



MINUTES

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CENTRAL AREA)

at 4.00 pm

Tuesday, 3 April 2024

In Attendance

Cr J Dorahy (Chair), Cr T Brown, Cr C Blakey, Nathan McBriarty - Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning (Acting), Ali Sevenler - Floodplain Management Engineer, Yelia Pandika - Floodplain Management Engineer, Petar Milevski - Floodplain Management Engineer, Motiur Rahman - Floodplain Management Engineer, David Green - Land Use Planning Manager, Clare Robinson - Emergency Management Officer, Glenda Fewings - Administration Officer, Shaza Raini - Department of Planning Industry and Environment, Oscar Garratt - Rhelm, Leon Collins - Advisian, Felix Taaffe - GRC Hydro, Stuart Milling - Transport for NSW, Andrew Monk - Transport for NSW, Jean Groves - Neighbourhood Forum Representative, David Hearne - Community Representative.



INDEX

ITEM	PAGE NO.
Contents	
1	STANDING AGENDA ITEMS3
1.1	Welcome and Introduction3
1.2	Acknowledgement of Country3
1.3	Apologies3
1.4	Disclosures of Interests.....3
1.5	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting3
2	FLOOD MANAGEMENT UPDATE3
2.1	Allans Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.....3
2.2	Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creeks Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.....4
2.3	Wollongong City Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.....5
2.4	Detailed Design of McMahon Basin.....5
2.5	Allans Creek – Debris Control Structure at The Avenue (Figtree Oval) Design6
3	GENERAL BUSINESS6
3.1	Business Arising from Previous Minutes.....6
4	NEXT MEETING.....6
5	CLOSE MEETING6
	The meeting closed at 5.34pm6

1 STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1.1 Welcome and Introduction

In line with NSW Health guidelines about Novel Coronavirus, we have made some changes to the way we are engaging the community, to keep our staff and people in our community safe. Instead of having face-to-face conversations with people, meetings are currently being conducted via Teams.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The traditional owners of the land were acknowledged.

1.3 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of M Mariner.

1.4 Disclosures of Interests

Nil

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 July 2023 were accepted by the Committee.

2 FLOOD MANAGEMENT UPDATE

2.1 Allans Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

Public exhibition of the draft Allans Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was completed on 9 October 2023. Following the closure of the exhibition period, the submissions received from the community were consolidated/reviewed.

An update on the progress of this project was presented by the consultants from Rhelm. The presentation outlined:

1. The Project Scope
2. Work Completed to Date
3. Public Exhibition Outcomes:
 - 211 Submissions received
 - 77 Attendees at drop in session
 - The key themes included creek maintenance and erosion concerns, development application approvals, flood insurance premiums, council responsiveness, specific location issues, individual property concerns, community education and widening of Byarong Creek upstream and downstream of the Princes Highway.

Cr J Dorahy questioned the risk options for Byarong Creek and channel widening – where on Byarong would this be located? Oscar advised widening upstream of Princes Highway and further explained that properties have been purchased through the voluntary purchase scheme. A detention basin to offset impacts down near Figtree Oval would be challenging and would not stack up in terms of the cost benefit ratio.

Action: It is proposed that the committee recommend that Council adopt the Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creeks Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2024).

Moved by Cr T Brown

Nil Objections

2.2 Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creeks Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

Public exhibition of the draft Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creeks Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was completed on 16 October 2023. Following the public exhibition, the submissions received from the community were consolidated/reviewed.

An update on the progress of this project was presented by the consultants from Advisian. The presentation outlined:

1. The Project Scope
2. Work Completed to Date
3. Public Exhibition Outcomes

Jean questioned if the reason for James Pearson Park not going ahead was because of the cost factor? Leon advised the benefit in terms of the traffic down stream did not add up economically as there was limited space to detain water and the impacts of this on flooding down stream.

Cr Dorahy noted that the view on page 10, figure 8.3 of the presentation, does highlight flooding, a higher number of properties are flooded in this catchment compared with the Allans Creek catchment. Leon noted he had not looked in detail at the Allans Creek study but noted flooding was relatively broad. Cr J Dorahy asked who looks after the flood warning monitoring and trigger levels and the the implementation of these functions is it the SES or WCC? Leon advised in terms of flood warning it would be BOM warnings, council does have some work under way and systems to place. Ali advised Council has Flood Aware which is a flash flood warning system however these can be precarious and we do not want a system that will warn people of every rainfall event, council is still investigating options – there is not simple solution. Nathan advised Council knows there are other means and measures and at the moment the team are providing You Tube videos for managing safety and the communications team have released these in multiple languages to help with prevention.

Jean advised water flows under James Pearson Park in the privately owned creek – the Williams Street creek between Chalmers and Williams Street - and this takes a lot of water in a big downpour, with the owners expected to keep this clear and clean. In this area of the creek there are huge concrete blocks, would council ever consider helping the owners as a one off to get these out of the creek with their machinery? Nathan advised 60% of water courses are private and therefore we need to be careful as a one off opportunity would normally be as a response to an emergency, without an emergency we could be asked to do on all private land and this is not feasible. Jean advised if council is happy to use the creek as a drainage system then council have a responsibility and conscience to help these property owners as its to councils benefit to remove the concrete blocks. Cr J Dorahy advised he understands the position however potentially there could be an option for council to provide advice on creek improvements.

Cr C Blakey advised College Place has a transient population and therefore there is not alot of knowledge in place for these residents and they are only targeted on an emergency basis. Is there something we can do? Nathan advised we can definately look at this and target locations once the plan is adopted.

Cr J Dorahy asked could Memorial Drive culvert upgrades be widened or expanded, would this be quite costly, would this come under state government as it is a state road? Ali advised this plan would be Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and Andrew advised TfNSW would fund this out of its own funds and not apply for grant money. Andrew advised he had a quick glance at the costing and TfNSW would need to assess to see if it would be financially viable.

Cr C Blakey advised she has heard from residents re McMahan Place as they are concerned with the impact of an environmental basin – Leon advised it was not on this project. Motiur advised this will be covered under Item 2.3 - McMahan Basin.

Action: It is proposed that the committee recommend that Council adopt the Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creeks Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2024).

Moved by Cr T Brown

Nil Objections

2.3 Wollongong City Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

The final draft Wollongong City FRMS&P has been prepared by Council's consultant. An update on the progress of this project was presented by the consultants from GRC Hydro and covered:

1. Previous and current modelling.
2. The status of flood risk management plan measures.
3. An updated floodplain risk management plan.
4. Flood Mitigation.
5. Voluntary house raising and voluntary house purchase.
6. Flood modification measures.
7. Next Steps:
 1. Committee endorses public exhibition.
 2. Finalise report for public exhibition.
 3. Public exhibition and receipt of feedback.
 4. Incorporate feedback and finalise report for council adoption.

Andrew questioned if the road raising exercises had been assessed for what the affects upstream would be? Felix advised yes, I can show the impacts however it does not indicate impacts on properties as there are proposed road raising and culvert upgrades. Andrew questioned is this due to the flat nature of the downstream area? Felix advised, yes and it can get through and as the 3 locations do not have a huge upstream catchment it makes it more achievable.

Jean asked does the area of 1.8km that is very flat where the water slows down have a solution to speed up the water and clear it faster? Felix advised there are several options being looked at however nothing has been decided as yet; vegetation, earthworks in the park; can the water be drained somewhere else were all looked at.

Cr J Dorahy advised at the golf course at the end of Spring Hill Road there was a creek, has it ever been looked at as a more effective solution to have it reinvented than to raise the level of the road? Felix advised it was looked at in the 2015 study and it was a natural low point that would take flow and the constraints were going west to east; there was ecological impact for a large area and there would be a need for ongoing dredging for the required outlet and the cost was noted to be very high.

Cr T Brown asked for the options and if there had been any ball park costings on these options? – Felix advised costs estimates were not provided for three of the options for Spring Hill Road due to being TfNSW infrastructure. Andrew Monk advised cost will be significant and one of the option presents constraints with the railway over-bridge.

Action: It is proposed that the Committee recommend exhibition of the draft plan to the community.

Moved by Cr T Brown

Nil Objections

2.4 Detailed Design of McMahan Basin

Council did a concept design a couple of years ago:

- Stage 1: Data Collection
- Stage 2: Design Development Phase is ongoing

Once this has been finalised Council will seek committee consultation before going out to public consultation (limited to the directly impacted properties in the vicinity of the works)

Cr C Blakey and Stuart Milling raised environmental issues in this area. Motiur has forwarded to consultant to be considered in the report.

2.5 Allans Creek – Debris Control Structure at The Avenue (Figtree Oval) Design

Ali advised Northrope have been engaged and they are on track for delivering the design this financial year, 2023/2024.

Cr C Blakey asked if the potential bridges to connect to Figtree Oval needed to have the flood risk study first and does this now open up options for creek bridges to provide connectivity? Ali advised there is no specific proposal in that area – any proposed bridge will require a flood impact assessment to quantify flood impacts to the surrounding area.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

4 NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be advised.

5 CLOSE MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.34pm

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