

risk management

To Residents and Businesses Bordering Whartons, Collins and Farrahars Creeks, Bellambi Gully and Bellambi Lake

Wollongong City Council has engaged consultants, Lyall & Associates Consulting Water Engineers, to prepare a Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (FRMS&P) for the combined catchments of Whartons, Collins and Farrahars Creeks, Bellambi Gully, and Bellambi Lake.

Wollongong City Council's Combined Catchments Floodplain Management Committee is overseeing the study. The Committee comprises representatives from the local community, council staff and relevant state agencies, including the State Emergency Services (SES), the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), the Department of Planning (DOP) and the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA). Council and DECC are jointly funding the study.

The first phase of the Study, in which the nature of flooding in the Study Area was assessed, is nearing completion. The resulting draft Flood Study report will be placed on exhibition in 2009 and the community is invited to provide comment on the draft document.

Your input to the process is important as Council needs your assistance in validating the predicted flood behaviour in the Study Area. Once validated, the results of the study will be used by Council to assess future development proposals, as well as inform both existing and future

property owners on the flood liability of their land.

Following the exhibition period, the Consultants will consider the feedback from the exhibition process and embark on the second phase of the study the preparation of the FRMS&P. This will involve an assessment of options which are aimed at reducing the impacts of flooding on existing development and the establishment of a framework to manage flood liable development in accordance with current best floodplain management principles.

The FRMS&P has the objective of reducing the flood risk and minimising the long term impact of flooding on the community, through the assessment and recommendation of flood management measures. These measures could involve a mix of structural works such as levees, flood proofing properties or vegetation management, in combination with planning/development control options and improvements to flood response.

The figure on the back page (draft) shows the indicative extent of flood prone land in the Study Area.

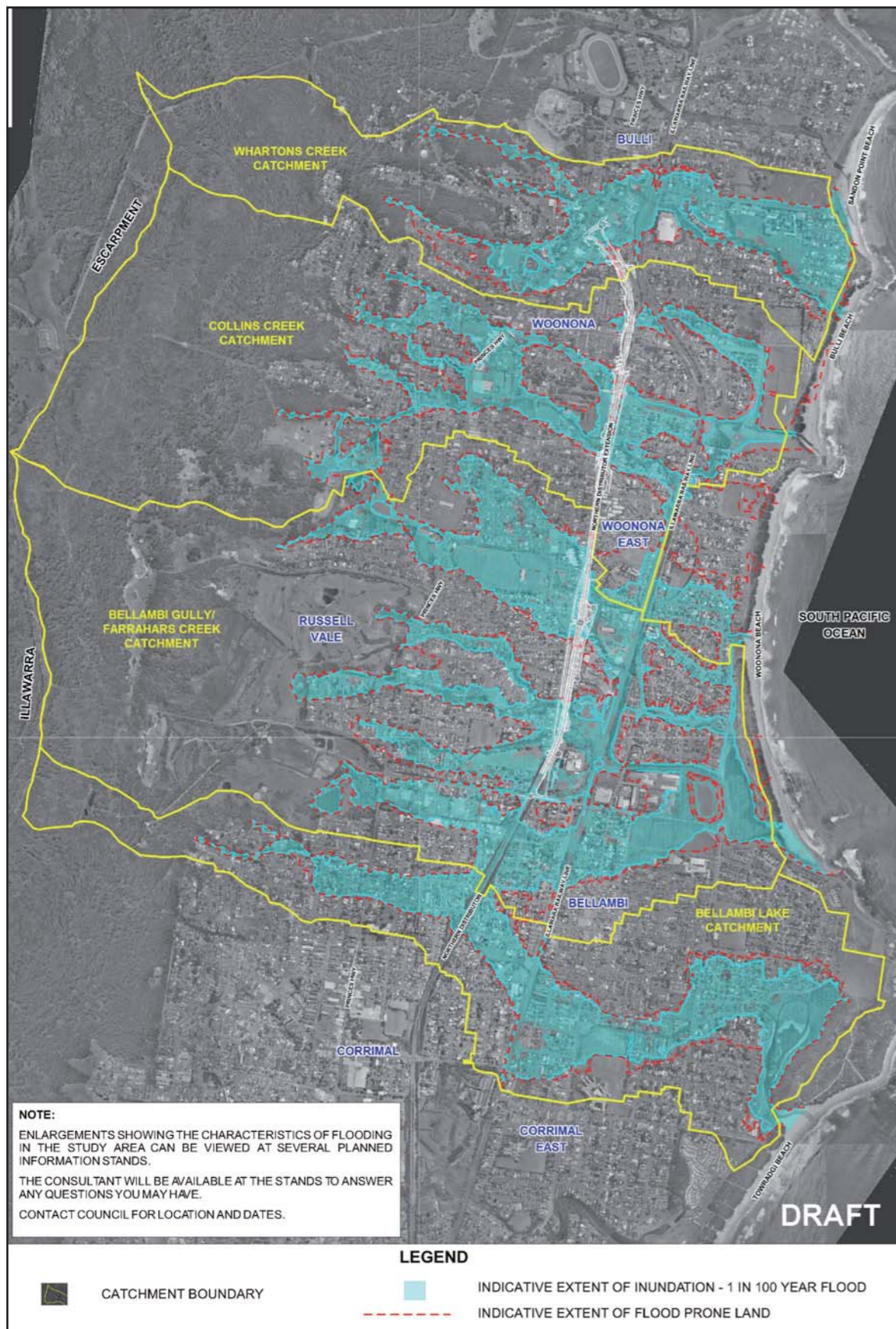
Have Your Say on Floodplain Management

An important first step in the preparation of a FRMS&P is to determine the flood issues which are important to the community. The attached questionnaire has been provided to selected residents and businesses to assist the Consultants in gathering this important information. All information provided will remain confidential and for use in this study only. Please return the completed questionnaire in the reply paid envelope provided by Friday 9 October 2009.

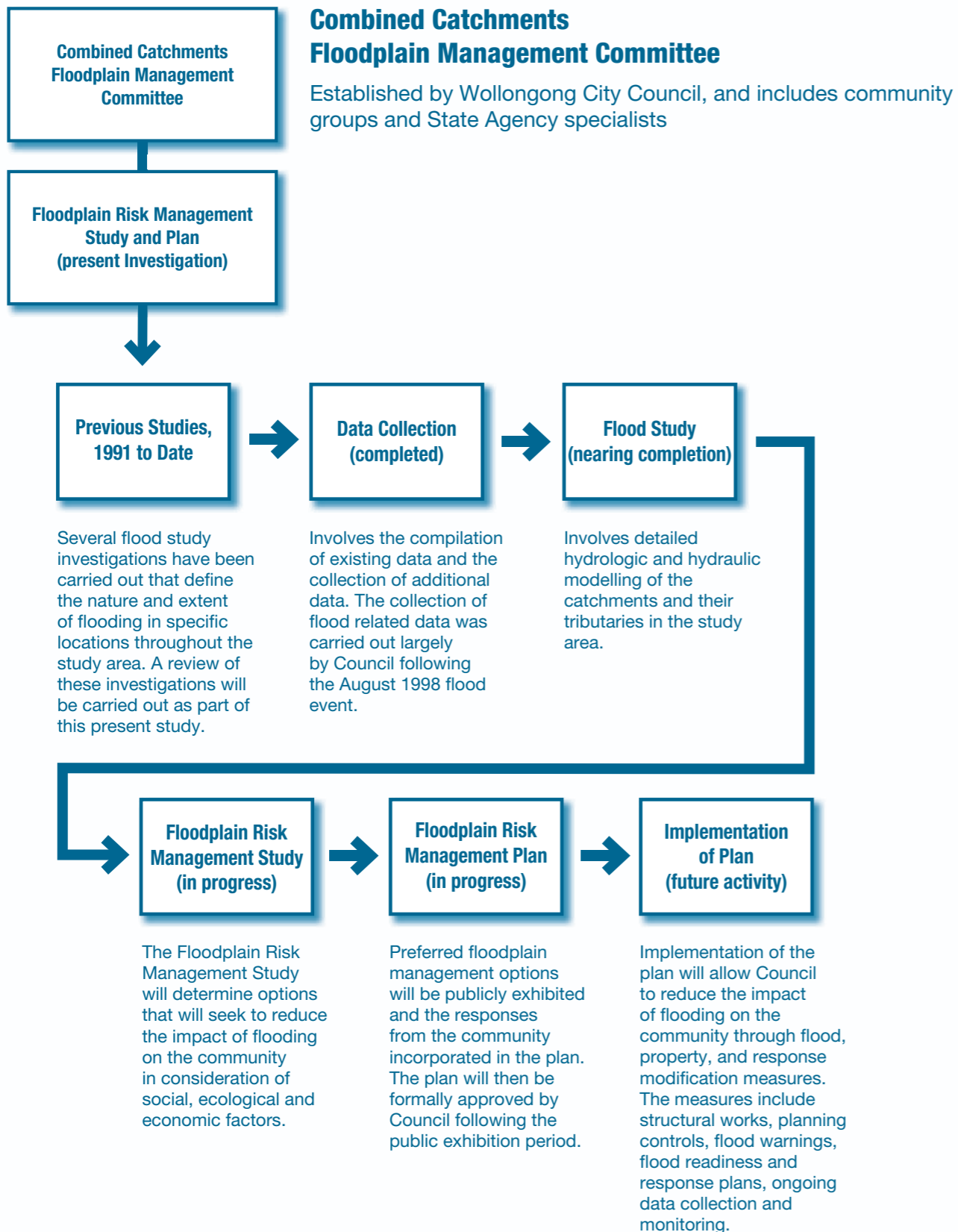
Unmanned public displays will be available from Thursday 27 August 2009 until Wednesday 30 September 2009 at the following locations:

- Central Library, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong
- Corrimal District Library, Short Street, Corrimal
- Thirroul District Library, Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul

Manned public displays will be held at the Bulli Senior Citizens Centre (8 Hospital Road, Bulli) between 7 pm and 9 pm on Thursday 3 September 2009 and Thursday 10 September 2009.



Floodplain Management Process



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a floodplain?

The area of land subject to inundation by floods up to the probable maximum flood event (ie. Flood-prone land).

What are rare and extreme design flood events?

Rare and extreme design flood events are referred to in terms of their chance of occurrence. For example, the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood has a 1% chance (ie. a chance of 1 in 100) of occurring in any one year whilst the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) is the largest flood that could conceivably occur at a particular location.

What is a flood study?

A flood study is a comprehensive technical investigation of flood behaviour. It defines the nature of flood risk by providing information on the extent, level and velocity of floodwaters and on the distribution of flood flows across various sections of the floodplain for the full range of flood events up to and including the PMF.

What is the purpose of the Floodplain Risk Management Study?

The purpose of the management study is to identify, assess and compare various risk management options and consider opportunities for environmental enhancements as part of mitigation works. The management study draws together the results of the flood study and data collection exercises. It provides information and tools to allow strategic assessment of the impacts of management options for existing, future and continuing flood risk on flood behaviour and hazard and includes the social, economic, ecological and cultural issues in addition to an assessment of costs and benefits of options. The study also considers and determines suitable Flood Planning Levels to guide future development.

What are floodplain management options?

The feasible measures to manage or reduce the risk of flooding for a particular area of the floodplain. Options include flood modification, property modification or emergency response modification measures.

Why does flooding occur?

Flooding is a natural process that occurs periodically as a result of rainfall events in a catchment. The effects of flooding in Wollongong (and many other urban areas in New South Wales) are magnified by the proximity of urban development to natural and modified creeks and channels. Floodwaters surcharge the banks of creeks and channels inundating the floodplain which may include urban land including roads, residential, commercial and industrial property.

What is flash flooding?

Flash flooding occurs following intense rainfall with resulting flood levels rising to their peak within a very short duration, i.e. 30 min – 2 hrs. This tends to occur in steep urbanised catchments such as in the Study Area and gives residents very little warning time.

How will mitigation works be prioritised?

The Floodplain Management Committee will prioritise mitigation works and other measures into a Floodplain Risk Management Plan with consideration on economic, social and ecological issues for adoption and then implementation by Council. Council will be able to seek financial assistance to fund the adopted works from various grant programs administered by the State & Federal Government.

More details?

Contact Ms Yelia Perera at Wollongong City Council on (02) 4227 7205 or Mr Scott Button at Lyall & Associates Consulting Water Engineers on (02) 9929 4466.