

Protection of the Environment Trust (PoET) Management Committee Meeting Record 5 November 2019



Location:	Central Coast Council Gosford Office Level 1 Committee Room 49 Mann Street, Gosford	
Date:	5 November 2019	
Time	Started at: 3.06pm	Closed at: 4.04pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00732	

Present:

Councillor Jane Smith, Gary Murphy – Chief Executive Officer (arrived 3.08pm), Gary Chestnut (arrived 3.10pm), Joy Cooper, Barbara Wills,

Staff present:

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets, Larry Melican – Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer, Donna Payne – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Acknowledgement of Country

Apologies received: Shane Sullivan - Unit Manager Governance and Business Services

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

Item 2 Disclosure of Interest

The Chairperson called for any declarations of interest.

No disclosures received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Committee confirmed the Meeting Record from 6 August 2019.

Item 4 Action Log

The Committee discussed the Action Log.

Action 33: Barbara Wills to advise of specific lots.

Action 51: The below response was provided by Strategic Planning staff:

- The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has advised that there is no state government commitment to review the Somersby POM currently. However, there is an action on the Regional Employment Lands Working Group for discussion '*to review the implementation of the Somersby POM*'. Council and DPIE are co-leads in this review. This action is not being done to review the Somersby POM (and produce a new Somersby POM), but is more of an audit to review DA approvals and whether they are complying with the Somersby POM and identify any implementation issues arising since the plan was introduced.

Action 60: The Committee noted the letter received from the Hon Sussan Ley MP Minister for the Environment regarding report on donation for the decade, which had been distributed to Committee Members.

Action 68: Joy Cooper to email Councillor Smith with questions on the planning process, to be submitted as a Councillor Request.

Item 5 Annual Strom Talk

At the 26 August 2019 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved in part:

That Council resolve that the Protection of the Environment Trust Management Committee coordinates an annual Strom Talk to support the objectives of the Trust.

The Committee discussed timing of the venue and agreed to tie it in around World Environment Day (June 2020).

Laycock Street Theatre was suggested as a venue.

Richard Denniss (Economist and Executive Director of the Australian Institute) was suggested as a speaker.

Action: Councillor Smith to investigate a date and venue for a 2020 Strom Talk and bring back costs to the next meeting.

Action: Committee members to give thought to potential speakers and provide suggestions at the next meeting.

Item 6 Legal Advice on the Trusts

Staff advised in previous meetings that Council was obtaining legal advice on the Trusts. As Chair of the Committee, Councillor Smith had expressed concerns to the CEO and Director Governance and has received clarification that the legal advice relates to whether the Trust is operating within the legal framework of the Deed. This advice will be discussed with the Committee once received.

Item 7 Update on documenting the history of COSS

Councillor Smith advised she recently met with Robert Bell (former Mayor of Gosford) who is undertaking a project to document the history of COSS.

Robert Bell is looking for various organisations to contribute \$5000 towards his project and has made a request to the Protection of the Environment Trust.

The Committee believes there is merit in the project and recognises the unique perspective that Robert Bell would provide to documenting the history of COSS. The Committee note the request for approximately \$5000 contribution towards the cost.

Action: The Committee request Robert Bell to submit an application that addresses the PoET grant guidelines (copy to be provided to Robert) 2 weeks prior to the next meeting.

Action: That the elements of Robert's proposed project that are not in alignment with the grant guidelines are separately identified and addressed for consideration of the PoET.

Action: Robert Bell to be invited to the next meeting of the PoET.

Item 8 Promotion and Donation to the Trusts (Action Item 67)

A handout was provided by Shane Sullivan detailing advice received from Communications staff.

The advice from Communications staff is that:

- The Committee develop a separate website independent to Council's website, a similar example would be that of Northern Beaches and their set up for Pittwater Environmental Trust.
- The Committee develop and manage an RFQ to procure a full-service digital agency to support marketing, website and content creation and ongoing management.
- A Community Representative member of the committee manage and be the point of contact for information and the services provided by an appointed digital agency.

Councillor Smith to review the Pittwater Website.

<http://www.pittwaterenvironmentalfoundation.org.au/donations/>

Action: Councillor Smith to meet with Director Governance to seek clarification around the Trusts setting up a website, the process including preferred suppliers and provide advice back to the next meeting.

Item 9 Finance Report

The Committee reviewed the Income Statement as at 31 October 2019.

Item 10 General Business and Close

Councillor Smith advised that the discovery of local soft corals was featured on the front cover of the recent Coast Magazine and an interview with Troy Gaston (University of Newcastle) included in the magazine. A previous grant from the Protection of the Environment Trust contributed to this work undertaken by the University of Newcastle and is acknowledged in presentations by Dr. Gaston. There could be potential media opportunities to promote PoET.

The meeting closed at 4.04pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 4 February 2020 (TBC)
3pm – 4pm
Level 1 Committee Room
Gosford Admin Building
49 Mann Street, Gosford