

Protection of the Environment Trust Management Committee Meeting Record 28 June 2019



Location:	Central Coast Council Gosford Office Level 1 Chambers 49 Mann Street, Gosford
Date:	28 June 2019
Time	Started at: 2.06pm Closed at: 3.58pm
Chair	Mayor Jane Smith
File Ref	F2018/00732

Present:

Mayor Jane Smith, Joy Cooper, Barbara Wills, Gary Chestnut

Staff present:

Evan Hutchings – Director Governance (left 2.20pm), Shane Sullivan – Unit Manager Governance and Business Services (left 3.31pm), Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets (left 3.40pm), Larry Melican – Section Manager Emergency Protection Natural Assets (left 3.40pm), Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

External Attendees:

Patrick Donnellan OAM – involved in establishing the original Trust (Guest at the invitation of the Chair)

Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Acknowledgement of Country

Apologies received: Gary Murphy – Chief Executive Officer

The Chairperson, Mayor Jane Smith, declared the meeting open at 2.06pm and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land statement.

Item 2 Disclosure of Interest

The Mayor called for any declarations of interest.

Barbara Wills declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as she had done previously, as she is a member of the Macmaster’s Beach Bushcare Group.

Mayor Smith declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as the former Voluntary CEO and Board member of the Community Environment Network (CEN) as CEN was mentioned in University of Sydney Grant Application (Item 7).

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Committee confirmed the Meeting Record from 26 March 2019.

Item 4 Action Log

The Committee discussed the Action Log.

The Mayor advised in regard to Action items 38 and 39, current indicators are that proposed rezoning of Council land donated to the Trust to protect environmental values is expected to be frustrated by Council processes at this point in time. Suggested that the rezonings should be considered as part of the Comprehensive LEP process – noting that the land continues to be held by the Trust.

The Committee discussed that it is unclear whether it is the Department of Planning or Council staff undertaking work in relation to the Somersby Industrial estate and whether it is a review of the current plan of management.

It was agreed that actions 38, 39, 40 and 41 can be closed.

Action: The Committee seek clarification from staff regarding the current work that is being done in relation to the Somersby Industrial Estate.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends to Council that staff send correspondence to the relevant parties noting the 6 parcels of land donated to and held by the Trust for protection of environmental values.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends to Council that a notification be applied to the 149 Certificates for those lots noting the above.

Item 8 was brought forward to follow this item.

Item 5 Strom Talk

Mayor Smith provided the Committee with an update on the inaugural Strom Talk that was held on World Environment day (5 June 2019) to celebrate the natural environment of the Central Coast and the Coastal Open Space System.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends to Council that the Protection of the Environment Trust Management Committee coordinates an annual Strom talk to support the objectives of the Trust.

Item 6 Review of Draft Terms of Reference (Action Item 2)

Item deferred to the next meeting.

Item 7 Review of Grant Applications

The Protection of the Environment Trust provides small amounts of financial support to individuals, groups and organisations in the community that are able to deliver projects and works that contribute to the stated purpose of the Trust.

Mayor Smith declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as the former Voluntary CEO and Board member of the Community Environment Network (CEN) as CEN was mentioned in University of Sydney Grant Application.

The Committee discussed the two SmartyGrants applications received.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends to Council the release of funds for the funding applications listed in Attachment 1 subject to the conditions noted for each application.

Item 8 Review of Trust Deed

Item 8 was brought forward to follow Item 4 as Mr Patrick Donnellan was in attendance specifically for this particular item. Mr Donnellan left the meeting at the end of discussion of Item 8.

The Committee welcomed Mr Donnellan who attended the meeting as an observer providing some history on the Trust.

Staff advised that Council has sought legal advice regarding Trusts.

Staff (excluding the minute taker) left the room at 2.30pm whilst the Trust Deed was discussed.

Action: Further clarification to be provided to the Committee regarding Council seeking legal advice on the Trust.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.03pm and resumed at 3.24pm.

Item 9 MacMasters Beach Bushcare (Action Item 34)

The Committee discussed the letter sent to MacMasters Beach Bushcare regarding the process for Grant Applications and the response received.

The Committee noted that the MacMasters Beach Bushcare Group is able to request the release of funds at any time through the process identified by the Committee.

Action: The Trust write to MacMasters Beach Bushcare Group advising that now a procedure is in place for grant applications, that the MacMasters Beach Bushcare group make use of this process for future projects towards MacMasters Beach Bush regeneration.

Item 10 Hillview Street Donation (Action Item 47)

Item deferred to the next meeting.

Item 11 Management issues identified in Perpetuity Management Plan (Action Item 48)

Item deferred to the next meeting.

Item 12 Grant Funding Projects and Trust Expenditure since Amalgamation (Action Item 49)

Item deferred to the next meeting.

Item 13 Promotion of the Trusts

Item deferred to the next meeting.

Item 14 Finance Report

The Committee discussed the Finance Report for the Protection of the Environment Trust.

Item 15 General Business and Close

- a) Joy Cooper raised a question regarding the Hillview Street Donation and the timing and process regarding the donation being made to the Trust.
- b) Next Protection of the Environment Trust meeting to be held within the next month for deferred items.

The meeting closed at 3.58pm

Next Meeting: July/August 2019 (to be confirmed)
Central Coast Council Gosford Admin Building
Level 1 Committee Room,
49 Mann Street, Gosford