



## MINUTES

# FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (NORTHERN AREA)

At 4.00 pm

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

### In Attendance

Councillor R Martin (Chair), A Monk – Transport for NSW, S Milling – Transport for NSW, N McBriarty – Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning (Acting), M Mariner – Transport and Stormwater Manager (Acting), D Green – Land Use Planning Manager, R Dinero – Floodplain Management Engineer, R Smith – Community representative, D Tetley – Catchment Simulation Solutions, G Fewings – Administration Officer



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## 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 Cr M Cox, Cr C Walters, C Robinson, N Pomfret, E Askew, R Piatek, J Byrne, S Raini, A Pollock, Y. Pandika, A. Sevenler

### 1.4 Disclosures of Interests

Nil

### 1.5 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

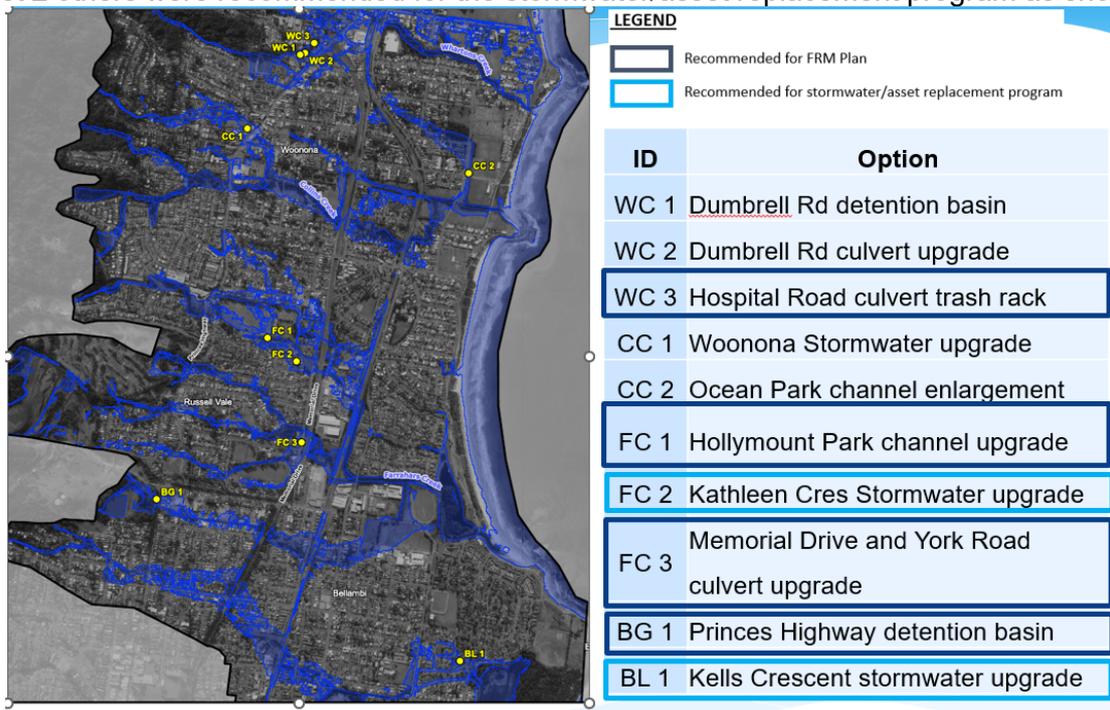
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 May 2023 were accepted. Moved By: Manel Mariner/Seconded By: David Green

## 2 FLOOD MANAGEMENT UPDATE

### 2.1 Collins Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

An update on the progress of this project was presented by David Tetley from Catchment Simulation Solutions (CSS).

Of the 10 Location Specific Options shown, 4 options showed merit and are recommended for the FRM Plan whilst 2 others were recommended for the stormwater/asset replacement program as shown below:



Catchment Wide Options were shown as below:

- Planning Modifications:
  - PM1 – Updates to LEP
  - PM2 – Updates to DCP
- Education:
  - E1 – General community education activities
  - E2 – Focussed education activities.
  - E3 – Make property level flood information available.
- Flood Plans:
  - FP1 – Local flood plan updates
  - FP2 – Preparation of residential flood plans
  - FP3 – Preparation of business flood plans
- Property Modifications:
  - PM1 – Voluntary house raising.
  - PM2 – Voluntary house purchase
- Miscellaneous:
  - M1 – Flood warning system
  - M2 – Vegetation Management Plan
  - M3 – Interim Entrance Management Plan (Collins Ck & Bellambi Lake)

In the above options two houses were for raising and 3 for purchase.

CSS have investigated off the shelf flood warning systems that may be worth investigating further. The systems have a fire stick connected to the mobile phone network which will message emergency services. This could serve as a flood warning system and reduce activity in flood prone area during heavy weather, with some of the systems having the option of a boom gate. The cost of these units around \$4500.





The project has identified costs to council as:

- Location Specific Options:
  - Life cycle cost: ~\$2 million
  - ~\$2 million in reduced flood damage costs
- Catchment Wide Options:
  - Mostly a time commitment: \$250 k
  - Voluntary house raising: \$200 k
  - Voluntary house raising: \$3.6 million. The purchase of properties is a last resort, and this information has been fed into the study.

David advised the Draft Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan has undergone a significant review period as follows:

- Draft FRMS&P report provided for Council & DPE review (August 2023)
- Comments received (October 2023)
- Updated draft report then prepared (November 2023)

David outlined the next steps are:

1. Seeking endorsement from the Committee to exhibit the draft report
2. Public exhibition of the draft report:
  - Public information sessions
3. Review of submissions:
  - Update and finalise report
4. Adoption of the final report by Council

There were no questions following the presentation.

Manel passed on his thanks to David for the presentation and advised he was extremely happy with their work and progress.

**ACTION:** Endorsement was sought for the Draft Collins Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan to go on Public Exhibition early next year.

Moved by Nathan McBriarty/Seconded Stuart Milling.

Nil objections.

## 2.2 Hewitts Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

An update on the progress of this project was to be presented at the meeting by WMAwater. However, a last minute apology was received as the project consultant is overseas and no replacement was organised.

Manel advised Council is experiencing serious performance issues with WMAwater and asked the Committee for guidance on how to proceed with this project. Communication has been very poor with the consultant, with correspondence and contact being minimal or non-existent, with attempts by Council made to contact the consultant via phone and email. Delivery of the final satisfactory report to go to public exhibition is still pending, with only a very preliminary report received to date. He also advised the consultant from WMAwater advised in June 2023; the final delivery would be ready in two weeks. WMAwater committed to delivery by 30 July 2023, nothing further has been heard.

Nathan advised we have made a commitment to deliver this project in 2024 and we have not been able to do this as WMAwater have not been providing the required information. Discussion by the Committee agreed it is important for the project to move along.

Manel asked the committee for guidance in this type of situations, and if the committee will be supportive of Council start exploring all options our current contract with WMAwater provides to ensure the project progresses. Stuart agreed with the idea and added that if WMAwater is not meeting the parameters of the contract then it may be good grounds for moving forward to another option for the project to proceed Stuart added that at times this has to happen, and it is not uncommon for other consultants to peer review another's work.

**ACTION:** Support was sought from the Committee to explore all options that the contract with WMAwater provides in order to obtain the final deliverables, including Termination of Contract if required.

Moved by Manel Mariner

Carried Fully by Councillor Martin, Stuart Milling, Nathan McBriarty, Robert Smith

## 2.3 Towradgi Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

Council advised that Towradgi Creek Floodplain and Risk Management Study and Plan was adopted by Council on 26 June 2023.

## 2.4 Update on Recent Floodplain Risk Management Plan Implementation

An update was provided by WCC for the following projects:

1. Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation - Project stage 1 construction is under way. The east channel excavation works has commenced within Holy Spirit College.
2. Ursula Road Scheme – Detailed Design has commenced and on-track for completion this financial year – TfNSW asked for details on this project as City Trains is to be involved as the rail corridor is to be utilised for a large part of the work. WCC to forward the project contact details to TFNSW.
3. Gordon Hutton Park Debris Control Structure - Construction has been completed.
4. Russell Vale Golf Course Debris Control Structure - Construction has been completed.
5. Albert Street/Memorial Drive Debris Control Structure – awaiting further approvals, detailed design is 95% completed.
6. Brompton Road Debris Control Structure – Construction almost complete.

**ACTION:** Provide project contact details to TFNSW for Ursula Road

## 2.5 Brief Update on LGA wide progress

1. The Mullet Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was adopted by Council on 8 May 2023.
2. The draft Fairy and Cabbage Creek Floodplain and Risk Management Study and Plan was publicly exhibited from 16 September 2023 to 16 October 2023, with a drop-in information session held on 19 September 2023 at Fairy Meadow Community Centre – 110 residents attended.
3. The draft Allans Creek Floodplain and Risk Management Study and Plan was publicly exhibited from 9 September 2023 to 9 October 2023, with a drop-in information session held on 13 September 2023 at Figtree Community Hall (West) - 77 residents attended.

## 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 3.1 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Stuart Milling asked were we still looking closely at how best to manage the changes in IFDs for the Illawarra Region. Stuart asked if Council have settled on a suitable framework for adoption? David from CSS advised there are a lot of local ingredients for analysis therefore they are not applying straight out of the ARR2016/19 but using the principles required, while applying what is more appropriate for the Wollongong LGA.

## 4 NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

## 5 CLOSE MEETING

The meeting closed at 4.36pm

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