, where residue lots are created that are not identified for the purposes of development, generally as a result of the environmental features or characteristics of the land (e.g. steep slope, extensive vegetation cover etc.). Often the lots proposed are below the minimum lot size for the respective zoning. The application of the clause identified by this option would enable the subdivision, yet generate conservation outcomes by enforcing, through development consent conditions, the in perpetuity conservation of land.

This mechanism has been applied within a number of LEPs, including Lake Macquarie LEP 2014 (C14.IE).

3. *Subdivision incentives*

This opportunity differs to that above as it would enable the subdivision of land into smaller minimum lot sizes, provided a contribution, either through land dedication or financial, was made to Council for the acquisition or embellishment of conservation land.

This mechanism would operate in a similar manner to the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Strategy, implemented through the operation of Cl. Cl.18 (4) (b) of *Interim Development Order No. 122 – Gosford* (IDO 122).

LEPs utilising the prescribed Standard Instrument formula however do not refer to, nor enable the application of the provisions of IDO 122 Cl.18 (4) (b). This is inclusive of draft consolidated Central Coast LEP 2018 (CCLEP).

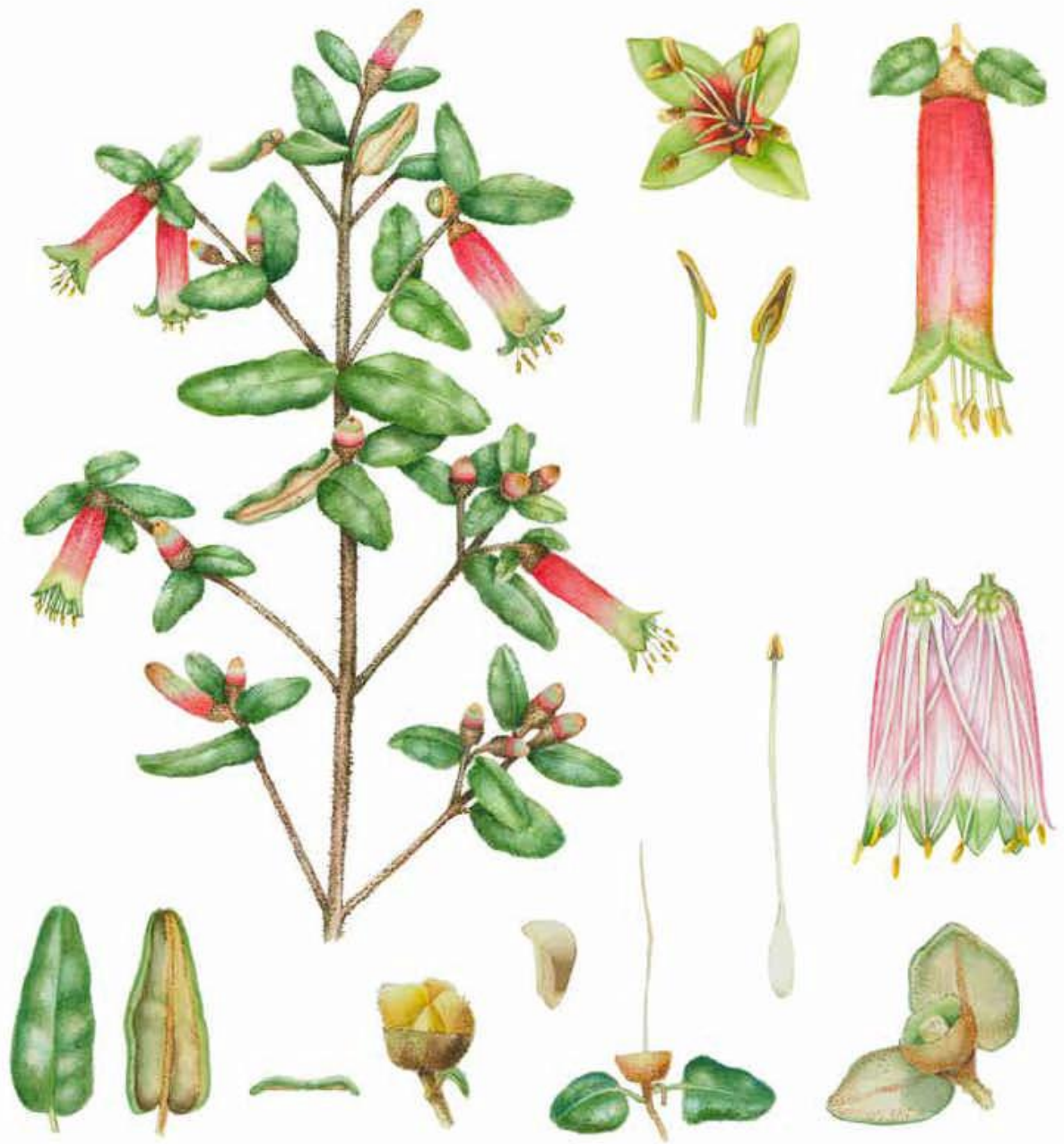
Notwithstanding this, the COSS concept has been identified for expansion throughout the Central Coast by the Central Coast Regional Plan (CCRP) 2036.

It is therefore appropriate to review the IDO provisions with the view to applying a similar scheme through a subsequent amendment to the CCLEP.

The implementation method would need to be determined and the suitability of a similar approach (i.e. as an LEP provision) requires further discussion with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

4. *Local policies*

Opportunities also exist for the review and strengthening of existing policy documents and the development of new guiding policy documents to support the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy. 'Green Corridors' and 'Property Transactions – Sales and Acquisitions' are examples of local policies that could be reviewed.



Correa reflexa
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolthan

All biodiversity loss in the LGA due to development (as assessed under Part 4 and Part 5) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*) should be offset in some way. This establishes some consistency and equity across activities whether or not they trigger the BOS. This would require Council to establish a local biodiversity offset policy that imposes offset requirements for all vegetation loss. The offset requirement may be satisfied in the form of biodiversity credits in accordance with the BOS like-for-like offsetting rules, or as a contribution of funding to the Central Coast Conservation Fund (for activities below the BOS threshold).

The purpose of a local biodiversity offset policy would be to:

- provide direction on Council's position on biodiversity offsetting for Council's own developments;
- provide direction on Council's position on entering into the biodiversity offsets market;
- provide guidance for offsetting tree and vegetation loss for private development that does not trigger the BOS threshold; and
- restrict application of the BOS variation rules to meet the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy in terms of offsetting the same values within the LGA or adjacent sub-regions (including establishing in what circumstances Council would seek to increase the quantum of credits).

Precinct Planning, Structure Planning

Action 4.1.3 seeks to ensure that suitable assessment principles continue to be in place to ensure that biodiversity values are fully considered and impacts to threatened species, threatened ecological communities and endangered local populations are avoided during the precinct planning, structure planning and rezoning and development assessment processes.

Options for implementation are outlined below:

1. *Implement strategic planning principles for precinct planning, structure planning and rezoning assessments*

The implementation of the principles of Biodiversity Strategy at the initial assessment of rezonings will ensure the conservation of biodiversity values:

- offsets need to be local, or as close as possible if local offsets are not feasible.

2. *Drafting and implementation of Development Controls*

Through further refinement of the Central Coast conservation estate, additional development provisions could also be introduced within Council's Development Control Plan (DCP). This could include, but would not be limited to:

- new chapters (e.g. biodiversity corridors and conservation priority areas, specific priority areas, species specific development controls, managing ongoing threats); and
- comprehensive review of existing chapters (e.g. wetland management, tree and vegetation management) giving particular consideration to opportunities for clearing below the Biodiversity Offset Scheme threshold, non-residential development in E3/E4 zones and Interim Conservation Areas.

Theme 4 - Goal 4.2 - Action 4.2.4

Central Coast Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Both former Councils have a long history of ecological data collection, monitoring programs and reporting requirements. The timing is right for a consolidation of approaches and a rethink of what a Central Coast Council Biodiversity Monitoring Program would look like. There are also opportunities for Council to tap into repositories of data collected by others and to contribute its own data for external agencies to use.

As part of **Action 4.2.4**, Council will review its monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements across all areas of ecological data collection, and design a program that recognises the diversity of monitoring needs, while being efficient with resources and retaining the ability to answer land management questions and aid development assessment.

An initial step will be to articulate how the monitoring information will lead to conservation actions or decisions. There is no need for a monitoring program that collects information on species for the sake of it or which does not contribute to avoiding local biodiversity loss. The Biodiversity Monitoring Program should be embedded within site management plans and, to ensure effectiveness, be clear on how the information will inform conservation actions, specify trigger points at which management interventions will be implemented, and have the ability to detect change early enough to act.

Standards will be developed for data quality, survey design, metadata, information storage procedures, and training provided to staff who will contribute to and access data. Much of this work will be informed

by State and Commonwealth data collection programs and what other councils and agencies are doing. Initial funding and resources will be required for the set up phase, and on-going resources will be required to keep the program functional.

Community participation in monitoring programs will be a key component of the Biodiversity Monitoring Program. Council will explore models for cost effective citizen science programs and how Council can be best involved in and support the myriad of community programs already collecting information. Support may be provided through the Landcare Program or community participation program in the form of training, on-going engagement, insurance and health and safety.

The priorities for a biodiversity monitoring program include monitoring required by management plans and conservation agreements and on-going collection of local biodiversity data to supplement regional and state mapping and data programs.



*Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo - (Calyptorhynchus funereus) and Charmhaven Apple - (Angophora inopina)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoalihan*

Theme 5: Demonstrating leadership in biodiversity conservation

The community expects Council to provide leadership in leaving a positive legacy for future generations through responsible stewardship of the environment – this is our shared responsibility with the residents of the Central Coast. By incorporating biodiversity protection into procedures, planning and corporate level programs, Council can demonstrate every day that it takes these principles seriously.

Some natural resource management issues, such as biosecurity, bush fire and emergency management and coastal area, estuary, lagoon and wetland management issues are initiated by Council but are not restricted to public land in their application. These types of programs are collected together into Theme 5.



*Black-eyed Susan - (Tetratheca juncea)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoalihan*

Theme 5

Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 5)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 5.1 Council embeds biodiversity protection and conservation into its core business		
5.1.1*	Council's corporate Asset Management System is to include natural areas as an asset type in the technical asset register	The Asset Management System holds data on Natural Assets by the end of 2019/20
5.1.2*	Natural assets are incorporated into Council's accounting and financial management application (Oracle) as a rolling maintenance program similar to a fixed asset register	Maintenance system in use by the end of 2019/20
5.1.3*	Review of processes and extend the Vertebrate Pest Management Program to priority locations and monitor effectiveness of the program	By the end of 2020/21, a comprehensive program for vertebrate pest management across the LGA is in place, including internal policy and procedures
5.1.4*	Develop and implement the expanded Biosecurity Management Program (including a weed policy)	By the end of 2019/20, have policies, procedures and educational material prepared to implement the Program
Goal 5.2 Estuary, lagoon and wetland management is fully resourced and adheres to best practice		
5.2.1*	Prioritise staff resources and source funding to prepare Coastal Management Programs (including Tuggerah Lakes, Brisbane Water, coastal lagoons and open coastlines)	Prepare certified Coastal Management Program/s by end of 2021
5.2.2	Implement actions identified existing Coastal Zone Management Plans	The actions identified in the existing plans are implemented (on-going)
5.2.3	Review Council's water quality monitoring program for ecological health of lakes and estuaries	Implement identified suitable opportunities to enhance the program.
5.2.4	Implement a fauna monitoring program for lakes and estuaries management	On-going
Goal 5.3 All areas of Council administration have an understanding of the value of biodiversity and incorporate it into their responsibilities		
5.3.1*	The Environmental Management System ensures Council operational activities adequately assess impacts to biodiversity	100% of staff who undertake and authorise environmental assessments for Council's operations are trained in Council's Environmental Assessment Procedure by end of 2019/20
5.3.2	Ensuring proper management and maintenance of roadside vegetation containing treated species or EEC with minimal environmental impact to protect Council workers from litigation and help manage sensitive areas	By the end of 2019/20, roadside vegetation management program scoped, resourced and implemented, with responsibilities identified
5.3.3	Council operational plans, strategies and processes support the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy	Each new and revised document identifies how Council will avoid impacts on and protect biodiversity (on-going)

* Key actions explained in more detail below

Key Actions Explained

Theme 5 - Goal 5.1 - Actions 5.1.1 & 5.1.2 & 5.1.3 & 5.1.4

Biodiversity Embedded as Part of Core Business – Asset Management System

Council is consolidating the asset management of the two former councils into a corporate system that tracks all assets. Natural areas will be included in the structure of the system as asset sub-categories under the Parks and Reserves Asset type (Figure 6). Reserves and the biological values that they protect will be recognised in the same way that sporting facilities, playgrounds and beaches, and **Actions 5.1.1** and **5.1.2** will ensure that natural areas are included in the Asset Management System and financial management systems as assets.



Dusty Coral Pea - (Kennedia rubicunda)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

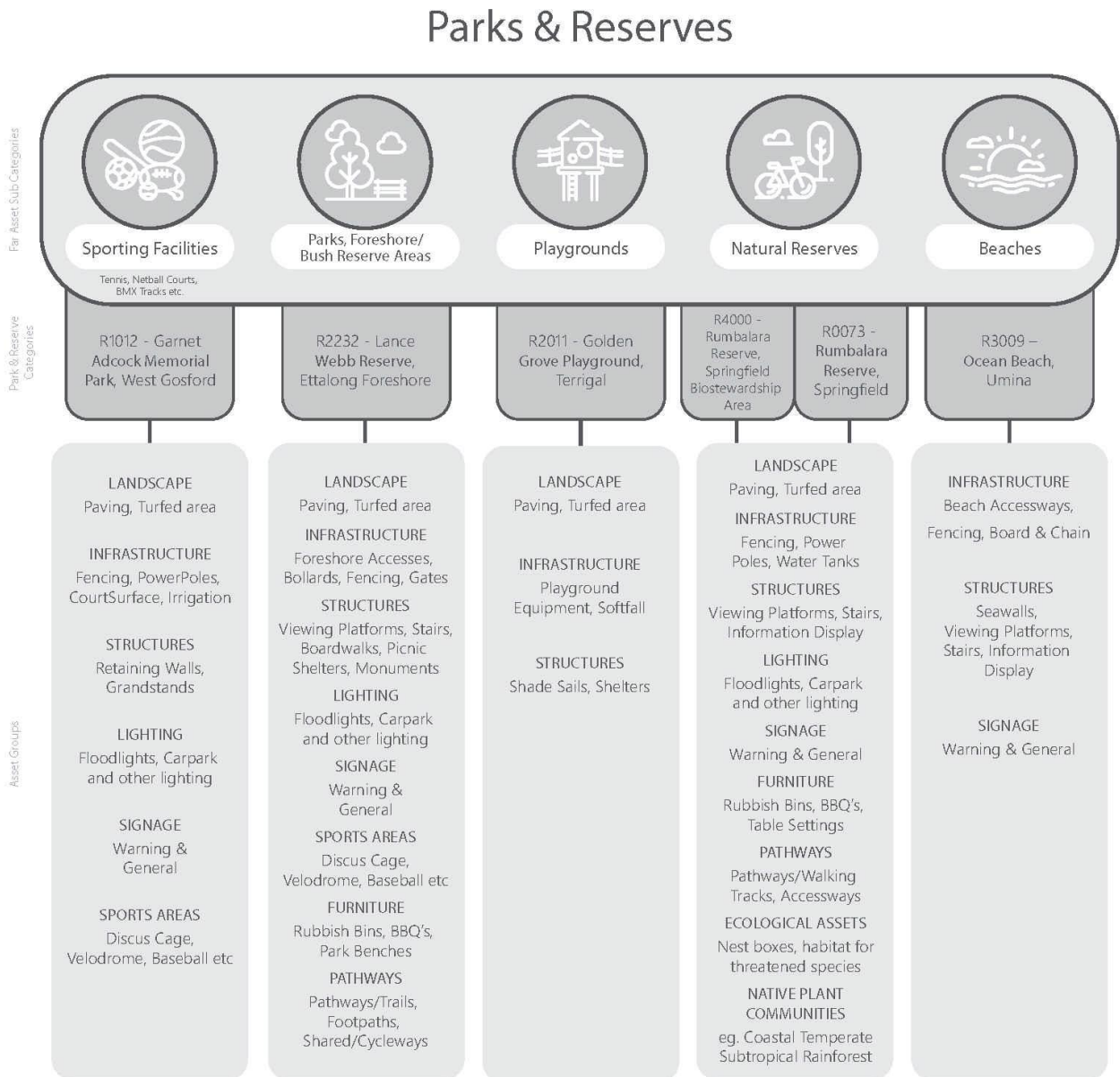


Figure 6: Natural areas are considered an asset sub-category under the asset type Parks & Reserves. Asset groups can include vegetation, habitat and threatened species.



Orchard Swallowtail Butterfly - (*Papilio Aegaeus*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Biosecurity Programs

Actions 5.1.3 and 5.1.4 relate to Council's role in delivering regional biosecurity programs. Under these actions, Council will develop internal policies and procedures to guide implementation of weed management and vertebrate pest animal management programs. The following regional plans are relevant:

Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022

The Local Land Services plan focuses on managing weeds to protect the region's environment, landscape, livelihood, cultural and lifestyle values from weeds.

In line with new Commonwealth biosecurity measures, NSW has reformed its weed, pest and disease legislation. Together, the NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021 and *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* (which repeals the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*) provide a streamlined, clear framework for safeguarding primary industries, natural environments and communities from a range of pests, diseases and weeds. Council is a local control authority and as such has a role to prevent, eliminate, minimise and manage biosecurity risks posed by weeds in the LGA.

Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Pest Animal Plan 2018-2023

The Pest Animal Plan acknowledges the negative impact of pest animals on biodiversity, identifying the most significant vertebrate pests in the region: wild dogs, feral pigs, red foxes, wild rabbits, wild deer and cats. Goats, pest birds and introduced fish are also significant pests in parts of the region.

Under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*, pest animals are not defined by species. Pest species can be considered as any species (other than native species) that presents a biosecurity threat.

The *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* outlines mandatory measures for pest animal management in NSW. Council, landholders and community members should work together to ensure ongoing implementation of the most effective pest animal management practices across all land tenures.

Theme 5 - Goal 5.2 - Action 5.2.1

Estuary, Lagoon and Wetland Management

Action 5.2.1 refers to the preparation of a Coastal Management Program (CMP) in accordance with the coastal management manual and in consultation with the community and relevant public authorities. A CMP sets the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the coast and identifies coastal management issues and actions required to address these issues in a strategic and integrated way. A CMP details how and when those actions are to be implemented, their costs and proposed cost-sharing arrangements and other viable funding mechanisms. Council is required by the State Government to prepare a CMP by 2021.

The Central Coast coastline stretches from Frazer Beach in the north to Patonga in the south. Currently, Council directly implements six coastal and estuary management plans:

- Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Plan (2006)
- Wyong Coastal Zone Management Plan (2011)
- Gosford Beaches Coastal Zone Management Plan (2017)
- Brisbane Water Coastal Zone Management Plan (2012)
- Gosford Lagoons Coastal Zone Management Plan (2015)
- Pearl Beach Lagoon Coastal Zone Management Plan (2014)

Additionally, Council supports the implementation of the Lake Macquarie Estuary Management Plan (1997) and the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan (2009).

The *Coastal Management Act 2016* (CM Act) establishes a framework for coastal management in New South Wales. CMPs will be required for all NSW coastal waterways by 2021. These will supersede the six coastal and estuary management plans and will set the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the coast, with a focus on achieving the objectives of the CM Act. The purpose of the CM Act is to manage the use and development of the coastal environment in an ecologically sustainable way, for the social, cultural and economic well-being.

The CM Act defines the coastal zone as four coastal management areas and establishes management objectives specific to each:

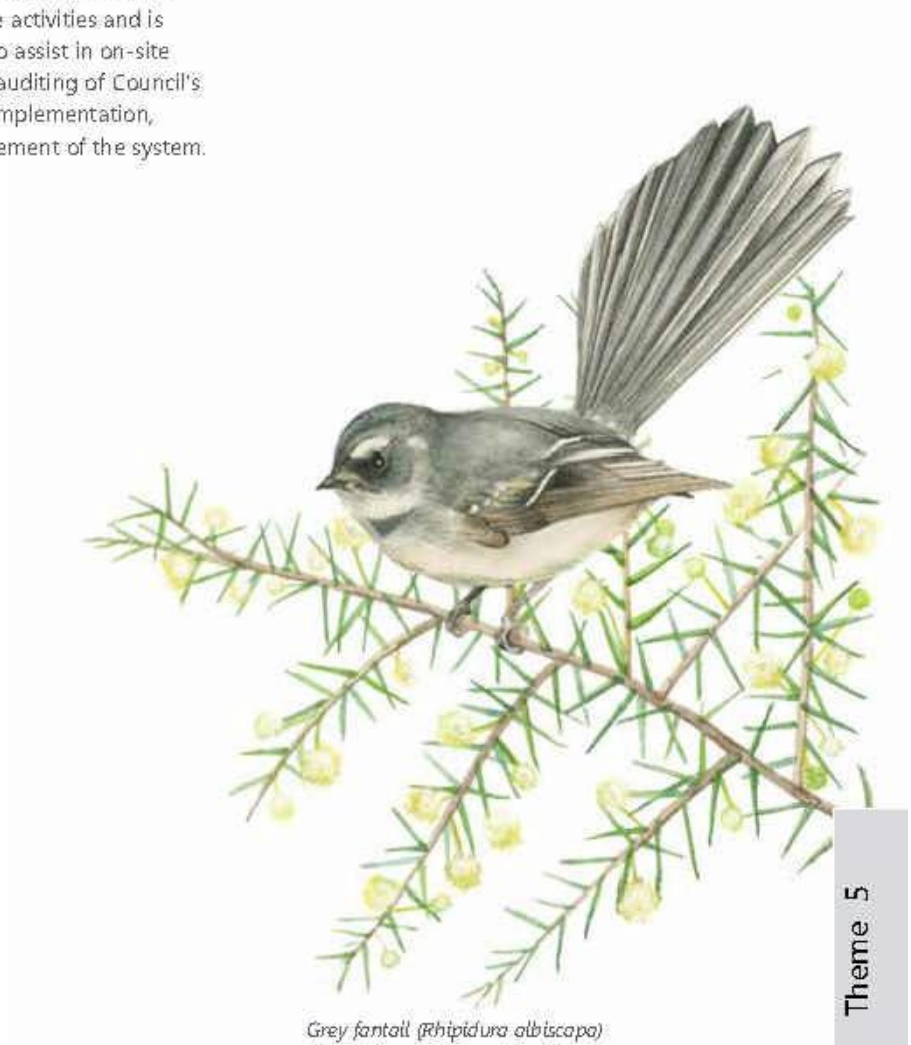
1. Coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest area – defined as areas with particular hydrologic and ecological characteristics.
2. Coastal vulnerability area – defined as the area subject to any of the seven coastal hazards. The vulnerability area will be identified and mapped by each council based on local conditions.
3. Coastal environment area – defined as coastal waters, estuaries, coastal lakes and lagoons, and surrounding land including beaches, dunes, headlands and rock platforms.
4. Coastal use area – defined as land adjacent to the coast where development is or may be carried out.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (CM SEPP) identifies and maps the coastal zone according to the above definitions. The CM SEPP streamlines coastal development assessment requirements and identifies development controls for consent authorities to apply to each coastal management area.

Theme 5 – Goal 5.3 – Action 5.3.1

Council Administration's Environmental Responsibilities

Council's Environmental Management System (EMS) avoids and manages impacts to biodiversity through the systematic management of the potential environmental impact associated with Council's operational activities. The EMS has a robust environmental assessment process which incorporates the identification and assessment of any potential impacts upon flora and fauna during the planning phase of infrastructure activities and is supported by tools and resources to assist in on-site management. Training of staff and auditing of Council's operations and processes ensures implementation, monitoring and continuous improvement of the system. **(Action 5.3.1).**



Grey fantail (*Rhipidura albiscapa*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Implementation Plan

This Strategy documents the Central Coast's biodiversity values, legislative context for protection and presents a well-thought out action plan based on the latest scientific understanding of natural resource management. It aligns with the thinking in previous decades within both former Councils; and, its actions are achievable in a five year time frame.

The Biodiversity Strategy will have achieved its objectives when the following are fulfilled:

- Council supports an administrative structure and on-going resourcing for a Conservation Management Program for biodiversity conservation planning and management;
- Council explores the funding mechanisms for and supports an Environmental Lands Acquisition Program to expand the conservation estate;
- Council supports active management of natural areas to improve their biodiversity values over time;
- The community is an active and engaged participant in conservation programs across the LGA; and
- Land use planning, policy and decision-making protect lands with high biodiversity and social values.

The following section presents actions and a plan for Council to achieve the above objectives and meet the targets set out in this Strategy. The resource estimates provided are indicative only and not guaranteed to be approved in annual budget cycles. Therefore, if the resources are not available for each action, the action cannot be delivered as per the target.

As Council operates within an Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, progress against the Biodiversity Strategy actions will be reported through the annual report, the 4-year delivery plan and the Community Strategic Plan.

Lastly, the Biodiversity Strategy acknowledges the exceptional and comprehensive work of the Council and other government programs that contribute to biodiversity protection and management. There are many Council plans, programs, strategies and policies that are in place or are being developed that influence the success or otherwise of Council achieving the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy (See Figure 7 for some examples).



Figure 7: The actions of the Biodiversity Strategy complement other Council programs and plans, and therefore are not meant to be a comprehensive approach to all of Council's natural resource management.

Table 6: Implementation plan for the Biodiversity Strategy actions

Action ID	5 Year Action	Lead Responsibility	Indicator(s)	Resource Estimate	Source of Funds
Theme 1 – Planning and managing biodiversity in Council's natural areas					
1.1.1	Identify criteria for prioritising reserve management based on biodiversity and social values, and threats to biodiversity	Conservation Management Program	Completion of standard criteria and a decision support system for prioritising management actions	\$50,000	General revenue / Australian Research Council partnership
1.1.2	Develop and resource a program to prepare and review management plans for Council's natural areas (as well as Plans of Management as required by the LG Act)	Conservation Management Program	Proportion of reserves with recent management plans	\$130,000 per annum	General revenue
1.1.3	Identify climate change as a direct threat to natural areas in site management plans, including actions to mitigate impacts	Conservation Management Program	Proportion of reserves with climate change mitigation strategies	To be determined	General revenue
1.2.1	Implement site management plans to rehabilitate degraded bushland and coastal ecosystems	Conservation Management Program	Number of management plans implemented Area rehabilitated (in Ha) Expenditure on natural assets	\$1,000,000 per annum	General revenue and grant funding
1.2.2	Prepare a policy for natural area encroachment management, and resource and implement a program to identify and manage threats to natural areas from encroachment	Conservation Management Program	Endorsed policy Number of encroachments actioned	\$200,000 per annum	General revenue
1.2.3	Develop and implement a program for planning and undertaking ecological and/or cultural burns on Council managed land that complements hazard reduction burning (in line with the Bush Fire Management Committee adopted program)	Conservation Management Program	Number of reserves with fire management plans Number of planned or completed burns against planned	\$20,000 per annum	General revenue / Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements
1.3.1	Collect and manage data to inform land management (e.g. vegetation condition, population size or locations of habitat for threatened species or ecological communities, invasive weed and vertebrate pest incursions, nest boxes installed or other information)	Conservation Management Program	Proportion of priority reserves with specific management information	\$50,000 per annum	General revenue
1.3.3	Use traditional Indigenous knowledge and management techniques for threatened species recovery and conservation management where available and appropriate	Conservation Management Program	Number of management issues benefited from traditional knowledge	-	-
1.4.1	Explore available options for formal biodiversity protection and management of Council reserves and formulate recommendations	Conservation Management Program	Analysis of options and recommendations	-	-
1.4.2	Establish conservation agreements as per recommendations in 1.4.1	Conservation Management Program	Number of agreements in place	\$25,000 per annum	General revenue

Theme 2 – Ensuring adequate resourcing to enable Council to effectively manage its natural areas and expand its conservation estate					
2.1.1	Invest in a long-term commitment to the Conservation Management Program	Council through endorsement of this Strategy	Council resolution (June 2019)	-	-
2.1.2	Build expertise and qualifications in preparing and managing conservation agreements, community engagement on land management activities, and compliance enforcement for natural areas	Conservation Management Program	Ratio of staff to size of natural area estate	To be determined	-
2.1.3	Investigate the benefits of investing in recruitment, training and leadership to establish and retain natural area management personnel (e.g. bush regeneration team, Indigenous officers, recreation planners, grants and trust officers)	Conservation Management Program	If cost benefit analysis recommends it, recruitment	To be determined	-
2.2.1	Establish funding for the management and acquisition of land identified by the Conservation Management Program and Environmental Lands Acquisition Program	Conservation Management Program	Central Coast Conservation Fund established	-	-
2.2.2	Investigate other funding options for Environmental Lands Acquisition Program	Conservation Management Program	Analysis of options and recommendations	-	-
2.3.1	Strategically plan Council's Environmental Land Acquisition Program	Conservation Management Program	Environmental Land Acquisition Program Plan completed	\$20,000	General revenue
2.3.2	Purchase environmental land as per the recommendations from 2.3.1	Conservation Management Program	Environmental Land Acquisition Program implementation	To be determined	Restricted funds
2.3.3	Develop criteria and an internal process for evaluating land acquisition and land dedication opportunities	Conservation Management Program	Criteria agreed and used	-	-

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CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Theme 3 – Promoting community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation					
3.1.1	Prepare a Biodiversity Education Plan to promote community appreciation of Council's natural areas	Community Education	Biodiversity Education Plan	\$30,000	General revenue
3.1.2	Provide guidance for biodiversity management on private land with published guidelines for land owners	Conservation Management Program	Local Biodiversity Management Guidelines	\$5,000	General revenue
3.1.3	Prepare and publish a Nature-based Recreation Strategy for Council natural areas	Conservation Management Program	Nature-based Recreation Strategy	\$50,000	General revenue
3.1.4	Prepare a policy on public access to natural areas	Conservation Management Program	Policy on public access to natural areas	-	-
3.2.1	Develop a community biodiversity participation and education program including citizen science	Community Education	A biodiversity participation and education program implemented	To be determined	General revenue
3.2.2	Provide technical advice and assistance for community involvement in biodiversity conservation agreements (including staff resources and a grant/loan program) to reduce the barriers to entering conservation agreements	Conservation Management Program	Prepared information material	-	-
3.2.3	Provide additional ongoing support and resources for the Central Coast Landcare Program to address the community's demand	Natural Assets	Waiting list for new Land Care Program groups Number of volunteers	\$170,000	General revenue
3.2.4	Further develop and continue existing community partnerships where appropriate and in the best interest of the Conservation Management Program	Conservation Management Program	Number of community partners	-	-
3.3.1	Investigate a tertiary education program for partnering with universities and other groups that study biodiversity with a view that the information will be shared publically	Community Education	Grant funding / support delivered for research projects Partnerships	To be determined	-
3.3.2	Provide public access to Council's geospatial data and reports relevant to biodiversity	Geospatial Information Services	Publically accessible reports and datasets – viewing access only	-	-
3.3.3	Engage with the development industry to improve biodiversity outcomes through development assessment	Environment and Planning	Number of people from industry engaged	-	-

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Theme 4 – Protecting biodiversity through land use planning and information management					
4.1.1	Develop a zoning framework for environmental zones supported by the spatial mapping project to inform comprehensive zoning amendments based on contemporary biodiversity values and principles	Environment and Planning	Comprehensive LEP amendments	-	-
4.1.2	Create additional local provisions or development standards/controls through the Comprehensive LEP/DCP project	Environment and Planning	Comprehensive LEP amendments	-	-
4.1.3	Develop assessment procedures and DCP provisions ensuring biodiversity values are fully considered and impacts to species, ecological communities and local populations are avoided at the rezoning stage of developments	Environment and Planning	All reports for LEP amendments (planning proposals) for Council consideration include an assessment against the principles of the Biodiversity Strategy	-	-
4.1.4	Preparation of a local policy which requires at the rezoning stage the finalisation of arrangements (e.g. Biocertification) for the <i>in perpetuity</i> ownership and management of land with high biodiversity values	Environment and Planning			
4.1.5	Identify appropriate mechanisms to achieve rehabilitation and enhanced landscape connectivity through the rezoning and development assessment process	Environment and Planning	All reports for LEP amendments (planning proposals) and development assessments for Council consideration include an assessment against the principles of the Biodiversity Strategy	-	-
4.1.6	Ensure developer compliance with Council's Flora and Fauna Survey Guidelines, vegetation management plans and conditions	Environment and Planning	Flora and Fauna Survey Guidelines updated with this information	-	-
4.2.1	Produce and keep up-to-date spatial information and analyses about areas of high biodiversity values and threats to biodiversity	Conservation Management Program	Useful decision-making tools and information available	\$25,000 per annum	General revenue
4.2.2	Identify strategic planning data needs (e.g. vegetation community type mapping and updates, priority threatened species surveys)	Environment and Planning	Critical corporate datasets maintained	-	-
4.2.3	Develop and use geospatial data to inform and guide strategic planning to identify critical locations where vegetation, habitat, connections or species must be avoided and protected	Geospatial Information Services / Environment and Planning	Spatial data is used effectively in decision-making	-	-
4.2.4	Design and invest in a Central Coast Biodiversity Monitoring Program in line with State and Commonwealth Government programs including data management systems	Conservation Management Program / Waterways and Coastal Protection	Scoped CC Biodiversity Monitoring Program	\$10,000	General revenue
4.2.5	Explore options to internally share biological resource information such as receiving sites for soil, seeds, tree barrels, hollows, etc	Geospatial Information Services	Information available for cross-unit collaboration through GIS	-	-
4.2.6	Collate all public biodiversity offsets geospatially	Geospatial Information Services	Biodiversity offsets are available geospatially to Council staff through Geocortex	-	-

4.2.7	Provide regular updates to the Biodiversity Values Map held by State Government	Environment and Planning / Geospatial Information Services	Service Level Agreement between E & P and GIS to provide regular updates to State Government	-	-
4.2.8	Investigate additional State or Federal listed threatened species or ecological community listings based on local significance information	Environment and Planning	As needed	-	-
Theme 5 – Demonstrating leadership in biodiversity conservation					
5.1.1	Council's corporate Asset Management System is to include natural areas as an asset type in the technical asset register	Conservation Management Program	Works orders raised against natural assets	-	-
5.1.2	Natural assets are incorporated into Council's accounting and financial management application (Oracle) as a rolling maintenance program similar to a fixed asset register	Conservation Management Program	Maintenance management system and budget for natural assets	-	-
5.1.3	Review of processes and extend the Vertebrate Pest Management Program to priority locations and monitor effectiveness of the program	Natural Assets	Program reviewed and recommendations actioned	\$180,000 per annum	General revenue
5.1.4	Develop and implement the expanded Biosecurity Management Program (including a weed policy)	Natural Assets	Targets in the Sydney Weed Action Program achieved	\$135,000	General revenue
5.2.1	Prioritise staff resources and source funding to prepare Coastal Management Programs (including Tuggerah Lakes, Brisbane Water, coastal lagoons and open coastlines)	Waterways and Coastal Protection	Funding and budget sought and received for CMP preparation	Refer to action tables in existing CZMPs	General revenue
5.2.2	Implement actions identified existing Coastal Zone Management Plans	Waterways and Coastal Protection	Progress on actions tracked by WaCP	Annual approved budget	General revenue
5.2.3	Implement a water quality monitoring program for lakes and estuaries	Waterways and Coastal Protection	MER for water quality monitoring program	Annual approved budget	General revenue
5.2.4	Implement a fauna monitoring program for lakes and estuaries management	Waterways and Coastal Protection	Fauna monitoring program	Annual approved budget	General revenue
5.3.1	The Environmental Management System ensures Council operational activities adequately assess impacts to biodiversity	Corporate Governance	Number of staff who are trained in Council's Environmental Assessment Procedure	-	-
5.3.2	Ensuring proper management and maintenance of roadside vegetation containing threatened species or EEC with minimal environmental impact to protect Council workers, from litigation and help manage sensitive areas	Corporate Governance	Roadside Vegetation Management Program implemented	-	-
5.3.3	Council operational plans, strategies and processes support the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy	Corporate Governance	-	-	-

Legend for commitment or action timeframes

Immediate priority	On-going for 5 year life of Strategy
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Lily Pilly - (Acmena Smithii)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoalihan
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Appendix A

Table 1: Threatened non-marine flora and fauna listed under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for the Central Coast local government area (Bionet search 9/4/2019)

Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW status	Commonwealth status
FLORA			
<i>Acacia bynoeana</i>	Bynoe's Wattle	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i>	Sunshine Wattle	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Ancistrachne maidenii</i>		Vulnerable	
<i>Angophora inopina</i>	Charmhaven Apple	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Astrotricha crassifolia</i>	Thick-leaf Star-hair	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Boronia umbellata</i>	Orara Boronia	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Caladenia tessellata</i>	Thick Lip Spider Orchid	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Callistemon linearifolius</i>	Netted Bottle Brush	Vulnerable	
<i>Chamaesyce psammogeton</i>	Sand Spurge	Endangered	
<i>Corunastylis</i> sp. <i>Charmhaven</i>		Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Corybas dowlingii</i>	Red Helmet Orchid	Endangered	
<i>Cryptostylis hunteriana</i>	Leafless Tongue Orchid	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Cynanchum elegans</i>	White-flowered Wax Plant	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Darwinia glaucophylla</i>		Vulnerable	
<i>Darwinia peduncularis</i>		Vulnerable	
<i>Dendrobium melaleucaphilum</i>	Spider orchid	Endangered	
<i>Diuris praecox</i>	Rough Doubletail	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Epacris purpurascens</i> var. <i>purpurascens</i>		Vulnerable	
<i>Eucalyptus camfieldii</i>	Camfield's Stringybark	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> subsp. <i>decadens</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Galium australe</i>	Tangled Bedstraw	Endangered	
<i>Genoplesium baueri</i>	Bauer's Midge Orchid	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Genoplesium insigne</i>	Variable Midge Orchid	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Grammitis stenophylla</i>	Narrow-leaf Finger Fern	Endangered	
<i>Grevillea parviflora</i> subsp. <i>parviflora</i>	Small-flower Grevillea	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Grevillea parviflora</i> subsp. <i>supplicans</i>		Endangered	
<i>Grevillea shiressii</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Hibbertia procumbens</i>	Spreading Guinea Flower	Endangered	
<i>Hibbertia puberula</i>		Endangered	
<i>Lasiopetalum joyceae</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Maudia triglochinosoides</i>		Vulnerable	
<i>Melaleuca biconvexa</i>	Biconvex Paperbark	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Melaleuca deanei</i>	Deane's Paperbark	Vulnerable	Vulnerable

<i>Micromyrtus blakelyi</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Olearia cordata</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Persicaria elatior</i>	Tall Knotweed	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Persoonia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Geebung	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Pomaderris brunnea</i>	Brown Pomaderris	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Prostanthera askania</i>	Tranquility Mintbush	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Prostanthera cineolifera</i>	Singleton Mint Bush	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Prostanthera junonis</i>	Somersby Mintbush	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Pultenaea maritima</i>	Coast Headland Pea	Vulnerable	
<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>		Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Rhizanthella slateri</i>	Eastern Australian Underground Orchid	Vulnerable	Endangered
<i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i>	Scrub Turpentine	Critically Endangered	
<i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i>	Native Guava	Critically Endangered	
<i>Rutidosis heterogama</i>	Heath Wrinklewort	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Senecio spathulatus</i>	Coast Groundsel	Endangered	
<i>Senna acclinis</i>	Rainforest Cassia	Endangered	
<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>	Magenta Lilly Pilly	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Tetratheca glandulosa</i>		Vulnerable	
<i>Tetratheca juncea</i>	Black-eyed Susan	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Thelymitra adorata</i>	Wyong Sun Orchid	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
BIRDS			
<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>	Magpie Goose	Vulnerable	
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow	Vulnerable	
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew	Endangered	
<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Vulnerable	
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot		Endangered
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot	Vulnerable	Critically Endangered
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Vulnerable	
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Vulnerable	
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand-plover	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sand-plover	Vulnerable	Endangered
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler	Vulnerable	
<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Spotted Harrier	Vulnerable	
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies)	Vulnerable	
<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella	Vulnerable	
<i>Dasyornis brachypterus</i>	Eastern Bristlebird	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Black-necked Stork	Endangered	
<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	White-fronted Chat	Vulnerable	

<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	Beach Stone-curlew	Critically Endangered	
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	Vulnerable	
<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet	Vulnerable	
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Gygis alba</i>	White Tern	Vulnerable	
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher	Vulnerable	
<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	Pied Oystercatcher	Endangered	
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Vulnerable	
<i>Hamirostra melanosternon</i>	Black-breasted Buzzard	Vulnerable	
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	Vulnerable	
<i>Irediparra gallinacea</i>	Comb-crested Jacana	Vulnerable	
<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Black Bittern	Vulnerable	
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper	Vulnerable	
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit (baueri)		Vulnerable
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	Vulnerable	
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	Vulnerable	
<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin (south-eastern form)	Vulnerable	
<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)	Vulnerable	
<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	Orange-bellied Parrot	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot	Vulnerable	
<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	Endangered	
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	Vulnerable	
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	Vulnerable	
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew		Critically Endangered
<i>Onychoprion fuscata</i>	Sooty Tern	Vulnerable	
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	Vulnerable	
<i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>	Olive Whistler	Vulnerable	
<i>Pandion cristatus</i>	Eastern Osprey	Vulnerable	
<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin	Vulnerable	
<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Flame Robin	Vulnerable	
<i>Pezoporus wallicus wallicus</i>	Eastern Ground Parrot	Vulnerable	
<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>	Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)	Vulnerable	
<i>Procelsterna cerulea</i>	Grey Ternlet	Vulnerable	
<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>	Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Vulnerable	
<i>Ptilinopus regina</i>	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Vulnerable	
<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>	Superb Fruit-Dove	Vulnerable	
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	Vulnerable	
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern	Endangered	
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck	Vulnerable	
<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>	Hooded Plover	Critically Endangered	Vulnerable

<i>Turnix maculosus</i>	Red-backed Button-quail	Vulnerable	
<i>Tyto longimembris</i>	Eastern Grass Owl	Vulnerable	
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Masked Owl	Vulnerable	
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	Vulnerable	
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Terek Sandpiper	Vulnerable	
MAMMALS			
<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	Eastern Pygmy-possum	Vulnerable	
<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	Vulnerable	Endangered
<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Eastern False Pipistrelle	Vulnerable	
<i>Isoodon obesulus obesulus</i>	Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern)	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	Golden-tipped Bat	Vulnerable	
<i>Macropus parma</i>	Parma Wallaby	Vulnerable	
<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little Bentwing-bat	Vulnerable	
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i>	Eastern Bentwing-bat	Vulnerable	
<i>Mormopterus norfolkensis</i>	Eastern Freetail-bat	Vulnerable	
<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Southern Myotis	Vulnerable	
<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>	Corben's Long-eared Bat	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider		Vulnerable
<i>Petaurus australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider	Vulnerable	
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel Glider	Vulnerable	
<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Brush-tailed Phascogale	Vulnerable	
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Planigale maculata</i>	Common Planigale	Vulnerable	
<i>Potorous tridactylus</i>	Long-nosed Potoroo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Pseudomys gracilicaudatus</i>	Eastern Chestnut Mouse	Vulnerable	
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse		Vulnerable
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat	Vulnerable	
<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	Vulnerable	
<i>Thylogale stigmatica</i>	Red-legged Pademelon	Vulnerable	
<i>Vespadelus troughtoni</i>	Eastern Cave Bat	Vulnerable	
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Crinia tinnula</i>	Wallum Froglet	Vulnerable	
<i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>	Giant Burrowing Frog	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green and Golden Bell Frog	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Litoria brevipalmata</i>	Green-thighed Frog	Vulnerable	
<i>Litoria littlejohni</i>	Littlejohn's Tree Frog	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Mixophyes balbus</i>	Stuttering Frog	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Mixophyes iteratus</i>	Giant Barred Frog	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Pseudophryne australis</i>	Red-crowned Toadlet	Vulnerable	
<i>Uperoleia mahonyi</i>	Mahony's Toadlet	Endangered	

REPTILES			
<i>Hoplocephalus bitorquatus</i>	Pale-headed Snake	Vulnerable	
<i>Hoplocephalus bungaroides</i>	Broad-headed Snake	Endangered	Vulnerable
<i>Hoplocephalus stephensii</i>	Stephens' Banded Snake	Vulnerable	
<i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>	Rosenberg's Goanna	Vulnerable	
INSECTS			
<i>Petalura gigantea</i>	Giant Dragonfly	Endangered	

Table 2: Endangered populations listed under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016 for the Central Coast local government area (Bionet search 9/4/2019)

Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW status
<i>Eucalyptus oblonga</i>	<i>Eucalyptus oblonga</i> population at Bateau Bay, Forrester's Beach and Tumbi Umbi in the Wyong local government area	Endangered Population
<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> subsp. <i>parramattensis</i>	<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> C. Hall. subsp. <i>parramattensis</i> in Wyong and Lake Macquarie local government areas	Endangered Population

Appendix B

Technical reports referenced in the text

Wildlife corridor mapping

Harré, C. (2018). Technical report to accompany Central Coast Council's wildlife corridor and fauna gap crossing network GIS dataset. Report to the Central Coast Council, June 2018: unpublished.

Spatial Links Tool

Drielsma, M., Manion, G., & Ferrier, S. (2007). The spatial links tool: Automated mapping of habitat linkages in variegated landscapes. *Ecological modelling*, 200(3), 403-411.

Conservation priorities modelling

Kujala, H. and Whitehead, A. L. (2015). Identifying biodiversity priorities and assessing impacts of proposed future development in the Wyong Local Government Area in New South Wales. A draft report to Wyong Shire Council: unpublished.

Coastal Open Space System

Draft Coastal Open Space System Status Report (2018).



BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

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MAY 2020



Draft Biodiversity Strategy

Public exhibition submission review

February 2020



Executive summary

Council appreciates the critical importance of biodiversity to its area, and to its community. An online sustainability survey undertaken from 18 February to 17 March 2019 showed that 80.29% of respondents think biodiversity conservation, protection of native plants and animals, and ecosystem health is very important to the Central Coast, while 13.86% think it is somewhat important.

The draft Strategy highlights the roles that Council plays in supporting biodiversity: as a land use planning authority, a community leader, and a major landholder and land manager. It outlines Council's administrative and policy framework for responding to the actions identified to progress and implement on-ground change. It also guides Council's own actions and informs the actions of the community and a wide range of other organisations who together will shape the future of the Central Coast.

Public Exhibition

At Council's meeting on 26 August 2019, Council endorsed the draft Biodiversity Strategy for the purposes of public exhibition. Following the 60 day public exhibition period Council was to consider the submissions received during the exhibition period, and a report:

- addressing the submissions received from the public during the exhibition period; and
- proposing appropriate amendments to the Biodiversity Strategy with consideration of those submissions.

Summary of Submissions

The draft Biodiversity Strategy was exhibited from Thursday 12 September 2019 to Monday 11 November 2019. The draft Strategy was exhibited online on Council's community consultation hub, Your Voice Our Coast, and hard copies of the draft Strategy were available at Council's Wyong and Gosford offices.

Of the **144** written submissions received, a total of **28** unique comments were made and an additional **25** submissions were from people that appeared to be unfamiliar with the document or that were not commenting on the document specifically. A further **91** responses submitted a copied template which are considered duplicates and are not included in the analysis.

Many comments were supportive and positive. Most submissions (67%) were from individuals and the remainder were from community groups (11%), industry groups (11%) and government (11%).

The 26 themes raised in submissions are summarised as follows:

- Goals of the Strategy
- Biodiversity offsets
- Oppose development on the Central Coast
- Loss of urban trees, local species, threatened species
- Coastal Open Space System

- Action 2.2.3 Develop Land Disposal Plan
- Action 3.3.3 Engage with development industry
- Community participation and recreation
- Consultation of draft Biodiversity Strategy
- Biosecurity
- Climate change
- Conservation priorities
- Sustainability, local employment and public transport
- Data and information provision
- Environmental Land Acquisition Program
- Council administration of biodiversity conservation program
- Zoning/LEP controls review and individual property concerns
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Re-zoning process and development assessment
- Conservation fund
- Land to which the Strategy applies
- Estuaries, lakes, lagoons and marine
- Heritage listing
- Timing of implementation
- Presentation of the Strategy
- Biodiversity Offset Scheme

Many submissions contained multiple issues or comments, some of which related to other Council projects and strategies.

Due to the large volume and variety of content contained within the submissions, we are not able to include and respond to every comment in this report. However, all relevant issues raised are included in this report and have been considered in the determination of the final Strategy, or forwarded to the relevant Council section if related to other projects and matters.

Objective of consultation

The purpose of consultation for the draft Biodiversity Strategy was to seek feedback from the Central Coast community on both Council's role and the community's role in the care and protection of the local natural environment. This document will be presented to Council along with the final Biodiversity Strategy for adoption.

Local government, along with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, non-government organisations, the private sector and the community all play a role in the protection and management of Australia's environment and heritage. While local government plays a key role in local land use planning, state and territory governments have the primary responsibility for most

land use planning and environmental protection. State and territory governments have specific environmental laws and programs designed to protect and manage the environment within their jurisdictions. The private sector and the community are important participants, particularly in managing land and property and investing in environmental management and restoration. An understanding of the various roles and responsibilities sets the context for the responses to community concerns raised below.

Our engagement framework

Consultation was been designed in accordance with Central Coast Council's Engagement Framework. This framework is available to view at: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/Central-Coast-Council-Engagement-Framework>.

How we consulted

We carried out extensive and adequate promotion of the consultation period to ensure the community and key stakeholders were aware of the opportunity to get involved and given enough notice to provide feedback.

Your Voice – Our Coast website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project page launched on 12 September 2019 • www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/biodiversity • 830 visits to this page during consultation period • Biodiversity Summary document was viewed 177 times • Biodiversity Strategy document was viewed 182 times • Frequently asked questions were viewed 60 times
Information sessions	<p>Two sessions ran on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 19 September, 4-7pm, Erina (Attended by 4 people) • Tuesday 24 September, 4-7pm, Wyong (Attended by 5 people)
Media release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued on 12 September 2019 • A copy of the media release can be found on Appendix A
Print advertising	<p>Advertisement promoting the public exhibition of the draft Strategy ran:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 September 2019: Peninsula News • 19 September 2019: Central Coast Express Advocate • 19 September 2019: Coast Community News • 25 September 2019: Wyong Regional Chronicle <p>Copies of print advertising can be found in Appendix B</p>
E-News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A story appeared in Coast Connect E-News on 24 September 2019. This story was clicked on 65 times

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A link to the Biodiversity Strategy project page on Your Voice Our Coast appeared in Coast Connect E-News on 1 October 2019. This link was clicked on 5 times • A link to the Biodiversity Strategy project page on Your Voice Our Coast appeared in Coast Connect E-News on 22 October 2019. This link was clicked on 6 times
Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook post on 12 September, 16 September and 1 November, with a total reach of 11,792, and 86 reactions, comments and shares
Stakeholder email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email was sent to 4500+ stakeholders who have subscribed to updates on Council's community consultation
Stakeholder meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Open Space Advisory Group briefing (3 September 2019)
Councillor Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 July 2019

Demographics

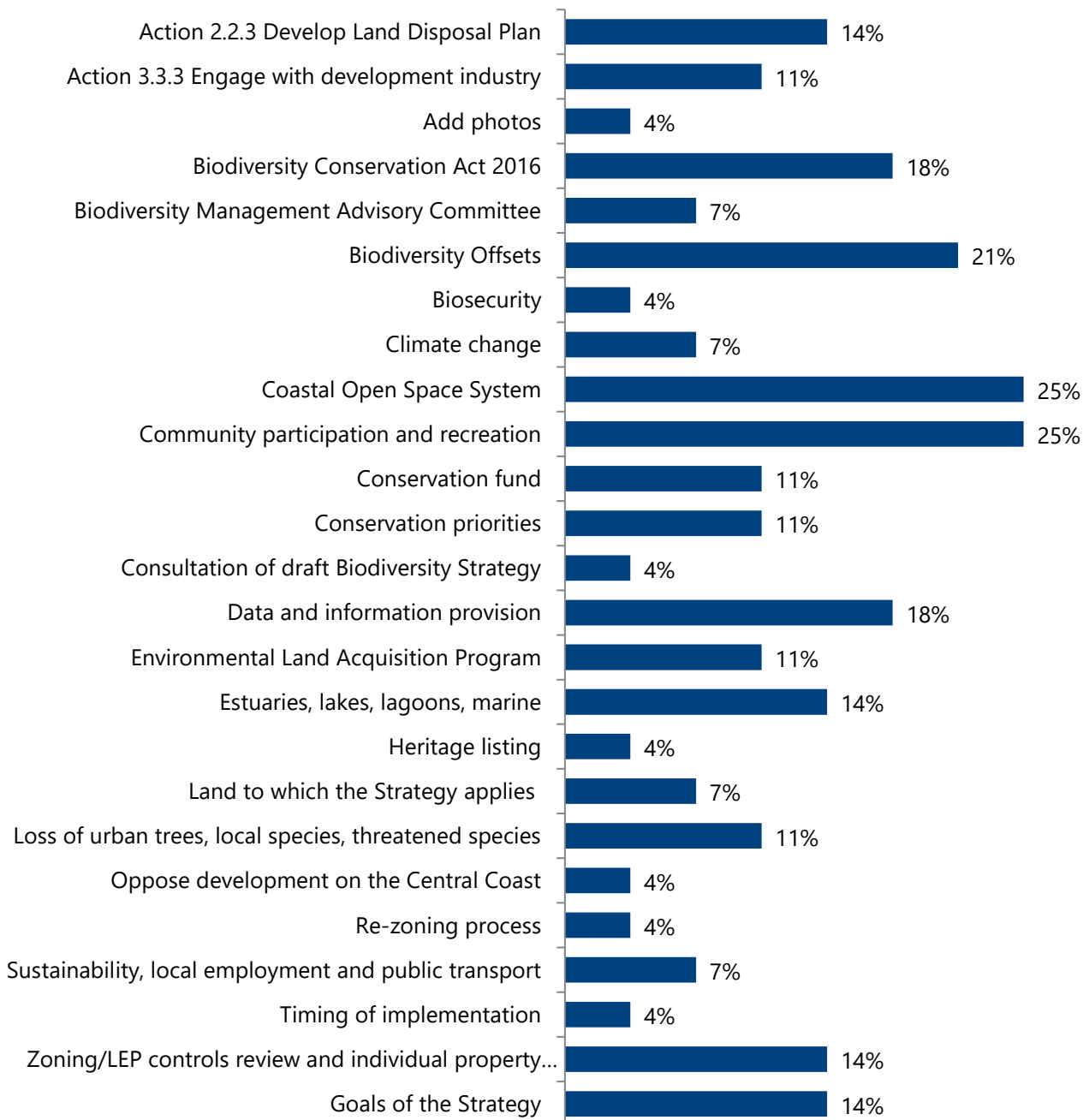
Figure 1: What is your suburb?

Within Central Coast Local Government Area	Count		Count	Outside Central Coast Local Government Area	Count
Avoca Beach	1	Lake Munmorah	2	Canberra, ACT	2
Bateau Bay	3	Lisarow	1	Boat Harbour	1
Bensville	2	Long Jetty	2	Manly	1
Canton Beach	1	Macmasters Beach	8		
Copacabana	1	Narara	3		
Davistown	3	Noraville	1		
East Gosford	2	Ourimbah	1		
Ettalong Beach	2	Pearl Beach	1		
Forresters Beach	2	Somersby	1		
Glenning Valley	1	Terrigal	3		
Gosford	2	The Entrance	1		
Gorokan	1	Umina Beach	3		
Hamlyn Terrace	1	Wamberal	1		
Hardys Bay	2	Wyoming	2		
Killcare	1	Not stated			
Kincumber	3	Total within LGA	58	Total outside LGA	4
				TOTAL	62

Figure 2: Submissions

Note: This was an open-ended field, allowing participants to provide written submissions on the draft Biodiversity Strategy. As responses from participants have been coded into themes, and because each submission may have contained multiple themes, the total exceeds 100%

Answered: 28



What we heard

We have grouped key comments into themes and provided responses to issues and queries raised in the submissions. The key points of the Strategy are reiterated and expanded upon in our response where the comments indicate a misunderstanding of the topic. If the Biodiversity Strategy text has been changed in response to the comment, this is indicated in the table below.

Key issues raised	Response
Theme 1: Goals of the Strategy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the vision to achieve “no nett loss” of biodiversity (interpreted to mean the ‘no net loss’ standard set by the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method Section 11) • Change the vision to protect, maintain and improve biodiversity • Add a goal to achieve an increase in biodiversity • Add an objective to protect and increase COSS 	<p>Page 25 of the Strategy states the purpose of the document, however there is no vision statement to amend as suggested. The <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> establishes a method by which no net loss of biodiversity will be achieved in NSW. The Biodiversity Assessment Method requires offsetting the impacts of development and clearing in order to achieve no net loss through the creation of biodiversity credits, which includes averted loss and management gains.</p> <p>As Council operates within the legislative framework of the NSW government, the goal of ‘no net loss’ underpins the Strategy and its goals. The Strategy’s intention is to go beyond the NSW standard at a local level by ‘<u>protecting and enhancing</u> the landscape and biodiversity values of the Central Coast, which includes <u>maintaining</u> functional connections between areas of habitat, <u>maintaining</u> core habitat as well as <u>restoring</u> marginal habitat, <u>preserving</u> threatened and iconic species and ecological communities, <u>preserving</u> significant Aboriginal cultural places, and <u>protecting</u> the scenic amenity of the region’ (p 25).</p> <p><i>It is recommended to add the following sentence to the above paragraph on page 25: Mechanisms identified within this strategy seek to appropriately offset local biodiversity loss in order to try and achieve a zero net loss of biodiversity on the Central Coast.</i></p> <p>Council staff will continue to look at ways to independently measure performance against this complex indicator at the scale of the Council area, through implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Objectives (p 25) are framed as actions of the Strategy to fulfil its purpose. Protecting biodiversity and COSS are goals. Goal 1.4 is to ‘<i>improve the long-term protection status of Council’s natural areas</i>’, which includes all reserves mapped as COSS. Goal 2.3 is to ‘<i>expand Council’s conservation network</i>’, which includes COSS. Goal 1.2 is to ‘<i>improve biodiversity in Council’s natural areas</i>’ by implementing site management plans. Therefore, the Strategy is consistent with the concerns raised in the submissions.</p>
Theme 2: Biodiversity offsets	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that COSS reserves will be used to offset and therefore streamline development elsewhere in the LGA 	<p>The Strategy outlines all contemporary legal options for achieving no net loss of biodiversity and provides a decision-making framework for offsetting Council land (p 41). No decision is made for any reserve (COSS or otherwise), but a framework for a decision to be made is presented in the Strategy. Action 1.4.1 is to develop</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to the offsets market and its impact on biodiversity • Belief that Council aims to manipulate the local offset credit market in contrast with State government goals by using Council land as offsets 	<p>a plan based on detailed information (which is not yet available for many reserves) and to recommend which reserves are most suited as offsets.</p> <p>The alternative is that a proponent pays the NSW government, which may never purchase land within the LGA. If Council participates in the biodiversity offset scheme, it is a way to fund land management on all Council reserves. By Council not participating in the scheme, development outcomes will not be altered (i.e. development would still go ahead if approved). It may be worth noting that a national biodiversity offset market exists in parallel with expanding states and territory biodiversity offset markets.</p> <p>Council will not be manipulating any offset markets by implementing the EP&A Act and BC Act and their objectives. Council supports biodiversity offsets in principle and will seek to use the full range of legislative options to provide adequate and local offsets where possible.</p>
<p>Theme 3: Oppose development on the Central Coast</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not refer to 'balance' between development and conservation • Development is the root cause of biodiversity loss 	<p>Treasury's intergenerational analysis indicates that Australia's population could grow by 50 per cent by 2050. This level of growth is likely to increase pressure on the environment. Local development that results in the loss of native vegetation is regulated by NSW planning and environmental legislation. Plans for new housing and development areas are set by the State government in strategic plans such as the Central Coast Regional Plan 2036.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy acknowledges this threat to biodiversity and has identified three key pieces of information that will be used to inform the planning and development assessment process and meet Council's principles of land use planning (p 57).</p>
<p>Theme 4: Loss of urban trees, local species, threatened species</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern from developers that an offset requirement for all tree clearing would stifle development and economic growth in the region • Concern from residents that local trees are being lost from urban areas • Council should encourage more urban trees • Concern about collecting a fee in lieu of planting trees will let developers off the hook 	<p>Council's draft Greener Places Strategy has the goal to achieve no net loss of canopy cover by requiring that every tree lost is replaced and with planning controls for development. The Biodiversity Strategy provides context for further policy development regarding fees. The fee would only apply in situations that replacement trees cannot be planted (i.e. not enough room, safety issues, not appropriate).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush Stone-curlew management 	<p>The bush stone-curlew is an endangered species in NSW. It is common in northern Australia however in the south-east of the country it is either rare or extinct throughout its former range. Community-led surveys conducted over many years have kept records of the small population of breeding bush stone-curlews on the Central Coast. The species is known from public and private land in areas including Saratoga, Davistown, Kincumber South and Umina. The modified and often urbanised nature of the areas in</p>

	<p>which the local bush stone-curlew individuals have been recorded indicates a complexity of potentially interacting factors contribute to its local survival, albeit in low numbers.</p> <p>The identified threats to the bush stone-curlew include predation by foxes and cats; clearing of woodland habitat; modification of ground habitat through a number of processes and disturbance in the vicinity of nest sites. These threats are consistent with those affecting biodiversity more generally. Council relies on the relatively ineffective method of trapping to manage local fox populations since baiting in areas where the bush stone-curlew have been recorded is not achievable under the Pesticide Control (1080 Bait Products) Order 2019. Opportunities for abatement of the other identified threats presents challenges in an urbanised environment. The on-going conservation and increase in small local populations of endangered species like the bush stone-curlew highlights that the management of biodiversity occurs in the context of complex interactions between environmental, social, economic and cultural factors.</p>
<p>Theme 5: The Coastal Open Space System (COSS)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of Council retaining COSS land • Strategy to include a theme for COSS for voluntary acquisition of land • Strategy does not value COSS • Introduce a rate levy for COSS • Introduce an E5 zone for COSS 	<p>Most of the Strategy (3 of 5 themes) is about planning, protecting, managing, expanding and resourcing Council’s natural bushland areas as there is considerable community support for ensuring important bushland is protected in public ownership. The Biodiversity Strategy offers a much more robust plan to secure the future of the COSS and all other Council reserves compared to former council strategies and plans. The Strategy is a superior commitment to COSS, offering to legally protect reserves under <i>in perpetuity</i> conservation agreements rather than to rely on zoning or classification, which can be changed in future. The COSS brand is not a legal protection mechanism.</p> <p><i>It is recommended that the following text is added to page 42 - Objective F2 of the Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028 is: Promote greening and ensure the wellbeing of communities through the protection of local bushland, urban trees, tree canopies and expansion of the Coastal Open Space System (COSS). Theme 2 aims to deliver on this objective for the whole LGA. The Coastal Open Space System (COSS) was an initiative of the former Gosford City Council. The two main elements of the COSS were: a) public land managed for biodiversity, heritage, education and scientific endeavours and recreation in the natural setting; and b) private land identified for addition to the COSS through acquisition. The term COSS has been used within some parts of the community as shorthand for the protection of biodiversity, even where this occurs outside the physical boundaries of the COSS reserves and the land identified for future inclusion in the COSS. Consulting the community on a name/brand for Central Coast Council’s natural reserve system would provide advice to Council on how to brand the consolidated conservation estate.</i></p> <p>Funding options to manage and acquire Council bushland (not just COSS) are proposed for further exploration (see Figure 5).</p>

	<p>An E5 or additional public conservation zone is not provided for under the Standard Instrument Principle Local Environmental Plan and as such is not available for application by Council. The E2 Environmental Conservation zone provides the highest level of environmental protection for areas with high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values outside national parks and nature reserves.</p>
<p>Theme 6: Action 2.2.3 – Develop a Land Disposal Plan</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that a land disposal plan is a cover-up to sell COSS branded reserves 	<p>Action 2.2.3 is to investigate small parcels of Council-owned land that have <u>no current or future operational or community purpose</u>. The land, while in public ownership, is not serving a purpose and the sale of that land would reduce Council’s administration and responsibility burden and at the same time generate much needed resources for the conservation management program. The action does not refer to any natural assets, including those with the COSS designation. The process of consolidation happens regularly as per Council resolution. The Biodiversity Strategy is seeking to re-direct this potential source of funding from general revenue to conservation purposes.</p> <p><i>It is recommended that the action be removed from the Biodiversity Strategy to remove any notion by the public that Council has a plan to sell natural assets. The premise of the Strategy is exactly the opposite: to legally protect and manage reserves to increase local biodiversity values.</i></p>
<p>Theme 7: Action 3.3.3 Engage with the development industry to develop sustainable building practices</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that ‘sustainable building practices’ is outside the scope of Biodiversity Strategy Concern that Council is favouring the development industry by including a specific action for engagement Need for light pollution guidelines for new development 	<p>The intent of the action is to hold at least one forum in the life of the Strategy (by 2024) where Council can educate developers about the standard of ecological assessment expected, especially around how to demonstrate ‘avoid and minimise’ impacts to biodiversity.</p> <p><i>It is proposed to re-word the action as follows: Engage with the development industry to improve biodiversity outcomes through quality development assessment</i></p>
<p>Theme 8: Community participation and recreation</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with community groups and volunteers and educate the community Concern that Council is locking out mountain bike users from COSS reserves Landcare / specific requests for Landcare sites Compliance is needed against damaging uses such as mountain biking in reserves Mountain biking is not compatible with conservation and competes with bushwalking and other nature-based recreational activities 	<p>Theme 3 highlights the promotion of community appreciation and understanding through access to natural areas and education programs, and community participation and involvement in biodiversity conservation. There are 8 actions that relate to supporting the community with information, education programs, citizen science, partnerships, funding and technical support.</p> <p>A Nature-based Recreation strategy (Action 3.1.3) provides a process for assessing the suitability of all recreational activities in natural areas that are consistent with the definition of nature-based recreation.</p>

Theme 9: Consultation of draft Biodiversity Strategy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of consultation with mountain bike user groups • Lack of consultation with NPWS, Forestry Corporation and Department of Primary Industry and Environment (DPIE) • Property developer representatives requested to work further with Council on details 	<p>See above statistics for extensive consultation and engagement made available to the whole community. DPIE provided input to early drafts to ensure alignment with regional conservation planning projects and plans. Targeted engagement regarding mountain biking was undertaken as part of a mountain bike feasibility study and two focus groups for key stakeholder groups interested in Council reserves and this information is currently being used to inform the preparation of a discussion paper. Strategies and management plans arising from the Biodiversity Strategy will consider all user perspectives.</p> <p>Council will prepare a process for meaningful dialogue with property developer representatives, such as through regular stakeholder meetings as part of the Green Grid Project.</p>
Theme 10: Biosecurity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Myna control • Use of chemical for weed control 	<p>Feral animal control is addressed by the Strategy in Action 5.1.3 <i>Review the Vertebrate Pest Management Program</i>. The review will look at all vertebrate pests, including Indian Mynas</p> <p>Action 5.1.4 is to develop a Biosecurity Management Program, which includes a weed policy, where risks from chemical weed control will be assessed</p>
Theme 11: Climate change	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include greater consideration of climate change 	<p>Climate change is addressed in the third action of the strategy. Action 1.1.3 is to <i>identify climate change as a direct threat to natural areas in site management plans, including actions to mitigate impacts</i>.</p> <p>Climate change is further addressed in Council's Climate Change Policy and upcoming Action Plan.</p>
Theme 12: Conservation priorities and wildlife corridors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations to Council for doing the studies for conservation priorities and wildlife corridors • Concerns about private land being identified as conservation land • Concern priority conservation areas map would exclude properties from development • Wildlife corridor map is likely to trigger a need for additional investigation for corridors • Add a local target for comprehensive, adequate and representative protection of biodiversity • Conservation priorities are different to BCT investment priorities 	<p>The conservation priorities map simply shows those areas of the LGA that are priority for protecting to avoid species extinction (biodiversity loss). It is not based on property-level information and therefore cannot be interpreted at the property scale. Landowners need to undertake their own site-scale ecological studies to progress their development plans.</p> <p>Conservation priorities and wildlife corridors are among the many factors that are considered in assessment, and these maps provide certainty as to the biodiversity issues that must be addressed where development is proposed (along with other data such as the NSW Biodiversity Values Map).</p> <p>Action 4.1.2 will develop a biodiversity overlay which would be embedded within the CCLEP. Further work is required to determine local biodiversity targets, as modelling is only the first step in identifying conservation priorities. These priorities are different to the BCT priorities as they are based on different data and have been developed for different reasons.</p>
Theme 13: Sustainability, local employment and public transport	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public transport infrastructure, reduce private vehicles and use of concrete • Increase local employment • Promote industries that protect biodiversity 	<p>Sustainability is not addressed in the Biodiversity Strategy. Neither is employment or transport infrastructure.</p> <p>The upcoming draft Economic Development Strategy does provide some opportunities for the matters raised to be progressed. There are areas of focus with regards to circular economy models, UN Sustainable Development Goals, and cleantech/advanced manufacturing, as well as general acknowledgement of the value of natural assets to the regional economy</p>
<p>Theme 14: Data and information provision</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify how information will be applied to planning proposals and development assessment • Clarify how data and maps were prepared • Data should be made available, published on website or through pre-lodgement service 	<p>Theme 4 is focussed on information management and having good data to underpin decision-making, especially Action 4.2.3 <i>Develop and use geospatial data to identify critical locations where biodiversity must be avoided</i>. Council has invested in generating these layers for the Central Coast to assist with planning and assessment and to provide development certainty. As the information should be used to avoid and minimise impacts to biodiversity, it will be provided upon request on a fees and charges basis (e.g. wildlife movement corridors are required to be assessed in the BAM methodology as a prescribed impact). Technical reports cited in the Strategy were available upon request during the exhibition period.</p>
<p>Theme 15: Environmental Land Acquisition Program (ELAP)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for ELAP and its long-term continuation • Concerns that the land acquisition program will pay less than fair market value for land for conservation • Concern that funding the ELAP is not an appropriate use of restricted funds collected for purchase of environmental land • Provide interim measures (prior to ELAP being established) for minimum lot-size provisions within planning agreements • Proposed COSS should be able to be used as avoid land/offset for neighbouring development 	<p>The Strategy’s main premise is that private land conservation plays a critical role in biodiversity conservation. Council is not in the position to purchase all the high value conservation land in the LGA. Council pays fair market value for land and the ELAP does not have scope for compulsorily acquiring land.</p> <p>The Strategy offers information and technical support (and grant funding) for landowners with high value land to take advantage of the same legislation and offsets markets that Council can participate in. In some cases, land that has been earmarked for development in the past could generate a more lucrative return for owners by preserving and enhancing biodiversity values. Council encourages this outcome by providing the conservation priorities map as an indication of where biodiversity of the region would be most effectively conserved.</p> <p>Funding and timeframes are provided by Action 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 (p 43). As per p 47-48, the ELAP is currently active with 817 ha purchased for the COSS brand since 1990, and 150 ha under negotiation in 2020. Two restricted funds will be drawn down to purchase lands either in the Gosford City (proposed COSS) or the former Wyong Shire. The ELAP Plan strategically guides the purchase of high priority conservation land with the available funds – which is the correct use of both funds.</p> <p>Interim measures are not proposed because proponents can approach Council with a Voluntary Planning Agreement proposing a smaller lot in exchange for payment to the conservation fund.</p> <p>Proposed COSS land is not likely to rank highly in the decision-making framework (p 41) as offset opportunities. Avoid and</p>

	<p>minimise principles are applied to developments as per the BAM and each case will be assessed individually.</p> <p><i>It is recommended that the following text is added to page 39 to explain Map 2: Land proposed for acquisition is private land that has been assessed as having values that are consistent with those of the public COSS reserves. Properties identified as proposed COSS are subject to voluntary acquisition by Council for inclusion in the public COSS reserve system. Affected properties have COSS messages on their property (former sec 149) certificates</i></p>
Theme 16: Council administration of biodiversity conservation program	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a new Council advisory committee for biodiversity management 	<p>The terms of reference for the Coastal Open Space System Advisory Committee state that the role of the group is to advise Council and staff on all matters relating to strategic biodiversity conservation land management (including the COSS) for the Central Coast.</p> <p>Implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy is an operational matter for staff. However, if the newly elected Council chose to establish advisory groups in September 2020, the duplication that would result from having both a COSS Advisory Group and a Biodiversity Advisory Group would be inefficient and time consuming for staff.</p> <p><i>Staff recommends that the current advisory group is replaced with an advisory group with a focus on strategic biodiversity and land management for the Central Coast. The group should have strong representation from all localities of the LGA and represent diverse skills and backgrounds that can support and positively contribute to Council's conservation management program. The Biodiversity Strategy provides a framework for the terms of reference and scope of the group's remit.</i></p>
Theme 17: Zoning/LEP controls review and individual property concerns	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual property rezoning and development assessment matters 	<p>The process currently being undertaken by Council is an LEP and DCP consolidation process and is the first stage of the Comprehensive Review of Council's planning controls. The consolidation process is not the appropriate means by which existing land use zonings and controls established under Wyong LEP 2013 or Gosford LEP 2014 are to be reviewed. Any such consideration would require the submission of a separate planning proposal supported by appropriate studies relating to the land identified.</p>
Theme 18: Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (and a local offset policy)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement to source biodiversity offsets from within the LGA may add complexity or additional cost • Concern that the Strategy contradicts or imposes more stringent obligations on development than the BC Act 2016 (adding cost) 	<p>Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA regions) are at national scale and are not suitable for local scale decision-making. The Sydney Basin IBRA goes as far south as Batemans Bay and north to Muswellbrook. Through the Biodiversity Strategy, Council proposes to clarify the rules around local offsetting within an existing complex process. The area covered by three IBRA sub-regions is considered local to the Central Coast: Wyong, Yengo and Pittwater.</p> <p><i>It is recommended that Principle 4 is reworded to Biodiversity offsets, when necessary, are to be sourced from within the LGA</i></p>

	<p><i>(Wyong, Yengo and Pittwater IBRA subregions) where feasible and practical</i></p> <p>In terms of defining 'feasible and practical', the planning system provides flexibility to apply this in practice on a case by case basis.</p> <p>The BC Act applies to NSW at bioregional scales and not to local biodiversity. Councils may impose more stringent offset obligations than under the BOS, and the BC Act allows this. In this way, the Biodiversity Strategy complements the BC Act and does not contradict it.</p> <p>The following text replaces text on page 69 for clarification: <i>All biodiversity loss in the LGA due to development (as assessed under Part 4 and Part 5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979) should be offset in some way. This establishes some consistency and equity across activities whether or not they trigger the BOS. This would require Council to establish a local biodiversity offset policy that imposes offset requirements for all vegetation loss. The offset requirement may be satisfied in the form of biodiversity credits in accordance with the BOS like-for-like offsetting rules, or as a contribution of funding to the Central Coast Conservation Fund (for activities below the BOS threshold).</i></p> <p><i>The purpose of a local biodiversity offset policy would be to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>o provide direction on Council's position on biodiversity offsetting for Council's own developments;</i> <i>o provide direction on Council's position on entering into the biodiversity offsets market;</i> <i>o provide guidance for offsetting tree and vegetation loss for private development that does not trigger the BOS threshold; and</i> <i>o restrict application of the BOS variation rules to meet the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy in terms of offsetting the same values within the LGA or adjacent sub-regions (including establishing in what circumstances Council would seek to increase the quantum of credits).</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that local offset policy would not take into account measures applied during rezoning and not limited to development requiring offsets under BOS 	<p>A local offset policy would take into account conservation measures applied during rezoning processes, such as protection of avoided areas. The policy would also apply to Part 5 development and infrastructure works and, as such, it will be operationally workable. Such a policy is unlikely to put the LGA at an economic disadvantage compared to other LGAs as biodiversity assessment costs are less than 5% of total development costs. Biodiversity loss should not be a cost borne by the community.</p>
<p>Theme 19: Re-zoning process and development assessment</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add an action under Theme 4 to accommodate the need for a policy for biodiversity assessment through re-zoning process 	<p><i>It is recommended that a new action is added: Preparation of a local policy which requires at the rezoning stage the finalisation of arrangements (e.g. Biocertification) for the in</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Flora and Flora Guidelines needs to be enforced 	<p><i>perpetuity ownership and management of land with high biodiversity values.</i></p> <p><i>It is recommended to re-word Action 4.1.5 to Ensure developer compliance with Council's Flora and Fauna Survey Guidelines, vegetation management plans and conditions. Re-word the associated Target to Council has adequate resources allocated to review and enforce ecology consent conditions for all developments.</i></p>
<p>Theme 20: Conservation fund / resourcing the Strategy</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that Biodiversity Offset Scheme is the primary source of funds for conservation management program • Suggesting that Council only accept land that is either funded or capable of generating its own funding is short sighted • Why consolidated LEP cannot collect contributions for the acquisition of environmental land associated with COSS? • Proposed implementation plan is under-costed in the context of Council's \$800 million budget 	<p>The NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme is offered as one option and an opportunity for Council to raise funds for land management (Figure 5). There is no indication of how much this will be used in the Strategy or that it would be the primary source, but it has the best potential of all options to raise significant rolling funds for active land management into the future.</p> <p>Action 2.3.3 is to develop criteria and a process for evaluating land dedication requests from developers. The Strategy states that '<i>Council will carefully consider the land that it is being asked to accept</i>'. If avoided and retained land is of sufficient quality, a conservation agreement would apply, regardless of ownership. If it is not viable, Council will require funding for its long-term management in order for it to be transferred as a public liability.</p> <p>Page 47 explains the history of the two former Council's minimum lot size provisions. The Central Coast Council does not have an equivalent LGA-wide strategy for land acquisition. Action 2.3.1 establishes that plan.</p> <p>The costings in the implementation plan are estimates for forward resource planning across units and are not necessarily approved budgets and do not reflect all of the biodiversity works that occurs across Council. It is estimated that \$5.6 Million per year is spent on land management and biodiversity protection across Council.</p>
<p>Theme 21: Land to which the Strategy applies</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include all vegetated Council land (water supply catchments and sewer plant buffers) in Biodiversity Strategy • Concern that State Forests can be sold or logged, reducing biodiversity values of LGA. Council could buy this land • Include State Forests and National Parks and those organisation's objectives • Include Fisheries Management Act 1994 managed water bodies • Change Map 1 to show all reserves and operational areas, and show zoning 	<p>Page 7 of the Strategy defines the scope as those <u>Council</u> lands held <u>primarily</u> for the purpose of preserving natural and heritage values and it recognises that land held for operational reasons also contribute to preserving natural values. Council land with bushland is approximately 6,500ha and this figure includes several sewerage treatment plants, Mardi dam buffer, Wyong golf course, operational lands, a farm, trig stations and foreshores. Not included in the figure are the Buttonderry tip, Sparks Road industrial lands, small urban parks, waterbodies and the Tuggerah sewerage treatment plant.</p> <p>The actions of the Strategy do not apply to the private, Crown and Council lands that make up the water supply catchment because they are not available for public access, recreation or Landcare groups, for legal protection under conservation agreements or applicable for grant funding, or the other measures outlined in the Strategy. Council land in the catchment is managed under the Mangrove Creek Dam Catchment Management Plan and existing</p>

	<p>obligations for fire hazard protection, feral animal control and noxious weed control.</p> <p>There is no distinction between State Forest, Crown land, National Park or Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council lands in the document. The objectives of other land owners are not included in Council's Strategy. <i>It is recommended that a sentence is added to state the area of national park (46,808 ha) and state forest (21,798 ha) within the LGA.</i></p> <p>Map 1 shows the progress on achieving Action 1.1.2 (prepare management plans for reserves). Action 1.1.1 is to develop a system which identifies all priority reserves for active management, which would then allow such a map to be created. Map 1 does not include operational areas that are not Natural Assets, however the wildlife corridor map has assessed all native vegetation cover, regardless of ownership and land use. The zoning of reserves is not relevant where Council, as the land owner, has indicated that the land is a Natural Asset and will be managed as such under the Conservation Management Program.</p>
Theme 22: Estuaries, lakes, lagoons and marine	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewer discharge into near shore environments • Degradation of dunes from invasive species • Pollution from boat usage and abandoned boats • Drain clearing 	<p>The plan acknowledges (Theme 5) the comprehensive estuary, lagoon and wetland management programs and does not repeat them. Only new actions are such as the Coastal Management Program.</p> <p>Council has an Environmental Management Unit which is responsible for monitoring water quality, citizen science and other community environmental programs.</p>
Theme 23: Heritage listing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional protection of land through heritage listing 	<p>Heritage agreements under the NSW <i>Heritage Act</i> 1977 do not apply to Council reserves as they are not listed on the State Heritage register. A heritage listing recognises the social and community values of a place, in addition to the environmental and scientific values.</p> <p>Conservation agreements are a far more robust measure of environmental protection and cover entire reserves, not just the parts eligible for Aboriginal and Historic heritage listing.</p> <p>A heritage study will be undertaken to inform the comprehensive CCLEP. Nominations for heritage listing can be made at any time to Council for consideration.</p>
Theme 24: Timing of implementation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay implementation due to: EPBC Act currently being reviewed, uncertainty in the NSW credit market, strategic planning for Central Coast • Defer ELAP until consolidated LEP finished • Determine funding and timeframe for ELAP to provide confidence that it will progress quickly 	<p>Consolidated LEP is nearing completion and the Biodiversity Strategy is the next step in the environmental lands review working towards a comprehensive LEP.</p> <p>As the Strategy is a Council document, the timing of its implementation is not influenced by State and Commonwealth projects and processes.</p>

	Action 2.2.1 <i>Establish funding for the management and acquisition of land identified by the CMP and ELAP</i> has a target timeframe of end 21/22.
Theme 25: Presentation of Strategy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautifully illustrated document • Add photos of trees or threatened species to help identify them 	Identification guides are available on the DPIE/OEH website of all threatened species
Theme 26: Biodiversity Offset Scheme (NSW)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the strategic conservation planning project affect local available credits? • What offsets are available in the LGA? • How does location of credits affect price? • What impact would increased credit costs have on the feasibility of development projects, including those prioritised in Council's land use strategies? • How would Council determine the location of credits? • Would this preclude payment into the BCF? • Would this stand up to a legal challenge in Council rejected offsets for a development? 	These questions about how the BOS operates are best answered by NSW State Government. Council proposes to provide clarity around the local application of the legislation and methods through policies identified in the Biodiversity Strategy.

Consultation outcomes and next steps

Central Coast Council thanks all participants for their time in completing submitting a response to the draft Biodiversity Strategy.

In response to feedback from the community, the following minor amendments and clarifications to the text are proposed to the Strategy:

- **No net loss of biodiversity** - It is recommended to add the following sentence to the second paragraph on page 25: *Following successful implementation of the Strategy, no net loss of biodiversity on the Central Coast by 2025 is an aspirational goal.*
- **Coastal Open Space System** - It is recommended that the following text is added to page 42: *Objective F2 of the Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028 is: Promote greening and ensure the wellbeing of communities through the protection of local bushland, urban trees, tree canopies and expansion of the Coastal Open Space System (COSS). Theme 2 aims to deliver on this objective for the whole LGA. The Coastal Open Space System (COSS) was an initiative of the former Gosford City Council. The two main elements of the COSS were: a) public land managed for biodiversity, heritage, education and scientific endeavours and recreation in the natural setting; and b) private land identified for addition to the COSS through acquisition. The term COSS has been used within some parts of the community as shorthand for the protection of*

biodiversity, even where this occurs outside the physical boundaries of the COSS reserves and the land identified for future inclusion in the COSS. Consulting the community on a name/brand for Central Coast Council's natural reserve system would provide advice to Council on how to brand the consolidated conservation estate.

- **Remove Action 2.2.3 – Land Disposal Plan for small parcels of Council-owned land that have no current or future operational or community purpose.** It is recommended that the action be removed from the Biodiversity Strategy to remove any notion by the public that Council has a plan to sell natural assets. The premise of the Strategy is exactly the opposite: to legally protect and manage reserves to increase local biodiversity values.
- **Re-word Action 2.2.1 – Engaging with development industry.** It is proposed to re-word the action as follows: *Engage with the development industry to improve biodiversity outcomes through quality development assessment*
- **Proposed for acquisition** – It is recommended that the following text is added to page 39 to explain Map 2: *Land proposed for acquisition is private land that has been assessed as having values that are consistent with those of the public COSS reserves. Properties identified as proposed COSS are subject to voluntary acquisition by Council for inclusion in the public COSS reserve system. Affected properties have COSS messages on their property (former sec 149) certificates*
- **Council administration of biodiversity conservation programs** - Staff recommends that the current advisory group is replaced with an advisory group with a focus on strategic biodiversity and land management for the Central Coast. The group should have strong representation from all localities of the LGA and represent diverse skills and backgrounds that can support and positively contribute to Council's conservation management program. The Biodiversity Strategy provides a framework for the terms of reference and scope of the group's remit.
- **Local offset requirement** - It is recommended that Principle 4 (page 57) is reworded to *Biodiversity offsets, when necessary, are to be sourced from within the LGA (Wyong, Yengo and Pittwater IBRA subregions) where feasible and practical.*
- **Local biodiversity offset policy**- The following text replaces text on page 69 for clarification: *All biodiversity loss in the LGA due to development (as assessed under Part 4 and Part 5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979) should be offset in some way. This establishes some consistency and equity across activities whether or not they trigger the BOS. This would require Council to establish a local biodiversity offset policy that imposes offset requirements for all vegetation loss. The offset requirement may be satisfied in the form of biodiversity credits in accordance with the BOS like-for-like offsetting rules, or as a contribution of funding to the Central Coast Conservation Fund (for activities below the BOS threshold).*

The purpose of a local biodiversity offset policy would be to:

- *provide direction on Council's position on biodiversity offsetting for Council's own developments;*
- *provide direction on Council's position on entering into the biodiversity offsets market;*
- *provide guidance for offsetting tree and vegetation loss for private development that does not trigger the BOS threshold; and*
- *restrict application of the BOS variation rules to meet the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy in terms of offsetting the same values within the LGA or adjacent sub-regions*

(including establishing in what circumstances Council would seek to increase the quantum of credits).

- **Policy for rezoning assessments** - It is recommended that a new action is added (page 65): *Preparation of a local policy which requires at the rezoning stage the finalisation of arrangements (e.g. Biocertification) for the in perpetuity ownership and management of land with high biodiversity values.*
- **Re-word Action 4.1.5** – It is recommended to reword the action to *Ensure developer compliance with Council's Flora and Fauna Survey Guidelines, vegetation management plans and conditions.* Re-word the associated Target to *Council has adequate resources allocated to review and enforce ecology consent conditions for all developments.*
- **Council bushland in context** - It is recommended that a sentence be added (page 7) to state the area of national park (46,808 ha) and state forest (21,798 ha) within the LGA.

Appendix A – Media Release 12/9/19

Draft Biodiversity Strategy open for public comment

Conserving the unique flora and fauna of the Central Coast for future generations is at the core of Central Coast Council's draft Biodiversity Strategy which goes on public exhibition today.

The draft Biodiversity Strategy is the first single strategy that combines the progress of the two former Councils in conservation planning and presents a scientifically-robust roadmap for the future of the biodiversity of the Central Coast.

Council Director, Environment and Planning, Scott Cox, said the draft Strategy reflected Council's understanding of the critical importance of biodiversity to the Central Coast community.

"The draft Strategy highlights the roles that Council plays to support biodiversity: as a land use planning authority, a community leader, and a major landholder and land manager," Mr Cox said.

"It outlines Council's administrative and policy framework for responding to the actions identified to progress and implement on-ground change as well as guides Council's own actions and informs the actions of the community and a wide range of other organisations who together will shape the future of the Central Coast."

The draft Strategy identifies five key priority targets including the need to:

- plan and manage biodiversity in Council's natural areas
- ensure adequate resourcing is available to effectively manage and expand the conservation estate
- continue to promote community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation
- protect biodiversity through land use planning and information management
- demonstrate leadership in biodiversity conservation.

Mayor Jane Smith said the community had a strong connection and love for the natural environment on the Central Coast and want to see it protected.

"We are lucky here on the Coast as we contain a unique, rich and diverse range of biodiversity across the landscape from our Coastal Open Space System (COSS), to our rich hinterland, national parks, lakes and oceans," Mayor Smith said.

"We share our home with many amazing and iconic creatures including the Powerful Owl, Bush Stone Curlew, and the Squirrel Glider, and other plant and animal species increasingly under threat from urban growth.

"That is why we need to work hard to protect biodiversity so that plants and animals don't reach the point where they are at risk – and that is what this Strategy aims to do.

"We also intend to increase our COSS lands and natural reserves too so that future generations on the Central Coast get to enjoy the natural environment of the Coast as much as we do today."

The draft Biodiversity Strategy will be on display at the Gosford and Wyong Council Offices until 11 November. In addition, two community drop-in information sessions will be held on:

- Thursday 19 September, 4-7pm
 1. Erina Library, Erina Fair, Erina

- Tuesday 24 September, 4-7pm
 2. Council's Wyong Office, 2 Hely Street, Wyong

Residents are also urged to have their say online by visiting www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/greeningcentralcoast.

Public consultation closes on 11 November 2019.

ENDS

View all Central Coast Council's recent media releases at www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au
To keep up to date with Council's breaking news like/follow our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Appendix B – Print advertising September 2019



The 2019 Draft Biodiversity Strategy is now available for public comment, and we want you to have your say.

The draft Biodiversity Strategy represents the first single strategy that combines the progress of the two former Councils in conservation planning and presents a scientifically-robust roadmap for the future of the biodiversity of the Central Coast.

We've heard your feedback that conserving the unique flora and fauna of our region is a high priority for our community. With this strategy we aim to take the necessary steps to protect our precious environment into the future.

Council staff will be available to answer any of your pressing questions at our two community drop-in sessions.

- **Thursday 19 September, 4-7pm**
Erina Library, Erina Fair, Erina
- **Tuesday 24 September, 4-7pm**
Council's Wyong Office, 2 Hely Street, Wyong

To have your say online visit
yourvoiceourcoast.com/greeningcentralcoast

Public exhibition closes on 11 November





Want to have your say on the future of biodiversity on the Central Coast?

Hurry as public submissions on the 2019 draft Biodiversity Strategy are closing soon.

Council takes its responsibility as guardian of the natural environment seriously. This strategy is an important step in identifying the unique challenges that our flora and fauna face if they are to survive for future generations to enjoy.

We've identified five key target points for this strategy to address:

- plan and manage biodiversity in Council's natural areas
- ensure adequate resourcing is available to effectively manage and expand the conservation estate
- continue to promote community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation
- protect biodiversity through land use planning and information management
- demonstrate leadership in biodiversity conservation.

To have your say online visit

yourvoiceourcoast.com/greeningcentralcoast

Public exhibition closes on 11 November



CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY



Lily Pily - (Acmena Smithii)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

OVERVIEW 2020





Red necked wallaby - (*Macropus rufogriseus*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Overview of Biodiversity Strategy

This document is a summary of the Central Coast Council Biodiversity Strategy, prepared for the Central Coast community in 2019. The Biodiversity Strategy in its entirety is available to download from centralcoast.nsw.gov.au.

Biodiversity is a broad term for the many species and ecological processes that are essential for maintaining our community's health and the amenity of the Central Coast and its landscapes. As well as having economic, social and quality of life benefits, nature has intrinsic values that need protection.

The Biodiversity Strategy:

- is the first single strategy that combines the progress of the two former Councils in conservation planning and presents a scientifically-robust roadmap for the future of the biodiversity of the Central Coast;
- highlights the roles that Council has to support biodiversity: as a land use planning authority, a community leader, and a major landholder and land manager. Council currently manages

over 6,000 ha of land in the Central Coast local government area primarily for its natural values, and the goal is to increase this in the future;

- outlines Council's administrative and policy framework for responding to the actions identified to progress and implement on-ground change; and
- guides Council's own actions and informs the actions of the community and a wide range of other organisations who together will shape the future of the Central Coast.

Two of the main drivers for preparing the Biodiversity Strategy are firstly to respond to the outcomes of community engagement where the care and protection of the natural environment was identified as important to the Central Coast community and second, the amalgamation of the former Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council. The document builds on the two former Councils' biodiversity strategies and plans, and guides the new Council to protect, enrich and embellish existing biodiversity.



Areas with high natural, social or landscape values are considered critical for long-term protection and management and occur throughout the Central Coast on both publicly-owned land (such as national parks, state forests and Council-owned reserves) and privately-owned land. The Strategy outlines a framework for the identification of priority conservation areas and proposes a plan for their protection, whether that is by being in public ownership or through private land conservation.

Worldwide, the main threats to biodiversity are human population growth, resource over-consumption and climate change. Locally, these threats translate to habitat loss associated with vegetation removal and urbanisation, invasive plants and animals, and environmental degradation.

The Strategy sets out an ambitious but deliverable 5-year program to direct conservation planning and on-ground activities on the Central Coast for the long-term. It seeks to establish a framework to guide conservation efforts while planning for biodiversity conservation as an integral part of future development.

The specific actions and targets are organised into the following five themes, which are summarised in this document:

1. Planning and managing biodiversity in Council's natural areas
2. Ensuring adequate resourcing to enable Council to effectively manage its natural areas and expand the conservation estate
3. Promoting community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation
4. Protecting biodiversity through land use planning and information management
5. Demonstrating leadership in biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity Values of the Central Coast

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of all life including plants, animals, fungi, insects and microorganisms, their genes and the ecosystems that they form. Biodiversity is considered at three levels: genetic, species and ecosystem.

The Central Coast LGA extends from the Hawkesbury River in the south to Lake Macquarie and the Watagan Mountains in the north, and from the forests of Dharug National Park in the west, to the coastline.

Its forested scenic landscapes, peaceful sandy beaches, dynamic and productive estuaries, lakes and lagoons, and sandstone escarpment areas are appreciated by residents and visitors to the region.

It is also the traditional lands of the Darkinjung and Guringai people who have had a long connection with the region's landscapes and ecosystems.

On the Central Coast, there are thousands of different species of plants and fungi and hundreds of different animals (including birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects). There are at least 83 distinct vegetation community types, each with their unique suite of interacting species and ecological conditions.

The importance of biodiversity at a local scale parallels its global importance: our economy and quality of life depends on it. The \$874M Central Coast tourism industry is dependent on high quality and functioning natural ecosystems, as is human health and well-being.

The following are examples of species endemic to the region, meaning that they grow nowhere else in the world as they are particularly adapted to the local soils and conditions:

- Somersby mintbush (*Prostanthera junonis*)
- Blue-leaved darwinia (*Darwinia glaucophylla*)
- Tranquillity mintbush (*Prostanthera askania*)
- *Grevillea diffusa* subsp. *filipendria*
- *Grevillea oldei*
- *Grevillea shiressii*
- *Genoplesium insignis*
- *Microtis angusii*
- *Thelymitra adorata*
- *Corunastylis* sp 'Charmhaven'
- Heart-leaved stringybark (*Eucalyptus oblonga*)
- Charmhaven apple (*Angophora inopina*)
- Magenta lilly pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*).

What has the Central Coast Community asked Council to do?

The Central Coast Council Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028 outlines the adopted direction of Council for the next decade. The actions set out in the Biodiversity Strategy will contribute to the vision, which is to *maintain a healthy, connected, and socially just community that cherishes and protects our natural landscapes, and balances social and economic needs with the protection of the environment and its irreplaceable biodiversity.*



Waratah - (*Telopea speciosissima*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

One – Central Coast, Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028

"The values of the Central Coast community are strongly tied to its natural areas and ecosystems, such as beaches, waterways, ridges, estuaries, lakes and valley floors. The parks, gardens and natural bushland contribute to the lifestyle, culture and beauty of the region.

Large bushland and wetland areas are important for our air and water quality and provide homes for birds, animals and native plants.

We value open space that is expansive and connected and that enables passive recreation activities such as walking, cycling and getting together with family and friends. Our natural areas can be quiet and peaceful places for contemplation and enjoyment of natural beauty that enhances our emotional wellbeing as well as places for active engagement like playing sports and running on the beach.

We are committed to leaving a positive legacy for future generations through responsible stewardship of our natural areas – this is our shared responsibility as residents of the Central Coast. We encourage our community to contribute to that stewardship by minimising resource use (energy, water, and waste) and treating these natural areas with respect."

Golden-crowned snake - (*Cacophis squamulosu*)
 Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan



The community values that “the natural environment is well cared for and protected” as recognised in the Community Strategic Plan, prepared following extensive community engagement. Themes emerged in participant’s concerns and ideas on the environment (Table 1).

Table 1: Community engagement outcomes relating to the natural environment.

Important Community Value	Community Desire	Related CSP Objective
Abundant bushland areas, parks and green spaces	Council should take a proactive approach to protect and manage the natural environment under its care	F1 Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas and the diversity of local native species
Access to clean and well-maintained lakes and waterways	Council’s Estuary Management Plan, catchment management program, Waterwatch Program and lagoon and coastal protection programs are important	E2 Improve water quality for beaches, lakes and waterways by minimising pollutants and preventing litter entering our waterways
New developments are built with consideration for the environment and local heritage	Development is removing habitat, trees and corridors – local and state government land use planning needs to protect these values	I3 Ensure land use planning and development is sustainable and environmentally sound and considers the importance of local habitat, green corridors, energy efficiency and stormwater management
Council works in the best interests of the community	Council should map wildlife corridors and extend corridors and protected areas	F2 Promote greening and ensuring the wellbeing of communities through the protection of local bushland, urban trees tree canopies and expansion of the Coastal Open Space System (COSS)
The community is concerned about the impacts of climate change	Our community is active in environmental protection, and Council should acknowledge and encourage this by undertaking community education about wildlife and local vegetation	E1 Educate the community on the value and importance of natural areas and biodiversity and encourage community involvement in caring for our natural environment F4 Address climate change and its impacts through collaborative strategic planning and responsible land management



Purple swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

The preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy is in direct response to the importance that the community places on the environment and is included as part of a suite of Council strategies aimed at implementing key Community Strategic Plan objectives. Other strategies include:

- the Urban Spatial Plan;
- the Greener Places Strategy, aimed at maintaining an urban tree canopy;
- the Sustainability Strategy, a pathway to a more sustainable region; and
- the Comprehensive Local Environmental Plan.

Threats to Biodiversity

Australia's biodiversity is in rapid decline. According to the 2016 State of the Environment (SoE) report, the main pressures affecting the Australian environment today are the same as reported in the previous SoE report of 2011: climate change, land-use change, habitat fragmentation and degradation, and invasive species. There are no indications that these pressures have decreased since 2011, and there is evidence that some have increased (e.g. coastal waterways are threatened by new classes of pollutants such as microplastics and nanoparticles, dumped waste in the marine environment and invasive species generally).

Council's natural areas, as well as most remnant vegetation community types in the LGA, are currently affected to some degree by most of the above threats. In particular, Council targets weed invasion, grazing or predation by feral or domestic animals, firewood collection, rubbish dumping, and clearing of native vegetation as part of its land management planning.

The quantifiable result of the many threats to biodiversity mentioned above is that certain vegetation community types and flora and fauna species become so far reduced in extent or numbers that they are at risk of local extinction. If criteria are met and a panel of experts agree, a species, ecological community or population can be eligible for listing as being threatened with extinction. Listed entities have more legal protection and are eligible for funding for their management and restoration.

Species and populations specifically listed in the schedules of the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016 and the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 as threatened and that occur, or are likely to occur, in the Central Coast LGA are listed in the Biodiversity Strategy. There are 53 plants, 67 birds, 27 mammals, one insect, four reptiles, 9 amphibians and two populations on the list.

Objectives and Strategic Context



Purpose of the Biodiversity Strategy

The Strategy recognises that the irreplaceable biodiversity values are important to the community and the purpose of the Strategy is to:

Provide an administrative and policy framework to support the protection and management of biodiversity on the Central Coast.

The desired outcome of the Strategy is to protect and enhance the landscape and biodiversity values of the Central Coast, which includes maintaining functional connections between areas of habitat, maintaining core habitat as well as restoring marginal habitat, preserving threatened and iconic species and ecological communities, preserving significant Aboriginal cultural places, and protecting the scenic amenity of the region.

Following successful implementation of the Strategy, no net loss of biodiversity on the Central Coast by 2025 is an aspirational goal.

The Strategy sets out a 5-year program to direct and drive conservation planning and on-ground activities. It seeks to establish a framework to guide conservation efforts while balancing the needs of the community for future development.

Council acknowledges that effective conservation planning is considered over a much longer period, and a time horizon of 50 to 100 years should be the basis for the objectives, programs and principles in the Strategy. However, the reality is that administrative frameworks are

not static and therefore the Strategy will require a review and update 5 years after adoption and periodically thereafter.

Strategy Objectives

The objectives of the Strategy are to:

1. Define Council's role in biodiversity conservation in the context of other government strategic conservation and private land conservation.
2. Identify specific actions to allow Council to meet the relevant objectives of the 2018-2028 Community Strategic Plan and 2018-19 to 2022-23 Delivery Programs.
3. Summarise conservation priorities for the Central Coast in a way that provides a context for decision-making and strategic planning.
4. Identify measurable targets and specific actions for Council.

Legislative and Policy Context of the Biodiversity Strategy

The focus of Council, State Government and Commonwealth Government biodiversity legislation, policy and plans is to promote and support biodiversity conservation and provide for the protection and management of the environment.

Activities in all councils in NSW are subject to legislation that seeks to ensure environmental protection, including state and federal legislation implementing international treaty obligations. Important legislative mechanisms that



Assorted fungi - pretty grisette (*Amanita xanthocephala*), collared earth star (*Geastrum triplex*), *Phlebopus marginatus*, *Cortinarius* sp., *Leratiomyces ceres*, orange bracket. Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

- Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999
- *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* 1983
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016
- *Biosecurity Act* 2015
- *Coastal Management Act* 2016
- *Crown Land Management Act* 2016
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979
- *Fisheries Management Act* 1994
- *Local Government Act* 1993
- *Local Land Services Act* 2013
- *Rural Fires Act* 1997
- *Water Management Act* 2000
- SEPP (Coastal Management) 2018
- SEPP (Environment) 2017
- SEPP 44 (Koala habitat protection)
- SEPP (Vegetation in Non-rural Areas) 2017

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016, together with the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation* 2017, outlines the framework for addressing impacts on biodiversity associated with development and clearing in NSW. The *Biodiversity Offsets Scheme* is a framework to avoid, minimise and offset impacts on biodiversity, and to ensure land that is used to offset impacts is secured in perpetuity.

Aside from legislation, there is a range of planning documents that guide and influence local plans and strategies, including the Strategy:

- Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030
- NSW Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2018
- Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 (NSW)
- Central Coast Strategic Conservation Plan (NSW)
- Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework
- Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement / Urban Spatial Plan.

Short-beaked echidna - (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan



Framework for Action

The goals and associated actions and targets to achieve the Biodiversity Strategy fall into five broad themes.

<p>Theme 1</p> <p>Planning and Managing Biodiversity in Council’s Natural Areas</p>	<p>Theme 2</p> <p>Ensuring adequate resourcing to enable Council to effectively manage its natural areas and expand the conservation estate</p>	<p>Theme 3</p> <p>Promoting community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Theme 4</p> <p>Protecting biodiversity through land use planning and information management</p>	<p>Theme 5</p> <p>Demonstrating leadership in biodiversity conservation</p>
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The actions under the first three themes will be delivered by the proposed Conservation Management Program (CMP). The CMP is a comprehensive program of works covering natural asset planning and management, expansion of Council’s natural area estate, and community involvement in biodiversity conservation (Figure 1). Output documents from the CMP such as strategies, plans and policies, will be prepared as key actions of the themes.



Figure 1: The main components of the proposed Conservation Management Program and associated key strategies, plans and policies

While Theme 5 focuses on Council's corporate responsibilities, Theme 4 provides a link between biodiversity protection and the strategic planning framework. Council is in a unique position having two roles: a public land owner and manager; and a planning and consent authority. There are opportunities to strategically manage high biodiversity value land using funding generated by developers offsetting unavoidable impacts in urban growth areas.

The following sections describe each theme and explain why it is relevant to Council. More detail is found in the Biodiversity Strategy.



Black wattle (Callicoma serratifolia)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Theme 1:

Planning and Managing Biodiversity in Council's Natural Areas



Grey fantail (Rhipidura albiscapa)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Council is a major landholder and land manager with legal responsibility for managing over 6,000 ha of irreplaceable and high value bushland on behalf of the community. Carefully planning the effort and resources expended across Council is critical to a well-managed network of reserves.

The establishment of the amalgamated Central Coast LGA has provided an opportunity for Council to review its approach to natural area management and ensure that it is cost efficient, effective at achieving biodiversity management goals, and aligns with recent changes to NSW legislation.

The area of bushland that Council is responsible for increases due to land dedications through the planning and approvals process and land acquisition. It is important for Council to find a way to prioritise its resources and effort and track the effectiveness of its investment through site management planning. Reserves are generally considered as isolated management units; however, a land management decision support system would view the reserves as a consolidated network of assets, allowing more strategic planning.

Recent advances in spatial resolution and access to remotely sensed data, and the proliferation of citizen science will complement Council's field data collection program and lead to innovative uses of datasets to guide management actions. For example, use of historical satellite images and future modelling scenarios can contribute to Council's understanding of threats to biodiversity and the most effective management solutions.

Once thorough management planning has been undertaken, implementing the plans is critical to achieving on-ground biodiversity improvement. On-ground activities typically include weed control, vertebrate pest control, access and visitor management, use of fire, habitat augmentation and long-term legal protection.

Long-term legal protection has benefits to the community in terms of securing public assets for future generations, and to Council as a way to attract funding for their maintenance and management. In perpetuity legal conservation agreements afford the highest level of on-going protection.

Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 1)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 1.1: Comprehensively plan for the management of biodiversity in Council's natural areas		
1.1.1	Identify criteria for prioritising reserve management based on biodiversity and social values, and threats to biodiversity	By the end of 2020/21, criteria within a decision support system help make resourcing decisions for natural area management that or deliver natural area management objectives
1.1.2	Develop and resource a program to prepare and review site management plans for Council's natural areas (as well as Plans of Management as required by the LG Act)	By the end of 2023/24, all natural reserves have an up-to-date site management plan (or POM) in place
1.1.3	Identify climate change as a direct threat to natural areas in site management plans, including actions to mitigate impacts	By the end of 2023/24, progress is made towards planning for impacts associated with climate change for the majority of natural reserves such as identifying vulnerable species and new weed threats
Goal 1.2: Improve biodiversity in Council's natural areas		
1.2.1	Implement site management plans to rehabilitate degraded bushland and coastal ecosystems.	By the end of 2023/24, implementation of site management plans is progressed in at least 50 reserves
1.2.2	Prepare a policy for natural area encroachment management, and resource and implement a program to identify and manage threats to natural areas from encroachment	By the end of 2020/21, Council has a formal process and policy in place and has commenced managing natural area encroachment
1.2.3	Develop and implement a program for planning and undertaking ecological and/or cultural burns on Council managed land that complements hazard reduction burning (in line with the Bush Fire Management Committee adopted program)	By the end of 2023/24, appropriate fire management intervals will be incorporated into the Conservation Management Program, with a schedule for prescribed burning in place
Goal 1.3: Improve information held on the biodiversity values of Council's natural areas		
1.3.1	Collect and manage data to inform land management (e.g. vegetation condition, population size or locations of habitat for threatened species or ecological communities, invasive weed and vertebrate pest incursions, nest boxes installed or other information)	By the end of 2023/24, information about specific land management issues is collated into a central information management system
1.3.3	Use traditional Indigenous knowledge and management techniques for threatened species recovery and conservation management where available and appropriate	Established and maintain relationships with traditional owners
Goal 1.4: Improve the long-term protection status of Council's natural areas		
1.4.1	Explore available options for formal legal protection and management of Council reserves and formulate recommendations for conservation mechanisms	By the end of 2020/21, reserves strategically identified for formal protection and active land management
1.4.2	Establish conservation agreements as per recommendations in 1.4.1	By the end of 2023/24, identified reserves (see 1.4.1) are legally secured under long-term protective arrangements

Theme 2: Ensuring adequate resourcing to enable Council to effectively manage its natural areas and expand the conservation estate

Maintenance of Council's natural areas is a requirement, as with any other public asset that is valued by the community, and a responsibility of Council's. The threats to natural areas are not always able to be eradicated, and therefore they generally present long standing management issues. A long-term funding commitment is essential for their upkeep. One of the key proposals of the Biodiversity Strategy is the Conservation Management Program, providing it with responsibility for biodiversity management and adequate resources and corporate support to do so.

The Strategy investigates mechanisms available to both secure land management funding and funding to expand the conservation estate. The following theme describes the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and how the funds generated by the sale of biodiversity credits will go back into the Conservation Management Program and the Environmental Lands Acquisition Program, the program nominated to acquire private land for the purpose of conservation. Land currently identified as 'proposed for acquisition' and other land identified for acquisition will be acquired under the Environmental Lands Acquisition Program as opportunities arise and funding allows.

Objective F2 of the Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028 is: Promote greening and ensure the wellbeing of communities through the protection of local bushland, urban trees, tree canopies and expansion of the Coastal Open Space System (COSS). Theme 2 aims to deliver on this objective for the whole LGA. The Coastal Open Space System (COSS) was an initiative of the former Gosford City Council. The two main elements of the COSS were: a) public land managed for biodiversity,



Powerful owl, Tuckeroo - *Ninox strenua*, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

heritage, education and scientific endeavours and recreation in the natural setting; and b) private land identified for addition to the COSS through acquisition. The term COSS has been used within the community as shorthand for the protection of biodiversity, even where this occurs outside the physical boundaries of the COSS reserves and the land identified for future inclusion in the COSS. As the COSS brand is believed to have little recognition in the former Wyong Shire community, consulting the community on a name/brand for Central Coast Council's natural reserve system would provide advice to Council on how to brand the consolidated conservation estate.

As part of expanding the conservation estate, Council will accept and acquire land where biodiversity outcomes are achievable and affordable. Higher biodiversity value land will be preferred in considering commitment to a long term management obligation on behalf of the community with the aim to more efficiently use resources across the conservation estate. Historically, Council has accepted land from developers that is not suitable for development, or that was identified for acquisition. Going forward, Council will carefully consider the land that it is asked to accept and ensure that it meets certain standards. Council will only accept dedication of conservation land that is of high biodiversity value and is either funded or capable of generating its own funding. Internal processes will be developed to support this policy as part of the actions within Goal 2.3.

Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 2)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 2.1: Adequately resource the Conservation Management Program		
2.1.1	Invest in a long-term commitment to the Conservation Management Program	By the end of 2020/21, operational budget planning recognises the CMP as an on-going program
2.1.2	Build expertise and qualifications in preparing and managing conservation agreements, community engagement on land management activities, and compliance enforcement for natural areas	By the end of 2021/22, all of Council's natural assets are managed by an adequately trained and resourced team of professional land managers
2.1.3	Investigate the benefits of investing in recruitment, training and leadership to establish and retain natural area management personnel (e.g. bush regeneration team, Indigenous officers, recreation planners, grants and trust officers)	By the end of 2019/20, undertake a cost benefit analysis to assess Council's requirements for a bush regeneration team and other positions
Goal 2.2: Implement a funding program for land management and acquisition		
2.2.1	Establish funding for the management and acquisition of land identified by the Conservation Management Program and Environmental Lands Acquisition Program	Commencement of a Central Coast Conservation Fund by the end of 2021/22
2.2.2	Investigate other funding options for Environmental Lands Acquisition Program	By the end of 2021/22, the feasibility of other funding options has been assessed
Goal 2.3: Expand Council's conservation estate		
2.3.1	Strategically plan Council's Environmental Land Acquisition Program	An Environmental Lands Acquisition Program plan has been prepared and resourced by the end of 2019/20 for a 20+ year timeframe
2.2.2	Purchase environmental land as per recommendations from 2.3.1	On-going
2.3.3	Develop criteria and an internal process for evaluating environmental land acquisition and land dedication opportunities	By the end of 2019/20, land acquisition criteria are being used as part of a land acquisition process



Eastern sedge frog (*Litoria fallax*), Peron's tree frog (*Litoria peronii*), broad-palmed rocket frog (*Litoria latopalmata*) and green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Theme 3: Promoting community appreciation and participation in biodiversity conservation

The Central Coast community is passionate about the environment in which they live and work and community appreciation for biodiversity is high. Council will proactively encourage this interest and sense of pride through its education program and proposed environmental participation programs. Community participation takes many forms, such as joining the Landcare Program or participating in citizen science and monitoring programs, or landowners protecting their land with long-term agreements and management plans.

Community appreciation for environmental values can be enhanced when people have appropriate access to nature-based activities. However, not all recreational uses are compatible with biodiversity conservation. Council will review its current approach to recreational use of natural areas, especially places vulnerable to damaging and inappropriate activities. Where needed, Council will limit access to ensure the protection of biodiversity values and reduce management costs.



Scrub she-oak (Allocasuarina distyla)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

As part of supporting the academic community in active participation in biodiversity conservation, Council is providing access to conservation areas, data and information that can help researchers and students working on conservation and ecology projects. Improved ecological understanding feeds into effective management programs.

Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 3)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 3.1: Planning for community appreciation and understanding of the value of local biodiversity conservation		
3.1.1	Prepare a Biodiversity Education Plan to promote community appreciation of Council's natural areas	By the end of 2020/21, a Biodiversity Education Plan has been finalised and funded for implementation
3.1.2	Provide guidance for biodiversity management on private land with published guidelines for land owners	Biodiversity Guidelines have been published by the end of 2020/21
3.1.3	Prepare and publish a Nature-based Recreational Strategy for Council natural areas	By the end of 2021/22, a Recreational Strategy with Council's plan for nature-based recreation in reserves is published
3.1.4	Prepare a policy on public access to natural areas	By the end of 2020/21, a public land access policy has been endorsed by Council
Goal 3.2: Strong community involvement and participation in biodiversity conservation		
3.2.1	Develop a community biodiversity participation and education program	By the end of 2019/20, commence a biodiversity education program including citizen science
3.2.2*	Provide technical advice and assistance for community involvement in biodiversity conservation agreements (including staff resources and a grant/loan program) to reduce the barriers to entering conservation agreements	By the end of 2020/21, establish the resourcing and parameters for a community grants program and prepare technical educational materials
3.2.3	Provide additional ongoing support and resources for the Central Coast Landcare Program to address the community's demand	Maintain or increase the level of support with demand for the Central Coast Landcare Program
3.2.4	Further develop and continue existing community partnerships where appropriate and in the best interest of the Conservation Management Program	Continue providing annual support to partners and support additional partner projects when the opportunity arises
Goal 3.3: Public access to biodiversity information and promotion of understanding of the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy		
3.3.1	Investigate a tertiary education program for partnering with universities and other groups that study biodiversity with a view that the information will be shared publically	By the end of 2023/24, a tertiary education program has been established that provides support, grants or project ideas to students
3.3.2	Provide public access to Council's geospatial data and reports relevant to biodiversity	Publish vegetation community type mapping data by the end of 2019/20
3.3.3	Engage with the development industry to improve biodiversity outcomes through development assessment	Organise and hold at least one engagement event by 2024

Theme 4: Protecting biodiversity through land use planning and information management

Theme 4 defines those actions that allow the legal implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy by embedding its aims and objectives into the local policies and strategies that guide development assessment and strategic land use planning within Council.

In formulating a framework for action, Council has developed the following five core principles to provide guidance for decision-making and other Council functions in order to achieve the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy, especially in the context of future planning decisions and climate change impacts.



Coachwood (Ceratopetalum apetalum)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Principles for Land Use Planning

1. Preserving local and regional biodiversity is highly valued at Central Coast Council and is properly considered in all functions of Council.
2. Ensuring the protection of areas of high environmental value from the impacts of development, including corridors, is a priority for Council.
3. Loss of biodiversity is to be avoided, with mitigation measures and offset measures applied only where impacts from development are unavoidable.
4. Biodiversity offsets, when necessary, are to be sourced from within the LGA (Wyang, Yengo and Pittwater (BRA Sub-regions)) where feasible and practical.
5. Council's role as a public land manager is a core Council function and includes expanding and managing and maintaining the conservation estate.

Reliable and accurate information and data is important to the planning and assessment process. Council will identify where it lacks information on biodiversity values to support decision-making and find ways to fill the gaps and share information with other government agencies.

The following three key information products will be used by Council to shape future land use policy and decision-making and will be the basis for the future Central Coast protected area network with information updated over time:

1. Areas of high conservation value (i.e. high quality habitat, presence of iconic, rare and threatened features, and their contribution to the biodiversity of the region);
2. The connectivity between areas of high conservation value (i.e. biodiversity corridors); and
3. Locally significant vegetation.

1. Areas of High Conservation Value

Identifying areas of high conservation value is a critical process in the development of regional land use policy and urban development planning. Information on biodiversity values informs strategic planning and helps guide further in-depth studies which are required as part of the planning and assessment process. As stated above in the Principles for Land Use Planning, protecting areas with high biodiversity value, including corridors, is a priority for Council.

A spatial analysis to identify conservation priority areas has been undertaken by Council which quantifies the ecological trade-offs of planned and proposed development scenarios. The analysis is based on biodiversity values such as observed records of species, suitable habitat, species distribution models, threatened species and threatened ecological communities (NSW and Commonwealth listings). Current representation of high biodiversity values in the protected area network (national parks, state conservation areas and Council

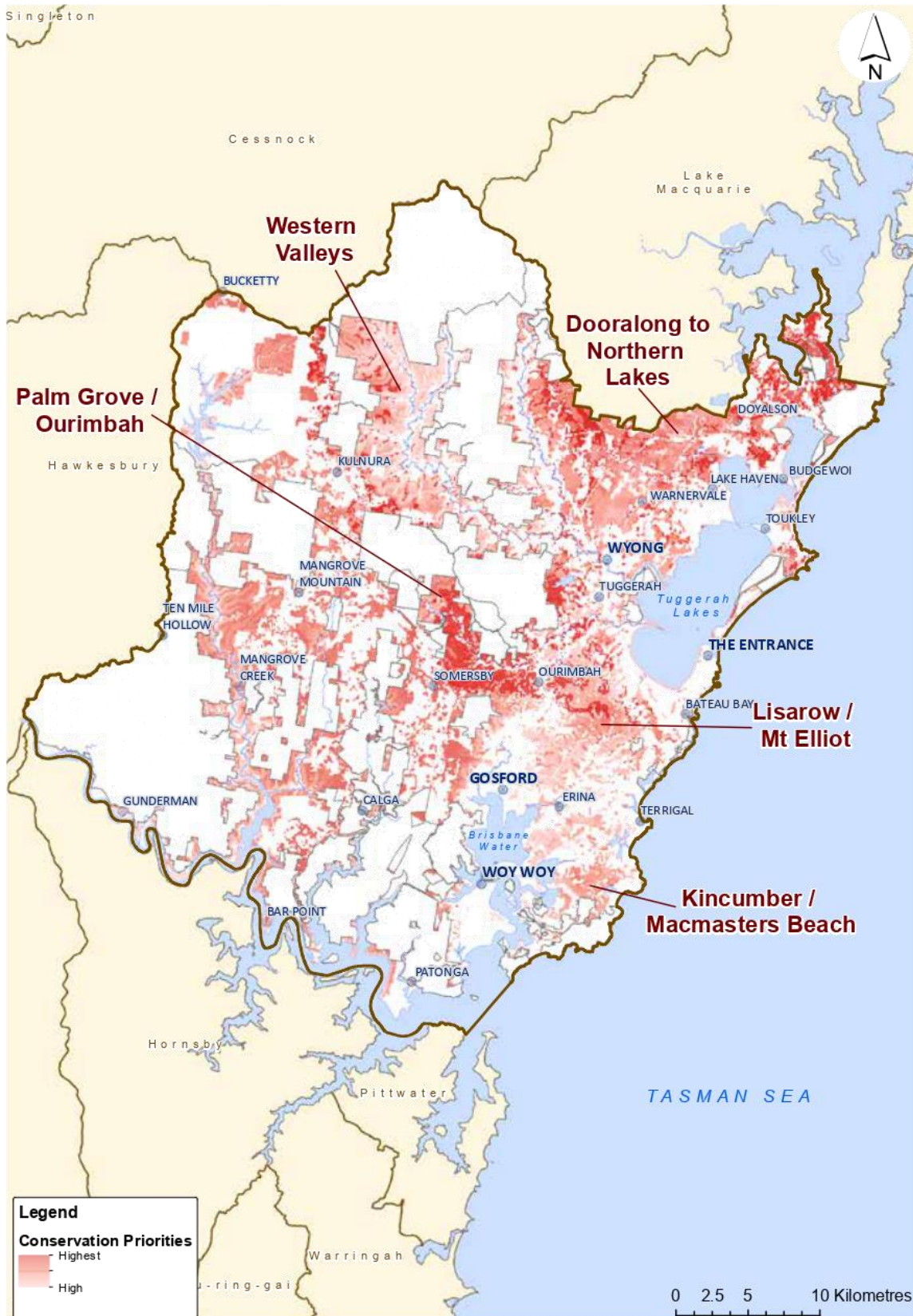
reserves) was considered. Areas of high biodiversity value that are at risk of local extinction due to development pressure are identified as higher priority for protection and rehabilitation, and therefore high conservation priority.

Spatial prioritisation of biodiversity values highlighted important areas for conservation as Dooralong to Northern Lakes, Warnervale, the Western Valleys, Palm Grove / Ourimbah, Lisarow / Mt Elliot and Kincumber/ Macmasters Beach (see Map 3). Expanding the protected area network to include these areas would significantly improve the representativeness of the network.

While about 50% of the LGA is owned and managed as state forest and national park, these areas protect less than half of the biodiversity in the LGA. Without formal protection, the remaining biodiversity values are potentially at risk of being lost to clearing and development.

If an additional 2640 ha of land was conserved within the identified priority areas (see Map 3), a total of 85% of the region's biodiversity values would then be protected (an increase from the current 50%). Therefore, by conserving land in suitably sized parcels in the priority areas, a minimal increase in the reserve area will provide the greatest biodiversity outcome.

In addition to the conservation priority areas identified above, there are other areas that are of importance for particular listed threatened species, populations or ecological communities, such as: Tuggerah Lakes shoreline (Coastal Saltmarsh in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions), Norah Head (Low Woodland with Heathland on Indurated Sand at Norah Head), Bateau Bay, Forresters Beach, Tumbi Umbi, (*Eucalyptus oblonga* population) and the Woy Woy Peninsula (Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion).



Map 3: Areas of high biodiversity conservation value outside the current protected area network within the Central Coast LGA. Data source: Office of Environment and Heritage (2018) and Kujula and Whitehead (2015). Disclaimer: Map is subject to future updates. For use at the scale of the LGA only.



New Holland honeyeater (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*) and Banksia - (*Banksia spinulosa*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

2. Connectivity and Biodiversity Corridors

Maintaining and restoring connections between protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value are vital to landscape health and biodiversity of the region. These areas of remnant vegetation are also sometimes referred to as 'green corridors' or 'wildlife movement corridors'. Council has undertaken an analysis of corridors that identifies broad regional scale connections and local scale links (down to individual trees in some cases) as potential movement pathways. Gaps in the network of linkages can occur as cleared paddocks and roads and are identified as opportunities for rehabilitation or wildlife crossing structures, if appropriate.

Defining the difference between 'core habitat' and 'corridor' was a key component of the Central Coast Wildlife Corridor project. The following criteria were used to create the core habitat class using Council's vegetation community type mapping:

- Protected public land - all substantial parcels of public land, e.g. State Conservation Areas, are considered core habitat;
- Vegetation condition - vegetation that is in moderate to good condition¹ is considered core habitat;

¹Vegetation condition is based on four classes:

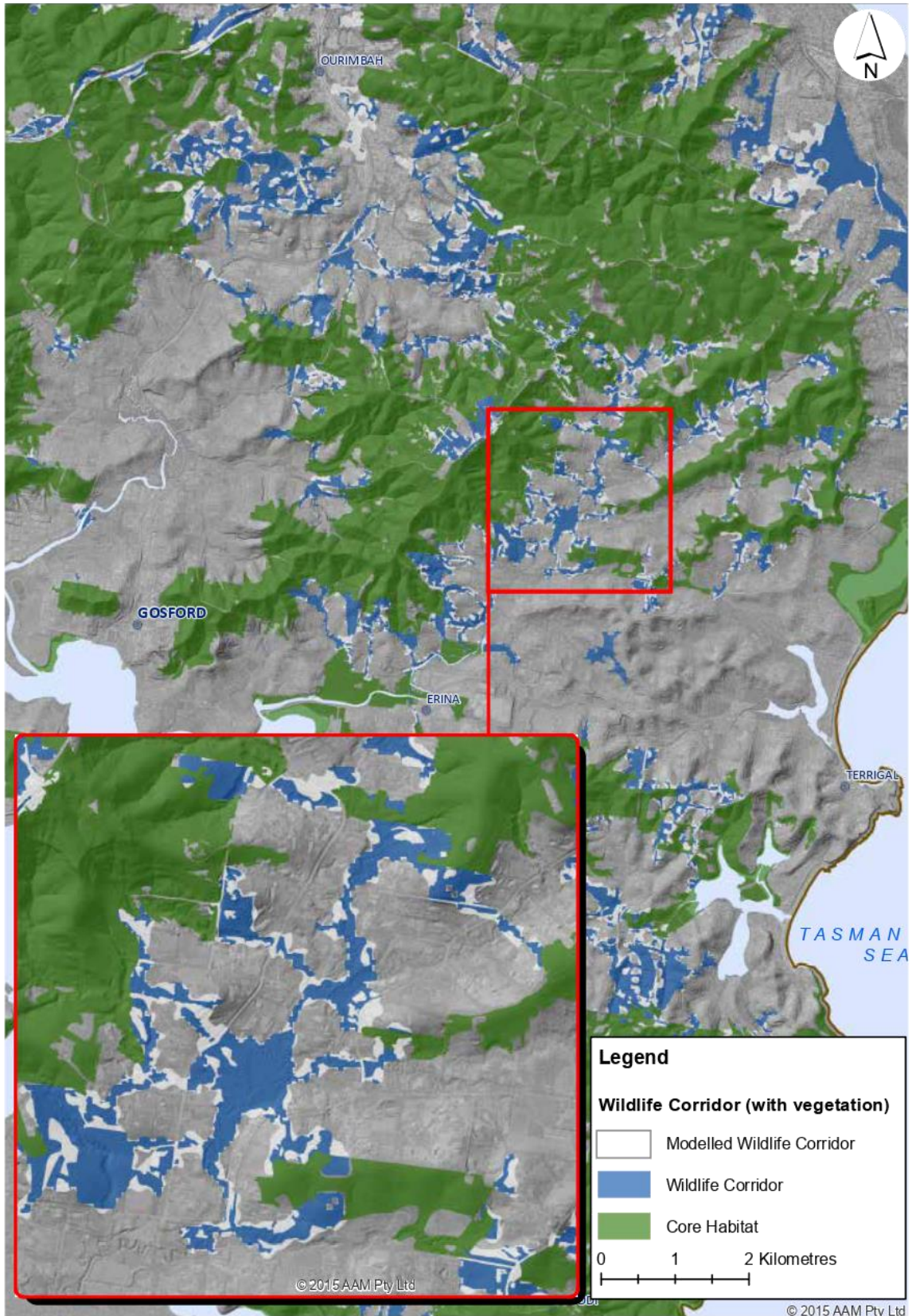
- Moderate to good (most areas of remnant bushland)
- Low (highly disturbed and weedy vegetation)
- Very low (could be reinstated as vegetation theoretically, e.g. golf courses, parks)
- Built environments (little to no vegetation)

- Polygon shape/configuration - core habitat areas have a low perimeter to area ratio; and
- Proximity to other areas of core habitat - i.e. if a patch of vegetation is non-linear and considered contiguous with a larger block of remnant vegetation, then it is included as core habitat.

Core habitat is used in the Central Coast Biodiversity Corridor Map to provide the user with a picture of where the large remnants are located so that it is clear where the wildlife movement opportunities lie between them. The corridor network is displayed as a combination of mapped extant vegetation nested within modelled corridors (using the Spatial Links Modelling Tool).

Places where the modelled corridor does not contain vegetation, for example, cleared paddocks or sparse vegetation, are priority locations in the landscape for rehabilitation through the introduction of vegetation to enhance the functionality of the entire corridor network (see white areas in Map 4). However, the white areas do not remove opportunities for allowable development.

Further details of the analysis can be found in a report referenced in Appendix B.



Map 2: Example of the Central Coast Council Biodiversity Corridor Map showing core habitat in green, local scale corridors in blue and modelled corridors in white. Data source: Harré (2018)

3. Locally Significant Vegetation

A review of all plant community types mapped in the Central Coast LGA (by Council in 2018) has identified 10 that have been greater than or equal to 70% cleared (i.e. less than 30% of their original extent remains across all of its range in NSW) (Table 4). The percent cleared figures for these plant community types are expert derived, that is, not based on a spatial analysis of pre-European settlement modelling and extant vegetation community type mapping.

While the majority of the highly cleared plant community types are also threatened ecological communities, two are not currently listed (PCT 1625 and PCT 1644). In addition, both of these plant community types have less than 15% of their pre-European settlement range remaining.

Table 4: Highly cleared (greater than 70%) plant community types (PCT) in the Central Coast local government area listed in order of per cent cleared.

PCT ID	Plant Community Type Name	Class	Formation	TEC	Per cent cleared
1645	Old Man Banksia - Rough-barked Apple - Bangalay shrubby open forest on coastal sands of the Central Coast	South Coast Sands Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	Yes	98
1723	<i>Melaleuca biconvexa</i> - Swamp Mahogany - Cabbage Palm swamp forest of the Central Coast	Coastal Swamp Forests	Forested Wetlands	Yes	92
1720	Cabbage Gum - Forest Red Gum - Flax-leaved Paperbark Floodplain Forest of the Central Coast	Coastal Floodplain Wetlands	Forested Wetlands	Yes	90
1625	Red Bloodwood - Sydney Peppermint - <i>Podocarpus spinulosus</i> shrubby open forest of the southern Central Coast	Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	No	88
1644	Coast Tea Tree - Old Man Banksia coastal shrubland on foredunes of the Central and lower North Coast	South Coast Sands Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	No	86
1536	Tuckeroo - Lilly Pilly - Coast Banksia littoral rainforest	Littoral Rainforests	Rainforests	Yes	78
1718	Swamp Mahogany - Flax-leaved Paperbark swamp forest on coastal lowlands of the Central Coast	Coastal Swamp Forests	Forested Wetlands	Yes	74
1589	Spotted Gum - Broad-leaved Mahogany - Grey Gum grass - shrub open forest on Coastal Lowlands of the Central Coast	Hunter-Macleay Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrub/grass sub-formation)	Yes	71
1527	Bangalow Palm - Coachwood - Sassafras gully warm temperate rainforest of the Central Coast	Northern Warm Temperate Rainforests	Rainforests	Yes	70
1697	Kangaroo Grass - Coastal Rosemary grassland on coastal headlands	Maritime Grasslands	Grasslands	Yes	70

A review of the current extent of vegetation across the Central Coast LGA (excluding the national park and state forest estate) identified 20 plant community types which have less than 100 hectares remaining (Table 3).

Table 3: Poorly represented (less than 100 ha remaining) plant community types (PCT) in the Central Coast local government area listed in order of area remaining.

PCT ID	Plant Community Type Name	Extant area (ha)
1741	<i>Lepironia articulata</i> sedgeland	0.8
1700	Dwarf Casuarina - Prickly-leaved Paperbark - Hairpin Banksia Coastal Heath of the Central Coast and lower North Coast	2.4
1204	Spinifex beach strand grassland, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	4.4
1725	Swamp Mahogany - Broad-leaved Paperbark - Swamp Water Fern - Plume Rush swamp forest on coastal lowlands of the Central Coast and Lower North Coast	6.3
836	Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple open forest on poorly drained lowlands of the Central Coast, Sydney Basin Bioregion	6.9
1697	Kangaroo Grass - Coastal Rosemary grassland on coastal headlands	17.8
1625	Red Bloodwood - Sydney Peppermint - <i>Podocarpus spinulosus</i> shrubby open forest of the southern Central Coast	21.0
978	Needlebush - banksia wet heath on sandstone plateaux of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	25.8
781	Coastal freshwater lagoons of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	26.4
1645	Old Man Banksia - Rough-barked Apple - Bangalay shrubby open forest on coastal sands of the Central Coast	31.3
1746	Saltmarsh Estuarine Complex	38.3
1071	<i>Phragmites australis</i> and <i>Typha orientalis</i> coastal freshwater wetlands of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	42.4
659	Bangalay - Old-man Banksia open forest on coastal sands, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	46.9
925	<i>Melaleuca nodosa</i> closed shrubland on alluvium of the Central Coast, Sydney Basin Bioregion	71.8
1588	Grey Ironbark - Broad-leaved Mahogany - Forest Red Gum shrubby open forest on Coastal Lowlands of the Central Coast	73.9
1681	Smooth-barked Apple - Cabbage Palm - Broad-leaved Mahogany woodland on Wallarah Peninsular	79.7
1724	Broad-leaved Paperbark - Swamp Oak - Saw Sedge swamp forest on coastal lowlands of the Central Coast and Lower North Coast	83.0
691	Blackbutt - Tallowood dry grassy open forest of the southern NSW North Coast Bioregion	84.7
1701	Prickly-leaved Paperbark - Fern-leaved Banksia heath on coastal headlands of Central Coast	92.2
1619	Smooth-barked Apple - Red Bloodwood - Brown Stringybark - Hairpin Banksia heathy open forest of coastal lowlands	96.0

The plant community types identified in Tables 4 and 5 have high local significance and high conservation priority as a direct result of historical reduction in extent. Drivers for the loss and degradation of these communities are likely to be urbanisation, increased human population and climate change. The Conservation Management Program will further investigate these drivers of change and the consequences for the future broader landscape. Actions arising in the Biodiversity Strategy relate to updating the analysis of local significance with local-scale vegetation community type mapping (rather than the coarser plant community type mapping) and updated versions of the NSW plant community type mapping for the east coast.

Pink wax flower - (Eriostemon australasius)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan



Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 4)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 4.1 High biodiversity value areas are appropriately identified, protected and restored as part of future land use planning investigations		
4.1.1	Develop a zoning framework for environmental zones supported by the spatial mapping project to inform comprehensive zoning amendments and spatial overlays for environmental lands	Through an amendment/s to the Comprehensive LEP, have developed and implemented a zoning framework for environmental lands
4.1.2	Create additional local provisions or development standards/controls through the Comprehensive LEP/DCP project	A comprehensive review of local provisions for biodiversity conservation undertaken including consideration for opportunities for bonus lot subdivision and biodiversity planning controls
4.1.3	Update assessment procedures for planning proposal applications ensuring biodiversity values are fully considered and impacts to listed entities are avoided at the rezoning stage of developments	All rezoning of land is consistent with the principles of the Biodiversity Strategy and the zoning framework (on-going)
4.1.4	Preparation of a local policy which requires at the rezoning stage the finalisation of arrangements (e.g. Biocertification) for the <i>in perpetuity</i> ownership and management of land with high biodiversity values	By the end of 2020/21, a policy has been drafted
4.1.5	Identify appropriate mechanisms to achieve rehabilitation and enhanced landscape connectivity through the rezoning and development assessment process (such as Vegetation Management Plans)	Achieve rehabilitation of areas identified by rezoning and development assessment process through compliance with VMP and conditions (on-going)
4.1.6	Ensure developer compliance with Council's Flora and Fauna Survey Guidelines, vegetation management plans and conditions	Council has adequate resources allocated to review and enforce ecology consent conditions for all developments
Goal 4.2 The level of local biodiversity knowledge is adequate to support decision-making, conditions of consent and strategic planning		
4.2.1	Produce and keep up-to-date spatial information and analyses about areas of high biodiversity value and threats to biodiversity	By the end of 2019/20, Council will have up-to-date spatial information available for planning (e.g. vegetation community types, biodiversity corridors, conservation priorities)
4.2.2	Identify strategic planning data needs (e.g. vegetation community type mapping and updates, priority threatened species surveys)	On-going
4.2.3	Develop and use geospatial data to inform and guide strategic planning to identify critical locations where vegetation, habitat, connections or species must be avoided and protected	By the end of 2021/22, a geospatial tool is in use
4.2.4	Design and invest in a Central Coast Biodiversity Monitoring Program in line with State and Commonwealth Government programs	By the end of 2020/21, scope a comprehensive and consistent MER program for natural areas

Theme 5: Demonstrating leadership in biodiversity conservation

The community expects Council to provide leadership in leaving a positive legacy for future generations through responsible stewardship of the environment – this is our shared responsibility with the residents of the Central Coast. By incorporating biodiversity protection into procedures, planning and corporate level programs, Council can demonstrate every day that it takes these principles seriously.

Some natural resource management issues, such as biosecurity, bush fire and emergency management and coastal area, estuary, lagoon and wetland management issues are initiated by Council but are not restricted to public land in their application. These types of programs are collected together into Theme 5.



Gynea lily (Doryanthes excelsa)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Summary Table of Goals, Actions and Targets (Theme 5)

ID	Action	Target
Goal 5.1 Council embeds biodiversity protection and conservation into its core business		
5.1.1	Council's corporate Asset Management System is to include natural areas as an asset type in the technical asset register	The Asset Management System holds data on Natural Assets by the end of 2019/20
5.1.2	Natural assets are incorporated into Council's accounting and financial management application (Oracle) as a rolling maintenance program similar to a fixed asset register	Maintenance system in use by the end of 2019/20
5.1.3	Review of processes and extend the Vertebrate Pest Management Program to priority locations and monitor effectiveness of the program	By the end of 2020/21, a comprehensive program for vertebrate pest management across the LGA is in place, including internal policy and procedures
5.1.4	Develop and implement the expanded Biosecurity Management Program (including a weed policy)	By the end of 2019/20, have policies, procedures and educational material prepared to implement the Program
Goal 5.2 Estuary, lagoon and wetland management is fully resourced and adheres to best practice		
5.2.1	Prioritise staff resources and source funding to prepare Coastal Management Programs (including Tuggerah Lakes, Brisbane Water, coastal lagoons and open coastlines)	Prepare certified Coastal Management Program/s by end of 2021
5.2.2	Implement actions identified existing Coastal Zone Management Plans	The actions identified in the existing plans are implemented (on-going)
5.2.3	Review Council's water quality monitoring program for ecological health of lakes and estuaries	Implement identified suitable opportunities to enhance the program.
5.2.4	Implement a fauna monitoring program for lakes and estuaries management	On-going
Goal 5.3 All areas of Council administration have an understanding of the value of biodiversity and incorporate it into their responsibilities		
5.3.1	The Environmental Management System ensures Council operational activities adequately assess impacts to biodiversity	100% of staff who undertake and authorise environmental assessments for Council's operations are trained in Council's Environmental Assessment Procedure by end of 2019/20
5.3.2	Ensuring proper management and maintenance of roadside vegetation containing threatened species or EEC with minimal environmental impact to protect Council workers, from litigation and help manage sensitive areas	By the end of 2019/20, roadside vegetation management program scoped, resourced and implemented, with responsibilities identified
5.3.3	Council operational plans, strategies and processes support the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy	Each new and revised document identifies how Council will avoid impacts on and protect biodiversity (on-going)



River mangrove (*Aegiceras corniculatum*)
Illustration - Dr Tanya Hoolihan

Conclusion

The Biodiversity Strategy documents the Central Coast’s biodiversity values, legislative context for protection and presents a well-thought out action plan based on the latest scientific understanding of natural resource management. It aligns with the thinking in previous decades within both former Councils; and, its actions are achievable in a five year time frame.

The Biodiversity Strategy will have achieved its objectives when the following are fulfilled:

- Council supports an administrative structure and on-going resourcing for a Conservation Management Program for biodiversity conservation planning and management;
- Council explores the funding mechanisms for and supports an Environmental Lands Acquisition Program to expand the conservation estate;

- Council supports active management of natural areas to improve their biodiversity values over time;
- The community is an active and engaged participant in conservation programs across the LGA; and
- Land use planning, policy and decision-making protect lands with high biodiversity and social values.

Lastly, the Biodiversity Strategy acknowledges the exceptional and comprehensive work of the Council programs that contribute to biodiversity protection and management. There are many plans, programs, strategies and policies that are in place or are being developed that influence the success or otherwise of Council achieving the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy (See Figure 2 for some examples).



Figure 2: The actions of the Biodiversity Strategy complement other Council programs and plans, and therefore are not meant to be a comprehensive approach to all of Council’s natural resource management.



BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY SUMMARY

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MARCH 2020



Item No: 2.10
Title: LEP Amendment (Planning Proposal 105) Lot 30 DP 1172696 (356) Manns Road West Gosford
Department: Environment and Planning

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2010/00500 - D13929229
Author: Michael Bowman, Strategic Planner
Scott Duncan, Section Manager, Land Use and Policy
Manager: Karen Tucker, Acting Unit Manager, Strategic Planning
Executive: Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a Planning Proposal in relation to Lot 30 DP 1172968 No. 356 Manns Rd, West Gosford (known as 'West Gosford Hometown'). The land is zoned IN1 - General Industrial under *Gosford Local Environmental Plan 2014 (GLEP 2014)*. The proposal seeks to increase the current permissible floor area for 'specialised retail premises' from 12,000 m² to 16,000 m².

This report provides an overview of the outcomes of state government and community consultation in respect of the Planning Proposal.

This report recommends that Council finalise the Planning Proposal relating to the subject land.

Recommendation

- 1 That Council support the Planning Proposal as exhibited to increase the current permissible floor area for 'specialised retail premises' from 12,000 square metres to 16,000 square metres within Schedule 1 – Additional Permitted Uses Clause 10(2) of Gosford Local Environmental Plan 2014;**
- 2 That Council request the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the delegation issued by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for Planning Proposal (RZ/105/2019; PP_2019_CCOAS_001_00) to proceed with the steps for drafting and making of Amendment No. 39 to Gosford Local Environmental Plan 2014.**

Background

At its Ordinary Meeting held on 8 July 2019, the Central Coast Council resolved:

614/19 That Council, pursuant to Section 3.33 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, prepare a Planning Proposal to amend Schedule 1, Clause 10(2) of Gosford Local Environmental Plan 2014, to increase the

**2.10 LEP Amendment (Planning Proposal 105) Lot 30 DP 1172696 (356)
Manns Road West Gosford (contd)**

maximum floor area permissible for specialised retail premises on Lot 30 DP 1172968, Manns Road, West Gosford from 12,000m² to 16,000m²

- 615/19 *That Council, pursuant to Section 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, forward the Planning Proposal to the Minister requesting a Gateway Determination*
- 616/19 *That Council request delegation for Council to finalise and make the draft Local Environmental Plan, pursuant to Section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- 617/19 *That Council undertakes public authority and community consultation in accordance with the Gateway Determination requirements*
- 618/19 *That Council considers a further report on the results of public authority and community consultation*

A Gateway Determination was issued by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DoPIE) on 22 August 2019.

The Site

This Planning Proposal applies to Lot 30 DP 1172968 (No. 356 Manns Road), West Gosford (see figure 1). The total area of the subject site is 3.44 Ha.

The site fronts and has direct access from Manns Road to the west and is otherwise bounded by Baloo Road (unmade) to the south, Narara Creek to the east and industrially developed lands to the north. The site has constructed upon it a substantial building complex and at-grade car parking.

**2.10 LEP Amendment (Planning Proposal 105) Lot 30 DP 1172696 (356)
Manns Road West Gosford (contd)**



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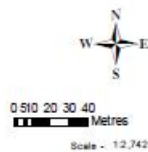


Figure 1: Locality Aerial photograph with site outlined in red

The site comprises a number of specialised retail premises (i.e. bulky goods), including but not limited to gymnasiums and retail outlets.

**2.10 LEP Amendment (Planning Proposal 105) Lot 30 DP 1172696 (356)
Manns Road West Gosford (contd)**

The land is zoned IN1 General Industrial under GLEP 2014 (Figure 2). Lands to the north, south and west of the site are also zoned IN1 General Industrial. The land east of the site fronting Narara Creek is zoned RE1 Public Recreation.



Figure 2: Zoning Context (subject site shown edged blue)

The site is benefited by an Additional Permitted Use (APU) by virtue of the APU map and Schedule 1 of GLEP 2014 as follows:

Clause 10 Use of certain land at Manns Road, West Gosford

- (1) This clause applies to land at Manns Road, West Gosford, being Lot 30, DP 1172968, identified as "Hometown" on the Additional Permitted Uses Map.*
- (2) Development for the purpose of specialised retail premises with a maximum floor area of 12,000 square metres is permitted with development consent.*

The Proposal

The objective of the Planning Proposal is to amend Schedule 1 Clause 10(2) of GLEP 2014 to increase the current maximum floor area permissible for 'specialised retail premises' from 12,000m² to 16,000m² on Lot 30 DP 1172968, Manns Road, West Gosford.

The current zoning (IN1 General Industrial zone) applying to the land is not proposed to be altered.

The request seeks the proposal to assist the efficient and economic use of the existing large buildings located on the site for more 'specialised retail premises' uses.

The intended outcome is to support existing development onsite and complement the range of IN1 General Industrial uses which are permissible in the zone.

Consultation

The Planning Proposal, supporting information and studies were publicly exhibited and submissions accepted between 5 and 20 February 2020.

The exhibition was undertaken in accordance with the Gateway Determination and the former Department of Planning and Environment's (DP&E) *A Guide to Preparing Local Environmental Plans* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*.

The exhibition material was available on Council's *Your Voice Our Coast* website during the above dates.

Notice of the exhibition was placed in the Central Coast Express Advocate on 5 and 12 February 2020.

Adjoining and nearby owners were notified of the exhibition.

Community Consultation

No public submissions were received during the exhibition period.

Government Agency Consultation

Department of Family and Community and Justice (former NSW Rural Fire Service)

The former NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) raises no objection to the Planning Proposal and notes that any future DA will have to address relevant bushfire matters.

Department of Transport (former Transport for NSW and RMS)

The former Transport for NSW (TfNSW) comments that any future Development Application should be referred to them for review, hence no objection is raised to the planning proposal.

Internal Consultation

The Planning Proposal has been reviewed by relevant internal units and comments received, as outlined below:

- *Sewer and Water*
 - The proposal would result in minimal change to the existing sewer and water capacity within the area.

- *Traffic and Transport*
 - The proposal would result in a net reduction in the traffic generation potential of the site during the weekday AM and Saturday peak periods and a nominal increase during the weekday PM peak period;
 - The performance of Manns Road and adjacent intersection would not be compromised by the subject proposal;
 - Any future changes in approved uses on site or increases in development footprint will be separately assessed.

The proposal is supported by these units.

Outcomes of Consultation

The proposal as recommended has satisfied relevant statutory requirements relating to state government agency and community consultation.

Assessment

The site currently has 'specialised retail premises' listed as an 'additional permissible use' under the LEP with a maximum floor area of 12,000 m². The proposal seeks to increase this maximum floor space permissible for 'specialised retail premises' by 4,000 m². The LEP amendment will allow the remainder of the existing built floor space to be utilised for 'specialised retail premises'. The site will continue to retain its IN1 General Industrial zoning.

The approach adopted in the Planning Proposal is considered to be a reasonable and justified measure until further strategic work is completed as part of the *Somersby to Erina Corridor Strategy* where future precinct planning will eventually review land uses and the appropriateness of existing land use zones. It is also consistent with other LEP amendments in the area made through successive land use decisions of Council in recent years where similar provisions have been approved on the adjoining "Riverside" site.

2.10 LEP Amendment (Planning Proposal 105) Lot 30 DP 1172696 (356) Manns Road West Gosford (contd)

The site and surrounding areas are transitioning to become a hub for 'specialised retail premises'. The proposal is also consistent with the *Central Coast Regional Plan 2036's (CCRP)* which identifies the site as being within the *Southern Growth Corridor*, which is designated as a priority location for future jobs, services and business growth within the southern half of the region.

The proposal is consistent with *CCRP* as follows:

- Goal - "*A prosperous Central Coast with more jobs close to home*";
- Action 2.2 - "*Capitalise on improved access from the \$170 million upgrade of the Central Coast Highway, Brisbane Water Drive and Manns Road intersection to increase employment diversity and integrate land uses at West Gosford*".

Council adopted the *Somersby to Erina Corridor Strategy (SECS)* on 9 December 2019 to implement relevant actions and strategies for the *Southern Growth Corridor* which is consistent with the following Directions:

- Direction 11 - "*Set up West Gosford for urban renewal*";
- Direction 12 - "*Ensure ongoing success of bulky goods (now known under the LEP as specialised retailing) and urban services*";
- Action 12.1 - "*Policy direction to protect current zones until further review*";
- The proposal will also assist to focus a broad range of economic activity within the *Somersby to Erina Corridor Strategy*;
- The proposal will also assist to retain more economic activity within the LGA and reduce incrementally commuting out of the region;

Statutory compliance and strategic justification

The Planning Proposal has been assessed having regard for relevant State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP's), Ministerial Directions (Section 9.1 of the EP&A Act) and relevant guidelines set out within the regional and local plans, including the *CCRP*.

The proposal is considered to be consistent with the above, hence the proposal is suitable for finalisation.

Financial Impact

The direct cost to Council is the preparation of the Planning Proposal and Council's fee has been paid for this service.

Social Impacts

The finalisation and implementation of the Planning Proposal would support meeting ongoing local economic, business and job opportunity needs, which incrementally will assist

in reducing commuting. There are no perceived negative social or economic impacts expected from the proposal.

Environmental Impacts

The proposed use of additional existing floor space for 'specialised retail premises' will be subject of future development assessment and will not impact upon any critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 2: Smart

Goal C: A growing and competitive region

C3: Facilitate economic development to increase local employment opportunities and provide a range of jobs for all residents.

Risk Management

No risks have been identified for this proposal.

Delegation

Council has been issued with the delegations of the Minister to make amending Local Environmental Plans (LEP's). Council advised the then Department of Planning and Environment that Council's new delegate for this function is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Gary Murphy. The Gateway Determination issued on 22 August 2019 provides the Council's CEO with the appropriate delegations under Section 3.36 of the *EP&A Act* to make this plan.

Conclusion

The Planning Proposal to increase the current permissible floor area for 'specialised retail premises' from 12,000 m² to 16,000 m² is considered to have strategic merit and satisfies all statutory requirements.

It is recommended that the Council support finalisation and implementation of the Planning Proposal.

Attachments

- 1 Proposal Summary ecmd25196710

Proposal Summary

Applicant	Jeffrey Evans		
Owner	Primewest Funds Ltd		
Application Number	83.105.2019		
Description of Land subject of planning proposal	<i>Property Description: 356 Manns RD West Gosford</i> <i>Legal Description: Lot 30 DP 1172968</i>		
Site Area	3.94ha		
Existing Use	Commercial		
Proposed Amendments – Gosford/Wyong Local Environmental Plan 2014/2013			
Provisions	Existing Provision	Proposed Amendment	Outcome (Supported/Not Supported)
Schedule 1- Additional permitted use	<p>10. use of certain land at Manns Road, West Gosford</p> <p>(1) This clause applies to land at Manns Road, West Gosford, being Lot 30, DP 1172968, identified as "Hometown" on the Additional Permitted Uses Map.</p> <p>(2) Development for the purpose of specialised retail premises with maximum floor area of 12,000 square metres is permitted with development consent.</p>	<p>10. use of certain land at Manns Road, West Gosford</p> <p>(1) This clause applies to land at Manns Road, West Gosford, being Lot 30, DP 1172968, identified as "Hometown" on the Additional Permitted Uses Map.</p> <p>(2) Development for the purpose of specialised retail premises with maximum floor area of 12,000 16,000 square metres is permitted with development consent.</p>	Supported



Item No: 3.1
Title: Meeting Record of the Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes held on 29 April 2020
Department: Environment and Planning

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2018/00098 - D13978359
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager, Environmental Management
Executive: Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning

Summary

To note the Meeting Record of the Catchments and Coast Tuggerah Lakes Committee meeting held on 29 April 2020.

Recommendation

That Council receive the report on Meeting Record of the Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes held on 29 April 2020.

Background

The Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes held a meeting on 29 April 2020. The Meeting Record of that meeting is Attachment 1 to this report.

There are no actions recommended to Council. The Meeting Record is being reported for information only in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

G3: Engage with the community in meaningful dialogue and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions.

Attachments

- 1 Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes Meeting Record - 29 April 2020 D13978344

Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes Meeting Record 29 April 2020



Location:	Skype Meeting
Date:	29 April 2020
Time	Started at: 2.17pm Closed at: 4.41pm
Chair	Councillor Doug Vincent / Councillor Jane Smith
File Ref	F2018/00098

Present:

Councillor Louise Greenaway, Councillor Jilly Pilon (left 4.25pm), Councillor Jane Smith, Councillor Doug Vincent, Doug Darlington, Robert Davies, Samantha Willis

External Representatives present:

Neil Kelleher – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (left 4.26pm), Richard Murphy – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (left 4.27pm)

Council Staff present:

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning (left 4.25pm), Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Coastal Protection, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Waterways, Parissa Ghanem – Team Leader, Floodplain Management and Senior Planner, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management, Paul Donaldson – Senior Estuary Management Officer, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Michael Campbell, Graham Hankin, Marlene Pennings

Councillor Jane Smith welcomed the Advisory Group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and connection to land statement.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were noted.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 26 February 2020. It was noted there was a minor typographical error in the apologies section, however this has been corrected and updated on Council's website.



The Advisory Group discussed the Action Log with the below updates noted:

Action 36: still pending – consultant to undertake review yet to be confirmed

Action 51: still pending – public exhibition yet to take place

Action 73: action to be closed – noted report going to 11 May 2020 Council meeting

Action 78: still pending – staff have written to nursing home but response is yet to be received

Item 4 Feedback from Previous Meeting

It was noted the last meeting was very informative, particularly regarding the protection of Porters Creek Wetland.

Item 5 Update on Flood and Stormwater Management (Standing Item)

Parissa Ghanem (Team Leader Floodplain Management and Senior Planner) provided a presentation, identifying status of current floodplain projects in the northern part of the LGA.

The below key points were noted:

- Lake Macquarie Overland FS: Final draft prepared by consultant and currently under review by Council and external organisations.
- Long Jetty/Killarney Vale FRMSP and Wallarah Creek FRMSP: Director approval was provided for public exhibition prior to COVID-19 outbreak, however project is now on hold given current situation, pending Council decision and Comms advice about how to proceed with projects.
- Ourimbah Creek FRMSP and Wyong River FRMSP: Report going to 11 May 2020 Council meeting to seek adoption so that recommended actions can be implemented.
- Northern Lakes FRMSP: Detailed assessment of options is complete and final draft is under review by Council.
- Flood Gauging Network Audit: Final draft prepared and reviewed by Council with minor amendments being implemented by staff.
- Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs): Upgrades are underway in Gorokan and Blue Haven. Consultants and contractors have been engaged and works are expected to be complete in June 2020.

It was noted there are challenges with public exhibition during the current climate, and it is not ideal to simply place items online without further engagement. Staff are currently drafting an engagement plan for Director review. Wollongong City Council have a good example of virtual engagement:

<https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/Fairy-Cabbage-Tree-Creeks-fs>

Comments were made that the Advisory Group has a valuable role in community education. It was noted that flooding cannot be 'fixed', but is something to be managed – recent events suggest this messaging needs to be improved. Reiterated that staff are working on engagement plan and improving community education.

The Advisory Group supports staff proceeding with public exhibition of projects, and request staff continue to explore options for online engagement.



Item 6 Update on Coastal Management (Standing Item)

Ben Fullagar (Section Manager Coastal Protection) provided a presentation on coastal management, noting recent events and project updates.

The below key points were noted:

- February 2020 storm event: large coastal storm coincided with spring tide resulting in widespread flooding across Central Coast.
- Considerable erosion has occurred at Budgewoi Beach, Hargraves Beach, Shelly Beach and The Entrance between June 2019 and February 2020. Sites are dynamic and continue to be monitored by staff.
- Update on Scoping Studies:
 - Open Coast and Coastal Lagoons: contract has been awarded for works to commence, expected to be complete September 2020.
 - Lower Hawkesbury/Brisbane Water: scoping study has commenced between six neighbouring Councils (later stages of study expected to come back to Catchments and Coast Committee Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons).
 - Tuggerah Lakes Estuary: scoping study has commenced in-house, considerable internal knowledge will bring value to study.
- Expert Panel: membership has been approved by Cabinet and announcement is anticipated shortly.

Item 7 Reported Commercial Wild Harvest Landings for Tuggerah Lakes

The Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) provided two graphs to report commercial wild harvest landings for Tuggerah Lakes for the Advisory Group's information as requested. The graphs were circulated via email on 20 April 2020.

Discussion deferred to next meeting – meeting invite to be issued to Fisheries.

Item 8 Dredging of The Entrance Channel

Peter Sheath (Section Manager Waterways) provided a presentation on dredging at The Entrance channel. There was a hydrographic survey conducted following the February 2020 flooding event on 9 March 2020, and works have been undertaken in the interest of public safety.

Council's future actions are guided by the current Estuary Management Plan and Floodplain Risk Management Plan, as well as relevant licenses from EPA, Crown, and Fisheries.

It was suggested that staff liaise with Peter Scanes (DPIE) regarding his team's study of the entire estuary, as the work may be beneficial to staff investigations.

Action: Staff to consider the information previously provided by Graham Hankin via email regarding berm management, and provide response back to Advisory Group.

**Item 9 Update on Education/Comms Initiatives**

Vanessa McCann (Team Leader Estuary Management) provided an update on education and comms initiatives for the waterways team. It was noted a new educational video on Tuggerah Lakes is now available on Council's YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/162u8qqB78g>

Vanessa is also working with her team to update the Love our Living Lakes website.

It was also noted that grant funding has been received to allow recruitment of an Environmental Communicator, whose role will run alongside the Expert Panel and work with existing Council projects. A DPIE grant has also been applied for to secure funding for flood education.

Item 10 General Business and Close

It was previously requested that updates on protection of Porters Creek Wetland be a standing item on agendas, however was missed on this agenda. The topic will be added to future agendas.

The meeting closed at 4.41pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 24 June 2020
4pm – 6pm
Location TBC



Item No: 3.2
Title: Meeting Record of the Coastal Open Space Systems (COSS) held on 30 April 2020
Department: Environment and Planning

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2018/00099 - D13988911
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager, Environmental Management
Executive: Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning

Summary

To note the Meeting Record of the Coast Open Space Systems (COSS) Committee held on 30 April 2020.

Recommendation

That Council receive the report on Meeting Record of the Coastal Open Space Systems (COSS) held on 30 April 2020.

Background

The Coastal Open Space Systems (COSS) Committee held a meeting on 30 April 2020. The Meeting Record of that meeting is Attachment 1 to this report.

There are no actions recommended to Council. The Meeting Record is being reported for information only in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships


G3: Engage with the community in meaningful dialogue and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions.

Attachments

1 COSS Committee Meeting Record - 200430 D13988899

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record 30 April 2020



Location:	Skype Meeting	
Date:	30 April 2020	
Time	Started at: 3.00pm	Closed at: 5.15pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00099	

Present:

Councillor Chris Holstein, Councillor Jane Smith, Councillor Sundstrom (left 4.45pm), David Holland, Deb Holloman, Paul Links, Douglas Williamson, Barbara Wills

External Representatives present:

Steve Atkins – NPWS Central Coast Area Manager, David Green – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney), Joel Stibbard – Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Council Staff present:

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning, Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Elizabeth Knight – Section Manager Treatment Plants and Catchments, Larry Melican – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Dr Anumitra Mirti – Section Manager Environmental Strategies, Rochelle Lawson – Senior Ecologist, David Lemcke – Senior Planner Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Chris McLean – Principle Strategic Planner Environmental Strategies, Elise Verhoeven – Green Grid Project Officer, Donna Payne – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Acknowledgement of Country

Apologies received: John Andrews

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 noted.

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record
30 April 2020



Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 13 February 2020.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log and the following points were noted:

Action 66:	The map showing NEA and shading of COSS land has not been distributed to the Advisory Group members as there is a scaling issue.
Action 73:	Councillor Smith advised she received a response from Director Environment and Planning regarding the COSS land Section 149 Certificates. Clr Smith will circulate the response to the Advisory Group.
Action 80:	Councillor Smith to follow up on the information relating to the bonus lot provisions for the 7(c)2 rezoning (Beaufort Rd, Terrigal) and provide to Advisory Groups to distribute to the Advisory Group.
Action 84:	Staff are continuing investigations regarding land at MacMasters Beach
Action 85:	Site visit to COSS land on hold due to COVID 19.
Action 91:	Biodiversity Strategy is due for consideration with Council in late May 2020.
Action 93:	Remains Pending – the link will be provided to the committee after the draft Biodiversity Strategy goes to Council in late May 2020.

Item 4 Land Acquisitions and Prioritisation (Standing Agenda Item)

It was noted that there are no further acquisitions at this time, and negotiations with potential vendors are continuing.

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

Larry Melican – Section Manager, Natural Assets and Biodiversity provided an update on the National Parks Estate land identification.

It was noted that information has been received from Andrew Bailey and the Land Assessment team. This has since been referred to the Central Coast Council Area Team who are looking at aspects of the feedback and drafting a formal response.

Councillor Smith mentioned that she attended a meeting with National Parks staff to discuss this matter. It was noted that National Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers are out 'ground truthing' over the next week or two.

Item 6 Green Grid Program and Koala Monitoring Project (Action Item 87)

Chris McLean – Principal Strategic Planner, Environmental Strategies provided information on the Green Grid Program and photos were shared on-screen for visual effect.

The Green Grid Program came about 5 years ago by means of the Government Architects Office where a plan was produced for Sydney. This time last year (around May 2019), the Central Coast was approved a \$200,000 grant to develop a Green Grid Plan for the LGA.

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record
30 April 2020



A model was produced that looked at sports fields, bowling clubs and other recreational facilities. This model also took into consideration ecological surveys (conducted by an external contractor) that studied the native animals' peak corridors and the whereabouts of their natural habitats, location of threatened tree species, conservation areas and if these current areas are sufficient to support native flora and fauna.

The time-frame on the Green Grid's first stage, that is a high-level draft plan submitted to the DPIE, is targeted for December 2020. The exhibition date for Council is aimed for February – March 2021.

Elise Verhoeven – Green Grid Project Officer, Environmental Strategies provided an update on the regional koala study. The current technology of acoustic recorders that have a range of 50-100 hectares were mentioned, they have been in use for the last five (5) years and have made it easier to detect koalas.

Koalas are normally found in Grey Gum areas such as the Yarramalong Valley and Mogo Creek (just out of the LGA). The research being conducted is due to conclude mid-spring 2020 with the results to determine where koalas are situated on the Central Coast expected in early 2021.

Councillor Sundstrom asked if there are any programs or grants to assist in protecting these areas. It was noted that the main threats to the koala population are from foxes, wild dogs and cars. David Green mentioned an online reporting program (Feral Scan) where community members can report sightings of feral animals such as rabbits, wild dogs, deer and foxes.

Councillor Smith mentioned the re-introduction of koalas in the Pearl Beach area. It was noted that there has not been a sighting within a 10km radius of the area since 2005.

Item 7 Bushfires and Hazard Reduction (Action Item 89)

David Lemcke – Senior Planner, Natural Assets and Biodiversity gave a presentation on hazard reduction works in progress. It was noted that this is the same presentation given at the recent Councillor Briefing.

The following points were noted:

- More money is being invested in bushfire hazard reduction works. The five types of work being undertaken are:
 - Asset Protection Zones
 - Physical reduction of fuel between bushland and house
 - Canopy connection
 - Normally a 10m minimum defendable space
 - Fire Trails
 - Arson Management
 - Prescribed burning / Hazard reduction
 - Community engagement (to increase individual preparedness)
- New RFS standards were gazetted in 2017. Bush fire Planning for Existing Development (BPED) is likely to be adopted in early 2020/21 for the next fire season and phased in further across several years.

Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Committee Meeting Record
30 April 2020



Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to forward a copy of the presentation given by David Lemcke to Advisory Group members.

Item 8 Issues at Mangrove Dam during the Bushfires (Action Item 90)

Elizabeth Knight – Process Engineer, Treatment Plants and Catchments discussed the effect the 3 Mile Fire had at Mangrove Creek. It was mapped that 80% of the weir and 20% of the dam areas were burnt out during the fires.

The amenities block at Mangrove Creek Dam was the only Council building lost to the fires. Subsequently the Picnic Area has been closed to the public.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to forward a copy of the Mangrove Creek Catchment Bushfire Presentation Dec 2019 to the Advisory Group members.

Item 9 Update from External Representatives (Standing Agenda Item)

David Green – Local Land Services (Greater Sydney), advised that LLS are still dealing with landholders of Fire and/or Flood affected areas. There is a fencing program available on their website for fire affected properties with a current approximate total of \$500,000 of on-ground projects.

Steve Atkins – NPWS Central Coast Area Manager advised that their offices are closed due to COVID-19. High visitation and picnic areas have also been closed. National Parks and Wildlife Service are continuing animal control works, fox control and dog baiting.

It was also noted that an upgrade to the Bouddi Coastal Walk is planned over the next 12-18 months along with an upgrade of the Koolewong Fire Trail in Brisbane Water.

Item 10 General Business and Close

- a) The Advisory Group commended the presentations provided during the meeting.
- b) Doug Williamson asked if the COSS Advisory Groups comments have been put in the Biodiversity Strategy. It was advised all comments are considered in the draft report to go to Council.
- c) Paul Links questioned how the Bonus Lot Provisions have previously been used and for it to be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

Action: Previous use of Bonus Lot Provisions to be placed on future agenda for discussion.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm

Next Meeting: Thursday 25 June 2020
3pm – 5pm
Location TBC



Item No: 3.3
Title: Meeting Record of the Playspaces Advisory Committee held on 6 May 2020
Department: Environment and Planning

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2019/01087 - D13989559
Manager: Brett Sherar, Unit Manager, Open Space and Recreation
Executive: Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning

Summary

To note the Meeting Record of the Playspaces Advisory Committee held on 6 May 2020.

Recommendation

That Council receive the report on Meeting Record of the Playspaces Advisory Committee held on 6 May 2020.

Background

The Playspaces Advisory Committee held a meeting on 6 May 2020. The Meeting Record of that meeting is Attachment 1 to this report.

There are no actions recommended to Council. The Meeting Record is being reported for information only in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

G3: Engage with the community in meaningful dialogue and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions.

Attachments

1 Playspaces Advisory Committee Meeting Record - 06 May 2020 D13989033

Playspaces Advisory Committee Meeting Record 6 May 2020



Location:	Skype Meeting	
Date:	6 May 2020	
Time	Started at: 4.03pm	Closed at: 5.05pm
Chair	Councillor Jillian Hogan	
File Ref	F2019/00998	

Present:

Councillor Rebecca Gale, Councillor Jillian Hogan, Councillor Chris Holstein, Councillor Kyle MacGregor, Jason Blackwood, Ted Edwards, Briohny Kennedy,

Council Staff present:

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning (left 4.40pm), Brett Sherar – Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation, Katherine Simmons – Recreation Planner Open Space and Recreation, Emma Wallace – Parks and Playground Officer, Donna Payne – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Mayor Lisa Matthews, Susan Donoghue, Danielle Leete, Katie Stokes, Ian Rhodes – Landscape and Recreation Planner Open Space Projects and Planning

The Chairperson, Councillor Jillian Hogan, completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land statement.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures of interest were made.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Records from 19 December 2019 and 18 February 2020 (no quorum).

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log.



Item 4 Update on Delivery of Parks and Playspaces Works Program

Brett Sherar – Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation provided an update on the delivery of parks and playspaces and displayed a copy of the Capital Works spreadsheet for the Advisory Group’s reference.

It was confirmed that there are 29 parks and playspaces in the works program that currently have designs completed.

There are two multi-year projects (Susan Fey Park and Swadling Reserve) and all other playspace projects on track to be completed this financial year.

The program at Lake Munmorah is going back to consultation. Due to the size of the project, it was reliant on face to face consults using clay modelling for areas such as the skate park. This is anticipated to be up and running in the next few weeks.

An update on the playspace at Shelley Beach Rd Empire Bay was also given. It was noted that a purchase order for equipment has been raised with an anticipated finish date by the end of the financial year. Works include a pump track, picnic furniture, fitness equipment and an upgrade to the current amenities block. A bouldering unit is expected to be installed in mid-June 2020.

The Peninsula Recreation Precinct was also discussed which is dependent on a Federal Government Grant. The draft design of the skate park and pump track is finalised and is ready to proceed pending formalising of the Grant documentation.

Action: Staff to provide a copy of the Capital Works spreadsheet displayed in the meeting to the Advisory Group Support Officer who will distribute to the Advisory Group members.

Item 5 Resource Request from Previous Meeting

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning explained that Environment and Planning has undergone a consolidation and reconstruction to enable the establishment of a Project Management Delivery Unit with the hope that this will free up maintenance staff. The request for resources will be taken forward to see what opportunities present in next year’s budget.

Item 6 Difference in Cost and Life Expectancy of Playspace Equipment (Action Item 8)

Brett Sherar – Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation explained that the costs depended on the size and scope of a project and gave the following example with approximate amounts that related to a local sized playspace.

- Connect water to site and erect fencing (\$3,500)
 - Earthworks and grading etc (\$9,000+)
 - Include standard equipment such a swing (\$2,000 each) and spinning equipment (\$1,500 each)
- A basic playspace climbing gym can cost around \$30,000
- Further costs incurred will depend on the type of surface (e.g. rubberised soft-fall), edging, pathways used
 - A commercial-grade shade sail can add another \$60,000 to a public playspace



Therefore, the approximate cost for a local playspace can equate to approximately \$211,000 if everything is included.

Action: Staff to provide a copy of the Local Playspace costs Spreadsheet that outlined the playspace costs displayed in the meeting to the Advisory Group Support Officer who will distribute to the Advisory Group members.

Item 7 S7:11 List Playgrounds (Action 11)

Brett Sherar – Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation advised the Action Log provided an update, which was as follows:

“The new LEP and DCP will not alter the allocation of existing and proposed open space land. Council collects contributions for open space provision and embellishments. Open space land provision is categorised as local, district and regional and local open space usually contains a playspace. Council staff are undertaking a consultant led review of the s7.11 Warnervale District Contributions Plan and this will be brought to Council later this year to request public exhibition”.

Katherine Simmons – Recreation Planner Open Space and Recreation further advised that there are 3-4 funded projects under S7:11 in the north and information regarding the south will be sourced.

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning advised that Environment and Planning are working in conjunction with the Connected Communities and Roads Transport Drainage and Waste on 4 year and 10 year delivery plans.

Item 8 Review of Feedback provided on Spinning Bucket Play Equipment

The Advisory Group reviewed the feedback on the spinning bucket, the consensus was that there is a level of risk on all play equipment. The carer or parent supervising a child in a playspace where there is play equipment should have an understanding of that child’s capacity and allow participation or use based on this capacity.

It was noted that there are no recorded injuries in relation to the spinning bucket play equipment and that it meets Australian Standards.

Action: Staff to prepare a response to the community member that had concerns surrounding the piece of equipment that the Advisory Group’s assessment is that the Spinning Bucket meets Australian Standards. If further complaints are received, consideration will be given into the future of the piece of equipment.

Item 9 General Business and Close

Briohny Kennedy discussed inclusiveness in playspaces and the ability for parents and kids of all abilities to be able to play together. Playground equipment was discussed, in particular the Inclusive Swing Set. Staff acknowledged that Council’s strategy is to look at all age groups and abilities when deciding on play equipment.

Playspaces Advisory Committee Meeting Record
6 May 2020



It was requested that consideration be given when design future playspaces to allow as many kids to play as possible as part of an overall strategy in regional areas.

Councillor Holstein requested to view the design for the Aqua Playspace on the Peninsula and asked if it includes an indoor play area near the café.

Action: Phil Cantillon – Unit Manager Leisure and Lifestyle to be forwarded an invitation to the next meeting to give an overview of the Aqua Playspace on the Peninsula.

The meeting closed at 5.05pm.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 5 August 2020**
 4pm – 6pm
 Location TBC

Item No: 3.4
Title: Investment Report for May 2020
Department: Finance



22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2004/06604 - D13749445

Author: Melissa McCulloch, Acting Unit Manager, Financial Services

Executive: Carlton Oldfield, Acting Chief Financial Officer

Report Purpose

Council is required to present Investment Reports on a monthly basis in accordance with cl. 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* which states as follows:

- 1 *The responsible accounting officer of a council*
 - a) *must provide the council with a written report (setting out details of all money that the council has invested under section 625 of the Act) to be presented—*
 - i. *if only one ordinary meeting of the council is held in a month, at that meeting, or*
 - ii. *if more than one such meeting is held in a month, at whichever of those meetings the council by resolution determines, and*
 - b) *must include in the report a certificate as to whether or not the investment has been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and the council's investment policies.*
- 2 *The report must be made up to the last day of the month immediately preceding the meeting.*

Summary

This report details Council's investments as at 31 May 2020.

Recommendation

That Council receive the Investment Report for May 2020.

Context

Council's investments are made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, the investment policy adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 28 October 2019, Ministerial Investment Order issued February 2011 and Division of Local Government (as it was then known) Investment Policy Guidelines published in May 2010.

Current Status

Council's current cash and investment portfolio totals \$376.16 million at 31 May 2020.

Source of Funds	May 2020 Value (\$'000)
Investment Portfolio	\$339,134
Transactional accounts and cash in hand	\$37,029
Total	\$376,163

Council had a net inflow of \$15.45 million in May 2020, with increase in cash of \$25.20 million and decrease of \$9.75 million in Investments.

This investment report will focus primarily on the investment portfolio of \$339.13 million as at 31 May 2020. Investment of funds is restricted and thus are managed primarily through term deposit and floating rate note maturities and placements.

Total net return on the portfolio for Council, in May was \$395K, comprising entirely of interest earning. The total value of the Council's investment portfolio as at 31 May 2020 is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Portfolio Movement

Description	2018-19 Financial Year \$'000	Sep-19 Qtr 2019/20 \$'000	Dec -19 Qtr 2019/20 \$'000	Mar -20 Qtr 2019/20 \$'000	Apr -20 2019/20 \$'000	May -20 2019/20 \$'000	FYTD 2019/20 \$'000
Opening Balance	467,254	445,661	433,160	394,500	387,790	348,886	445,661
Movement for the period	-21,593	-12,501	-38,659	-6,710	-38,904	-9,752	-106,526
Closing Balance	445,661	433,160	394,500	387,790	348,886	339,134	339,134
Interest earnings	13,017	2,724	2,543	1,931	470	395	8,067

Council's investments are evaluated and monitored against a benchmark appropriate to the risk (Standard and Poor's BBB long term or above) and time horizon of the investment concerned. Council's investment portfolio includes rolling maturity dates to ensure that Council has sufficient funds at all times to meet its obligations. A summary of the term deposit and floating rate notes maturities are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Investment Maturities as at 30 May 2020

Time Horizon	Percentage Holdings	Maturity on or before	Value \$'000
At Call	13.52%	Immediate	45,844
Investments			
0 - 3 months	30.91%	Aug-2020	104,812
4 - 6 months	20.65%	Nov-2020	70,017
7 - 12 months	8.58%	May-2021	29,098
1 - 2 years	13.30%	May-2022	45,100
2 - 3 years	2.95%	May-2023	10,000
3 - 4 years	1.47%	May-2024	5,000
4 - 5 years	8.63%	May-2025	29,264
Total Investments	86.48%		293,291
Total Portfolio	100.00%		339,134

The investment portfolio is concentrated in AA above (61.63%), A (20.65%) and BBB (17.43%). The investments in AA are of a higher credit rating and BBB represented the best returns at the time of investment within Policy guidelines. Financial institutions issuing fixed income investments and bonds are considered investment grade (IG) if its Long-Term credit rating is BBB or higher by Standard and Poor (S&P).

Council monitors and manage the portfolio taking into consideration credit ratings of financial institutions, interest rates offered for the maturity dates required and counterparty exposure.

The current spread of investments and counterparty exposure for May 2020 are shown in Graphs 1 and 2 respectively in Attachment 2.

Environmental, Social and Green (ESG) Investments

Council continues to look for 'ESG' investment opportunities subject to prevailing investment guidelines. A list of current ESG investments held is contained on the investment listing, highlight in green. For the month of February, there have been no new green investments undertaken.

Council currently holds 8.63% or \$27 million in ESG investments as at 31 May 2020.

Portfolio Return

Interest rates on investments in the month, ranged from 0.84% to 3.50%, all of which exceeded the monthly Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) benchmark of 0.09%.

The annualised financial year to date return for May of 2.59% for Central Coast Council is favourable compared to benchmark bank bill swap (BBSW) *financial year to date* Calculated Bank Bill Index of 1.31% as shown in Graph 3 - Portfolio Returns in Attachment 2.

Council's Portfolio by Source of Funds

Council is required to restrict funds received for specific purposes. Restricted funds consist of funds in the investment portfolio and in transactional accounts as follows:

Source of Funds	Value (\$'000)
Investment Portfolio	\$339,134
Transactional accounts and cash in hand	\$37,029
Total	\$376,163
Draft Restrictions	\$442,546

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G4: Serve the community by providing great customer experience, value for money and quality services.

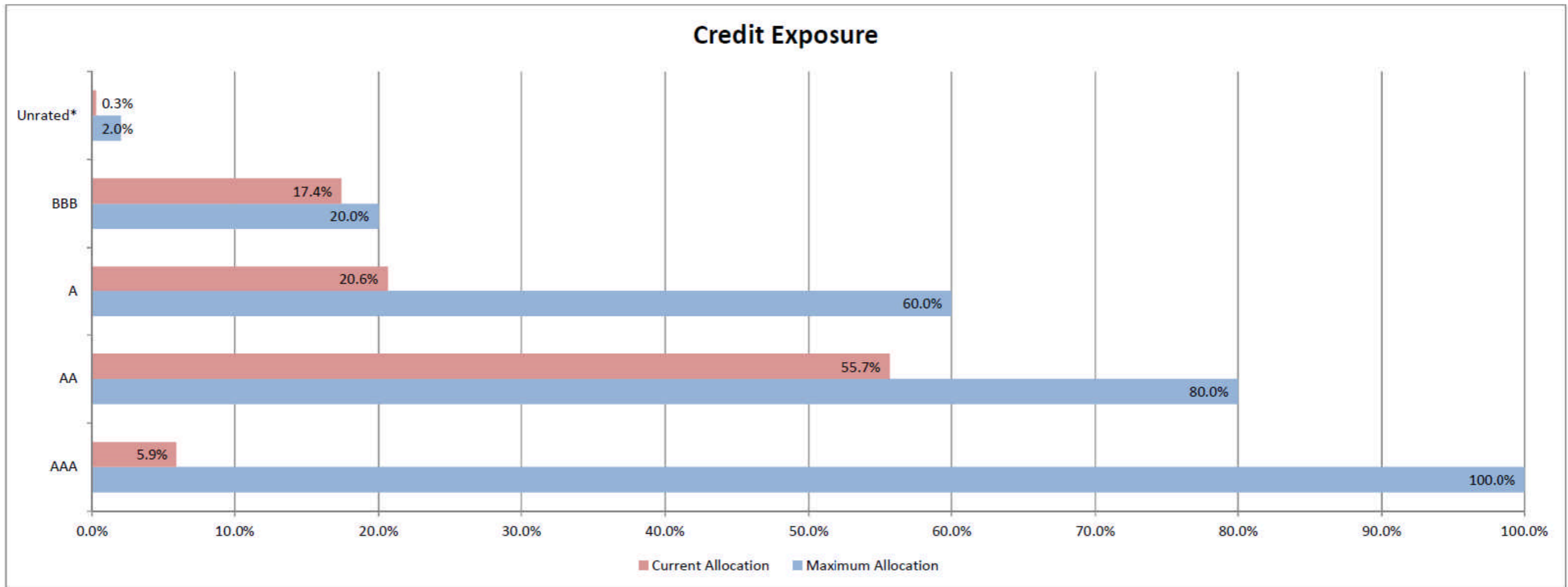
Attachments

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1 Summary of Investments as at 31 May 2020 | D14010319 |
| 2 Investment Report for May 2020 - Graph 1, 2 and 3 | D14010322 |
| 3 Summary of Restrictions as at 31 May 2020 | D14010332 |

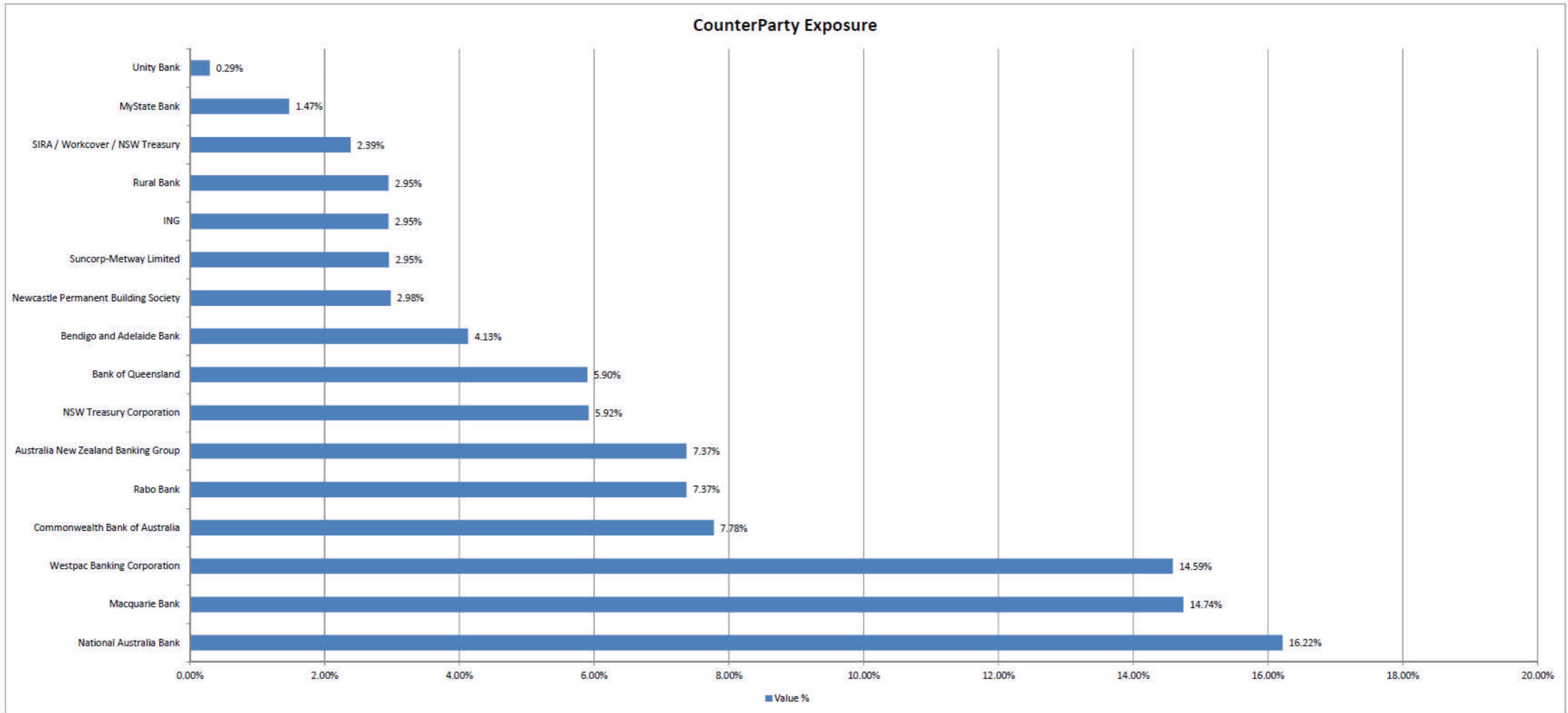
Central Coast Council
Summary of Investments as at 31-May-2020

Financial Institution	Type of Investment	Short Term Rating	Long Term Rating	Maturity Date	Portfolio Balance \$	As a % of the total Portfolio	Interest Rate %
CASH AT CALL:							
Total Cash At Call					45,843,846	13.52%	
TERM DEPOSITS, FLOATING RATE NOTES & BONDS:							
SIRA / Workcover / NSW Treasury	Term Deposit	A1	AA	04-May-2021	8,098,000	2.39%	0.84%
Rural Bank	Term Deposit	A2	BBB	03-Jun-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.94%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	A1	A	17-Jun-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.85%
Suncorp-Metway Limited	Term Deposit	A1	A	17-Jun-2020	5,000,000	1.47%	1.65%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	A1	A	13-Jul-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.85%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	A1	A	07-Aug-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.55%
Bendigo and Adelaide Bank	Floating Rate Note	A2	BBB	18-Aug-2020	4,005,212	1.18%	BBSW +1.10%
Rabo Bank	Term Deposit	A1	AA	07-Sep-2020	5,000,000	1.47%	3.50%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	A1	AA	15-Sep-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.55%
Bendigo and Adelaide Bank	Term Deposit	A2	BBB	21-Sep-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.62%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	A1	AA	28-Sep-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.50%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	A1	AA	06-Oct-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.48%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	A1	AA	12-Oct-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.48%
Suncorp-Metway Limited	Floating Rate Note	A1	A	20-Oct-2020	4,514,864	1.33%	BBSW +1.25%
Suncorp-Metway Limited	Floating Rate Note	A1	A	20-Oct-2020	501,651	0.15%	BBSW +1.25%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	A1	AA	10-Dec-2020	5,000,000	1.47%	2.80%
Westpac Banking Corporation	Term Deposit	A1	AA	10-Dec-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	2.90%
Westpac Banking Corporation	Term Deposit	A1	AA	21-Jun-2021	10,000,000	2.95%	3.06%
Rabo Bank	Term Deposit	A1	AA	05-Jul-2021	10,000,000	2.95%	2.92%
Bank of Queensland	Term Deposit	A2	BBB	26-Aug-2021	10,000,000	2.95%	1.75%
Westpac Banking Corporation	Floating Rate Note	A1	AA	26-Nov-2021	5,000,000	1.47%	BBSW + 0.93%
Newcastle Permanent Building Society	Floating Rate Note	A2	BBB	24-Jan-2022	10,099,920	2.98%	BBSW + 1.65%
Rabo Bank	Term Deposit	A1	AA	12-Dec-2022	10,000,000	2.95%	3.18%
Westpac Banking Corporation	Floating Rate Note	A1	AA	27-Nov-2023	5,000,000	1.47%	BBSW + 0.93%
Bank of Queensland	Term Deposit	A2	BBB	26-Sep-2024	10,000,000	2.95%	2.00%
NSW Treasury Corporation	Bonds	A1	AAA	20-Mar-2025	2,050,664	0.60%	1.25%
NSW Treasury Corporation	Bonds	A1	AAA	15-Nov-2028	17,213,235	5.08%	3.00%
ING	Term Deposit	A2	A	20-Jul-2020	5,000,000	1.47%	1.60%
ING	Term Deposit	A2	A	21-Jul-2020	5,000,000	1.47%	1.60%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	A1	AA	17-Aug-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.55%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	A1	A	03-Jun-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.60%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	A1	A	17-Jun-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.60%
Unity Bank	Term Deposit	Unrated	Unrated	15-Feb-2021	1,000,000	0.29%	1.65%
NSW Treasury Corporation	Term Deposit	A1	AAA	03-Jun-2020	807,000	0.24%	1.43%
Australia New Zealand Banking Group	Term Deposit	A1	AA	04-Sep-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.21%
Australia New Zealand Banking Group	Term Deposit	A1	AA	06-Jul-2020	10,000,000	2.95%	1.23%
Australia New Zealand Banking Group	Term Deposit	A1	AA	04-Jun-2020	5,000,000	1.47%	1.25%
MyState Bank	Term Deposit	A2	BBB	04-Mar-2021	5,000,000	1.47%	1.50%
Total Term Deposit & Bonds:					293,290,546	86.48%	
TOTAL PORTFOLIO					339,134,392	100.00%	
Current					249,770,573	73.65%	
Non-Current					89,363,819	26.35%	
TOTAL PORTFOLIO					339,134,392	100.00%	

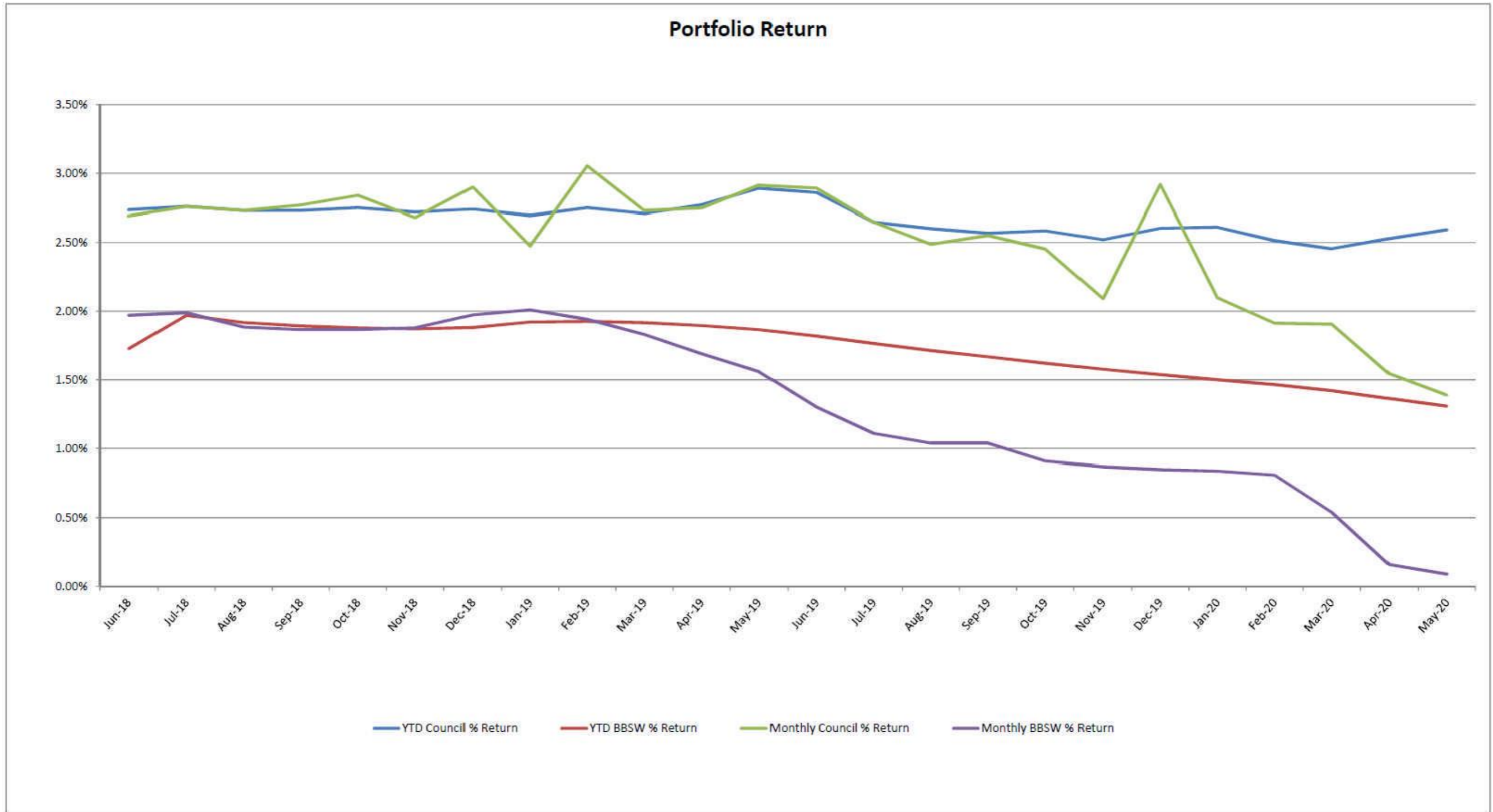
Graph 1 – Credit Exposure



Graph 2 – CounterParty Exposure



Graph 3 – Portfolio Return



SUMMARY OF RESTRICTIONS as at 31 May 2020

FUND	SOURCE	Principal Amount \$'000
GENERAL FUND	Developer contributions	91,580
	Developer contributions – bonus provisions	5,222
	Developer Contributions – Sec 94A Levy	17,251
	Developer contributions – VPA	2,667
	Specific purpose unexpended grants	9,825
	Self insurance claims	5,976
	Stormwater Levy	772
	RMS Advance	0
	Holiday Parks	13,045
	Cemeteries	694
	Coastal Open Space	6,519
	Bio Banking	301
	Crown Land Business Enterprises	1,008
	Crown Land Patonga Camping Ground	882
	Other External	306
	Terrigal Tourism Special Rate Levy	1,452
	Tourism Special Rate	2,652
	Gosford CBD Special Rate Levy	258
	Gosford Parking Station Special Rate Levy	1,256
	The Entrance Town Centre Special Rate Levy	0
	Toukley Town Centre Special Rate Levy	89
	Wyong Town Centre Special Rate Levy	0
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND RESTRICTIONS	161,753
Water FUND	Developer contributions	39,148
	Developer contributions – VPA	1,042
	Specific purpose unexpended grants	2,714
	Self insurance claims	798
	Other External	45
	TOTAL WATER FUND RESTRICTIONS	43,747
SEWER FUND	Developer contributions	20,039
	Developer contributions – VPA	489
	Self insurance claims	2,131
	TOTAL SEWER FUND RESTRICTIONS	22,659
DRAINAGE FUND	Developer contributions	33,978
	Developer contributions – VPA	1,355
	Specific purpose unexpended grants	75
	Other External	100
	TOTAL DRAINAGE FUND RESTRICTIONS	35,508
DOMESTIC WASTE FUND	Specific purpose unexpended grants	1,260
	Domestic Waste Management	71,133
	TOTAL WASTE FUND RESTRICTIONS	72,392
TOTAL EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS		336,061

GENERAL FUND		105,311
Water FUND		873
SEWER FUND		955
DRAINAGE FUND		66
DOMESTIC WASTE FUND		0
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS		107,205

Item No: 4.1
Title: Questions with Notice
Department: Governance



22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00039 - D14016122

4.1 Questions with Notice

The following question was submitted by Councillor Kyle MacGregor at Ordinary Meeting 25 May 2020:

Arable Land or Agricultural Land Use Studies

Are Council staff aware of any arable land or agricultural land use studies that have been conducted within the Central Coast LGA in the past decade to identify issues such as optimised agricultural yields, crop compatibility, soil studies and the best possible land uses for the farmland on the Central Coast? If this data/studies exist are they freely or publicly available or able to be shared with Councillors or the Central Coast Community?

Response provided by the Director of Environment and Planning:

Council Staff, utilising the services of Edge Land Planning Consultants, are currently preparing the Central Coast Rural Land Use Study and the Central Coast Rural Land Use Strategy. Council staff have undertaken detailed audit mapping of all rural lands as part of this study.

The Study examines areas of productive soils, vegetation, slopes, sand and gravel resource lands, lot size, access, population characteristics, employment, markets, transport and logistics. The different types of agricultural uses have also been mapped and their relative economic importance to the Central Coast economy.

The project will also examine how agriculture is changing and which agricultural and rural industries are likely to grow in the future. The Study assesses the suitability of the existing planning controls, demand for alternate land uses, including rural tourism and how to manage development pressures for rural-residential development. The Study will also have regard for the planning considerations identified within the *Central Coast Regional Plan 2036* (CCRP). (Goal 2, Directions 8 – 14).

The primary objective of the project is to undertake a strategic assessment of the rural zoned lands of the Central Coast Local Government Area (CC LGA), in particular the rural lands of the (former) Gosford City LGA. This is required as a similar Study was completed (June 2017) for the northern areas (former Wyong Shire LGA), and it is important that this

analysis is expanded to the former Gosford City LGA, to gain a Central Coast perspective to properly plan for its rural lands.

The Study will also draw from NSW Government Agency studies and findings. The NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE), on behalf of the NSW Industry (DPI-Agriculture), and NSW Environment Energy and Science (EES) - formerly OEH, advised in March 2020 that it has undertaken mapping which will be released as part of its draft agricultural mapping program, due for exhibition in June 2020, and consisting of two sets of maps:

1. Biophysical Evaluation of Soil and Terrain (BEST) mapping; and
2. Important Agricultural Land (IAL) mapping.

These are explained as follows:

1. The BEST mapping looks at the biophysical features of land (such as soil type, slope, salinity, erosion) and ranks them (1-8) to identify the capability of supporting a range of different agricultural activities. The maps are provided at a local scale (1:25,000) which makes them useful for local planning and land management. The Central Coast arable areas are included.
2. IAL mapping considers biophysical aspects of land (using regional scale Land and Soil Capability data at a 1:100,000 to 1:250,000 scale) as well as factors such as infrastructure, socio-economic context and agricultural industry approaches. These maps will provide useful insights to agricultural development at a regional scale, but will not necessarily provide the fine grain detail useful for local planning.

These mapping projects are intended to support and update the 'Prime Agricultural Land' mapping which formed the basis for the *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 8 – Central Coast Plateau Areas* (SREP No 8). This SREP (now referred to as a "Deemed SEPP") has formed the basis for our rural land zonings and helped protect the fertile Central Coast Plateau agricultural lands, the bushland adjoining, as well as the sand and gravel resources existing within the area, since SREP No 8 came into force on 22 August 1986.

In order to address the requirements of the CCRP 2036, during 2018 Council staff contributed to the NSW Inter-Agency Working Group tasked with analysing the soils, resources and issues relevant to Rural and Environmental Lands west of the M1 Motorway. A 'NSW Agency and Council Action Plan' was scheduled for release in late November 2018 by the NSW DPIE. However, this is currently being finalised following departmental restructure and impacts from the COVID 19 pandemic impacting the work program.

Council will be responsible for the implementation of a number of these Actions when the Plan is released, in some cases in partnership with relevant Agencies, to implement Goal 2 of the CCRP 2036: "Protect the natural environment and manage the use of agricultural and resource lands".

NSW DPIE has released the *SEPP Primary Production and Rural Development 2019*, which aims to protect agricultural lands and rural industries, in particular facilitating aquaculture. DPI-Agriculture have also prepared a "Living and Working on Rural Lands" Handbook and an accompanying Brochure – providing guideline documents for living in harmony with agriculturally productive enterprises on rural lands. Further, the NSW EES and DPI-Agriculture websites contain significant resources to assist agricultural production, weed control and rural lifestyles, which may be used for relevant background information.

Council is also hosting a Climate Action Program (CAP) throughout 2020 and early 2021. The program involves a workshop with the agriculture sector stakeholders to identify opportunities to support the sector to adapt with the changing climate. The Central Coast Green Grid project will also include an Agricultural Grid which includes all lands currently zoned as RU1 Primary Production and RU2 Rural Landscape under the relevant Local Environmental Plan. The Green Grid plan will integrate with the Central Coast Rural Land Use Study.

The Central Coast Rural Lands Strategy will be developed in consultation with Councillors, the community and relevant stakeholders. Some initial targeted community consultation is proposed to occur in 2020, but the timing and methodology is currently under review (having regard to COVID 19 considerations). This information will be used to finalise the Strategy and produce the Implementation Plan, which will inform the future Central Coast Comprehensive Local Environmental Plan (CCCLEP).

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Council will be responsible for the implementation of a number of these Actions when the Plan is released, in some cases in partnership with relevant Agencies, to implement Goal 2 of the CCRP 2036: "Protect the natural environment and manage the use of agricultural and resource lands".

4.1 Questions with Notice (contd)

NSW DPIE has released the *SEPP Primary Production and Rural Development 2019*, which aims to protect agricultural lands and rural industries, in particular facilitating aquaculture. DPI-Agriculture have also prepared a "Living and Working on Rural Lands" Handbook and an accompanying Brochure – providing guideline documents for living in harmony with agriculturally productive enterprises on rural lands. Further, the NSW EES and DPI-Agriculture websites contain significant resources to assist agricultural production, weed control and rural lifestyles, which may be used for relevant background information.

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The following question was submitted by Councillor Smith

Councillor attendance at Briefings / Updates

Is Council able to provide a table showing the total amount of briefings that have been held since the inception of the current Council and how many of this total number have been attended by individual Councillors (either the number attended or a percentage of the total number attended) and publish in response to this question on notice? Could the table also please show separately the number of CEO / Councillor Updates since they commenced during the COVID-19 crisis and similarly show the Councillor attendance at these updates?

A response will be provided by the Unit Manager, Governance and Business Services on or before the Ordinary Meeting of 22 June 2020.

The following questions were submitted by Councillor Gale

Davistown's current sewerage and water infrastructure system

4.1 Questions with Notice (contd)

Can Council expedite a comprehensive audit of Davistown's current sewerage and water infrastructure system to assess its efficiency? Following recent heavy rain 415 homes were without sewerage, and some with water issues, for up to eight days.

Please provide an update on the progress of the water and sewer infrastructure as part of the \$52 million NSW State Government announcement.

A response will be provided by Director Water and Sewer on or before the 22 June 2020 meeting.

The following questions were submitted by Councillor MacGregor

Money spent on amalgamation of council

Can Council staff provide an update on how much council money has been spent on the amalgamation of council from the proclamation until the present day, including a year by year spend if possible to ascertain and report to open council?

Can council staff provide an update on the progress of the amalgamation of council including an estimation of the time to truly complete amalgamation and how far council has currently come in regards to achieving this goal?

A response will be provided by the Chief Executive Officer on or before the 22 June 2020 meeting.

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 5.1
Title: Notice of Motion - Soap in Public Toilets
Department: Councillor

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00037 - D14023927

Author: Louise Greenaway, Councillor

Councillor Greenaway has given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 22 June 2020 she will move the following motion:

- 1** *That Council acknowledges that the Number #1 recommendation in Australian government guidelines for Good hygiene for coronavirus (COVID-19) is to wash your hands often with soap and water. The second recommendation is to use alcohol-based hand sanitisers when you can't use soap and water.*
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/good-hygiene-for-coronavirus-covid-19>
- 2** *That Council requests that the Chief Executive Officer provide a Report on the reinstallation of soap in public toilets including Information that specifically addresses:*
 - i. The number of Council-run Public Toilet/ Amenities blocks*
 - ii. The reasons for the removal of soap from public toilets (on the Coast and generally throughout NSW/ Australia if known)*
 - iii. The cost of reintroducing soap to Council's Public Toilet blocks*
- 3** *That Council note that the Public Toilet Strategy is currently being undertaken and request that this Strategy include at least preliminary information on the matters raised in para 2 above.*
- 4** *That Council request that the CEO, in the interim, make inquiries in an effort to source vandal-resistant soap dispensers or brackets or other innovations to give best effect to protecting soap installations should they be recommended*

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 5.2
Title: Notice of Motion - Airport Employment Hub
Community Consultation
Department: Councillor

22 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00037 - D14023931
Author: Greg Best, Councillor
Bruce McLachlan, Councillor

Councillors Best and McLachlan have given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 22 June 2020 they will move the following motion:

- 1** *That Council now recognises in the wake of COVID 19 and the recent announcement of recession, employment opportunities and the economic drivers that underpin them have now become of critical importance.*
- 2** *That Council further notes that many similar sister regions have significantly benefited through anchoring and activating their employment precincts utilising Airport Employment Hubs.*
- 3** *That it is with this understanding (2 above) and in keeping with Council's 'well worn' mantra of openness and transparency that Council now provides our community with the formal opportunity to review and finally participate in the Central Coast Airport Employment Hub planning process.*
- 4** *That Council thank staff for their extraordinary efforts over many years now in developing this cutting edge, \$450,000.00 Employment Master Plan for the Central Coast Aero Hub.*
- 5** *That Council now formally consult with our community through the 'formal' release of the Central Coast Airport Master Plan stages 1 to 5.*

Attachments

Nil.