

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – NORTHERN AREA



3 May 2023

4PM

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PURPOSE OF MEETING

Under the NSW Government's Floodplain Development Manual (2005), a Floodplain Risk Management Committee is required to assist Councils in the development and implementation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans across their respective Local Government Areas. A Floodplain Risk Management Committee for the Central Area has been formed to oversee this process for the Hewitts Creek, Collins Creek and Towradgi Creek catchments.

MEMBERS

Cr Mithra Cox	Councillor Delegate
Cr Richard Martin	Councillor Delegate
Cr Cameron Walters	Councillor Delegate
Andrew Monk	Transport NSW
Nathan Pomfret	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Stuart Milling	Transport NSW
Graham Towers	Planning NSW
Rodney Whalan	SES Illawarra/South Coast Region
Shaza Raini	Environment NSW
Jen Byrne	Community Representative
Robert Smith	Community Representative
Jeremy Morgan	Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning
Andrew Heaven	Development Engineering Manager
David Green	Land Use Planning Manager

INVITED

Isabelle Ghetti	Transport and Stormwater Services Manager
Manel Mariner	Floodplain + Stormwater Unit Leader
Ray Piatek	Senior Stormwater and Floodplain Design Engineer
Yelia Pandika	Floodplain Management Engineer
Robert Dinaro	Floodplain Management Engineer
Ali Sevenler	Floodplain Management Engineer
Clare Robinson	Emergency Management Officer
Glenda Fewings	Administration Officer (Minutes)
Erin Askew	WMA Water (Consultant)
David Tetley	Catchment Management Solutions (Consultant)

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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 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 Nomination of Chair

Cr Mithra Cox sent an apology, Cr Cameron Walters stood in as Chair.

1.4 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cr Mithra Cox, Cr Richard Martin, Isabelle Ghetti (WCC Transport Asset and Stormwater Manager), Andrew Heaven (WCC Development Engineering Manager), Stuart Milling (Transport for NSW), Graham Towers (Planning NSW).

1.5 Disclosures of Interests

Nil

1.6 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on (3 November 2022)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022 were accepted. Moved Jen Byrne/Seconded Jeremy Morgan.

2 FLOOD MANAGEMENT UPDATE

2.1 Towradgi Creek Flood Study, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

The consultant (WMAwater) provided a summary of the study findings, including key outcomes of the public exhibition and how they have been considered in the final draft Plan.

The committee recommended that Council adopt the Towradgi Creek Flood Study, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2023).

There were no questions posed following the presentation.

Action: Jeremy proposed the committee recommend that Council adopt the Towradgi Creek Flood Study, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2023).

Moved Stuart Milling/Seconded Robert Smith.

Nil objections.

2.2 Hewitt's Creek Flood Study, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

The consultant (WMAwater) provided a summary of the study outcomes to date.

Following recent flooding in the catchment and consultation with local residents, additional potential options were identified for consideration. They are currently looking at a range of options, following community feedback re recent flooding and investigations particularly around Lachlan St where there has been a significant amount of feedback.

Jen raised the following:

1. What is the timing for assessment of the Lachlan Street options. Robert Dinero advised Council estimates within the next 2-3 months assessment of the Lachlan Street options would be completed, following which consultation with the local residents (including Jen) would be undertaken.
2. In terms of new developments in a catchment area, i.e. resident doing modification extension, imagining there are certain planning provisions for stormwater to be maintained, is this part of the assessment/considerations? Erin advised the future development scenario would be looking at hard surfaces and structures within the catchment as used as guidance. Erin could not advise if retaining of stormwater was required, that would need to be answered by council. David Green advised as part of a Development Application (DA) there are requirements for onsite detention and this depends on where you are in the catchment as to what is required, it may be not required for a small addition however chapters E13 and E14 of the Development Control Plan (DCP) sets this out.
3. Are there ways we can modify our homes to be flood resilient? It is hard to get information from trusted sources, is there the ability to promote solutions to residents through these studies? Erin advised the intent of the recommendation will provide help and information to help residents. Jeremy advised the plan will be, suggest for council due to the ever-changing availability of materials that are flood compatible.

Once a draft report has been prepared, this will be presented back to the Committee.

Carried over from the meeting of 3 November 2022, when a draft is ready for exhibition, we will action the minutes of the previous meeting related to this matter, being:

- The reports are to be presented to committee prior to exhibition.
- Cr Martin requested advice be provided to Thirroul Village Committee and Northern Illawarra Residents Action Group as part of the exhibition.
- When an update is available, Lachlan Street residents to be provided with an update by Council officers, prior to the exhibition.

2.3 Collins Creek Flood Study, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

An update on the progress of this project was presented at the meeting by David Tetley from Catchment Simulation Solutions with a focus on what has been completed. The study comprises two stages:

1. Stage 1 – Flood Study using ARR 2019
2. Stage 2 – Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

Stage 1 has been completed with Stage 2 in progress.

Stage 1 identified flooding hot spots, and a flood damages assessment has been carried out as part of Stage 2 (average annual damage bill would be \$6.6million). David advised the LEP and DCP had been reviewed with several recommendations made and the Local Flood Plan had several small updates suggested. In addition, the shelter-in-place/evacuation assessment was completed. David acknowledged flooding across this catchment is very flashy and there is a very high flood risk and potential for damage.

Mitigation options put forward have been grouped into 2 categories:

1. Catchment wide options
2. Location specific options

The initial list of options compiled:

1. Initial list of ~50 options qualitatively assessed.
2. Site visit completed.
3. Top 10 options being assessed in detail.

The next steps:

1. Detailed evaluation of individual options:
 - Hydraulics,
 - Economics,
 - Social and emergency response,
 - Environmental impacts.
2. Assessment of combinations of options.
3. Preparation of draft reports.

Following the presentation Andrew asked was the large list of options available.

Action: David Tetley will forward the options report to Council and Robert Dinero will send to Andrew Monk.

Jen advised she is interested in shelter in place work and wondered if this is looked at beyond the Collins Creek catchment given the quickness of flooding – Jeremy advised in the previous 2 presentations there are 2 measures in place and response measures is one of these which is community and what they have in place in their personal preparations – this may be shelter in place, he advises, having worked at SES, having to get a large scale area evacuated in a flash flood event is challenging and appropriate responses are developed on individual matters.

2.4 Update on Implementation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans

Implementation of recommended engineered measures by the FRMSPs is undertaken under the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

In the absence of the Senior Floodplain and Stormwater Engineer, Ali Sevenler (Floodplain Management Engineer) provided an update on the following projects being actively implemented by Council and that will provide flood mitigations benefits to our community:

- **Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation Scheme** – Funding received through National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program for Stage 1 and 2. Further funding for stage 3 has been sought from NSW Flood Recovery Resilience Grant Program and awaiting an outcome. Tender process is in progress with works expected to start on stage 1 and 2 in the next months. Waiting for further funding with the expectation of stage 2 to progress in next few months – currently in the Tender process.
- **Gordon Hutton Park Debris Control Structure** – Design has been completed and tender awarded for construction.
- **Russell Vale Golf Course Debris Control Structure** – Design has been completed and tender awarded for construction.
- **Albert Street/Memorial Drive Debris Control Structure** – Design in progress and approvals are being sought to finalise. Following this it will go to Tender.
- **Brompton Road Debris Control Structure** – Design has been completed and tender awarded for construction.
- **Ursula Road Scheme** – Flood mitigation works in the vicinity of Ursula Road, Benelong Street and Trinity Row are proposed. The concept design has been completed and detailed design has been commenced in-house. In addition, Council has applied for funding under the Floodplain Management Program 2023 for implementation of the high priority option WC06 i.e., proposed levees at Franklin Avenue, Spinners Way, and Benelong Street.

As importantly, other recommended flood mitigation measures include:

- Raising flood awareness and providing flood information including videos for education which will be released shortly.
- Sharing flood intelligence and information with the SES is to be ongoing.
- Updating our Planning and Development controls related to flooding is ongoing.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Ali introduced Manel Mariner to the Committee. Manel commenced with Council on 17th April 2023 as Floodplain and Stormwater Unit Leader replacing Joel Harris. Ali also advised Isabelle Ghetti was moving to the Environment Planning Manager position and thanked her for her valuable contribution over the years.

Manel passed on thanks from Isabelle, she wanted the committee to know it was a pleasure working with them and thanked the members for their input.

Manel advised he was looking forward to working at Council and improving the LGA.

4 NEXT MEETING

To be advised – depends on when community engagement is to occur with exhibition.

5 CLOSE MEETING

5.07pm