



MINUTES

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CENTRAL AREA)

at 4.00 pm

Wednesday, 19 July 2023

In Attendance

Cr T Brown (Chair), Cr C Blakey, J Morgan - Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning, N McBriarty - Transport and Stormwater Services Manager (Acting), M Mariner - Floodplain and Stormwater Unit Leader, V Ravindran - Senior Stormwater and Floodplain Design Engineer (Acting), Y Pandika - Floodplain Management Engineer, P Milevski - Floodplain Management Engineer, M Rahman - Floodplain Management Engineer, M Sadik - Floodplain Management Engineer, D Green - Land Use Planning Manager, N Sarakan - Design Officer, J Smyth - Graduate Engineer, G Fewings - Administration Officer, N Pomfret - Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, S Raini - Department of Planning Industry and Environment, R Whalan - SES Illawarra/South Coast Region, O Garratt - Rhelm, E Maratea - Rhelm, L Collins - Advisian, F Taaffe - GRC Hydro, S Milling - Transport for NSW, A Monk - Transport for NSW, J Groves - Neighbourhood Forum Representative, R Summers - Community Representative.



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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

“We pay our respects to and acknowledge the traditional custodians of Dharawal Country, the land on which we meet, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and those emerging. We also extend our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present here today.”

1.3 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cr John Dorahy and Doug Hearne. Cr Tania Brown stood in as Chair.

1.4 Disclosures of Interests

Nil.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 10 November 2022

[Link](#) to previous minutes – The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2022 were accepted by Jeremy Morgan.

2 FLOOD MANAGEMENT UPDATE

2.1 Allans Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

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 Request if endorsed by the Committee - Looking at late August September for Aboriginal communication and adoption followed by Community exhibition before tabling to Council.
4. Flood Study Review, including modelling mapping and results.

Cr Blakey questioned how much does debris impact the flow? Oscar advised significantly, but it is a structure-by-structure case. There is a matrix for modelling blockage, the bigger the culvert the less blockage. Emma advised there is not a perfect way to know what is going to block however council has taken a conservative approach to the previous large scale flooding and levels are based on all culverts.

Cr Brown and Cr Blakey advised they have met with residents who were still open to Voluntary Purchase Scheme (VPS). VPS has not had any new properties added under existing scheme. Jeremy Morgan advised we make contact regularly with VPS properties, we have backed the frequency off as some people felt pestered.

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Action: Endorsement was sought from the committee to exhibit the Draft Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

Stuart Milling requested clarification of the Draft and Oscar advised the finer details are still being decided however it was preferred to have the community view the options that have been reviewed and use this feedback for the plan.

Moved by Jeremy Morgan

Nil Objections.

2.2 Wollongong City Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

An update on the progress of this project was presented by consultants from GRC Hydro.

The presentation outlined:

1. Catchment
2. Key Flooding Locations
3. Flood Risk – Property Damage
4. Flood Risk – Road Flooding
5. Flood Mitigation – Updated Options
6. Next Steps – Meeting to be held with WCC Staff to:
 - assess mitigation options including the planning and response measures.
 - Draft a report to Council including Floodplain and Risk Management Plan.
 - Review and prepare the public exhibition.

There was discussion held around Swan Street and what measures can be taken to sort the issues this area faces with flooding. Jean asked what has been done previously for the area - Felix advised there was a causeway lowered in this area few years ago to allow more flow; he believes there is not a great deal of sediment build up.

Jeremy asked is there any investigation for a new ocean outlet from Swan Street? Felix believes it has been investigated however it is very difficult to justify this type of measure.

Cr Blakey questioned house raising and the significant benefit of doing this versus house acquisition, as it is looking at potentially 14 properties that may benefit from this and asked if there a risk to life (flood level, velocity, risk of death) if raised.

Jean asked what the environmental impact on JJ Kelly Park would be, Jeremy has asked for an update at the next meeting on what the next the issues were for environmental impacts on JJ Kelly Park.

Action: GRC Hydro to provide an update on the issue for environmental impact for JJ Kelly Park.

2.3 Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

An update on the progress of this project was presented by the consultant from Advisian.

The presentation outlined:

1. Study Area
2. Progress - First draft complete – looking for committees' recommendation to forward to public exhibition.
3. Property Affection and Flood Damages
4. Flood Hot spots
5. Land use Planning
6. Emergency Response Planning
7. Preliminary Assessment of Modification Measures
8. Detailed Assessment of Modification Measures
9. Next Steps including the Public Exhibition of the Draft Study and Plan

Jean asked about the options for a detention basin in James Pearson Park and was advised with the design tested it would reduce flooding on Balgownie Road, it would hold flooding back from over the road

however the benefit moving downstream would be negligible and therefore there was no flood level or economic benefits in the 1% ap event. It was found in the area it only flooded above floor level.

Action: Council sought recommendation from the Committee to exhibit the Draft Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

Moved by Jeremy Morgan

Nil Objections.

2.4 SMART Waterways Project

Motiu advised the second phase of this project was in process and the Draft final report has been written and finalising the levels is underway. An update on progress will be provided at the next Committee Meeting.

2.5 Update on Recent Floodplain Risk Management Plan Implementation

1. Fairy Cabbage Tree Creek
2. Allans Creek
1. Vishnu advised Fairy Cabbage Tree Creek – McMahon Street Basin Detailed Design was progressing to detail design and the options were being looked at in more detail.
2. Vishnu advised Allans Creek – Debris Control Structure at The Avenue (Figtree Oval) design is progressing and may be ready for Sydney Water approval in September 2023.

2.6 Brief Update on LGA wide progress

1. Adoption of Mullet Creek Floodplain Risk Management Studies & Plans
2. Adoption of Towradgi Creek Floodplain Risk Management Studies & Plans
1. The Mullet Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was adopted by Council on 8 May 2023.
2. The Towradgi Creek Floodplain and Risk Management Study and Plan was adopted by Council on 26 June 2023.
- Both have been updated by Council and the corporate management system is having this added to the system so as they can be updated and tracked.
- Some actions may be for other agencies and private property owners.
- Some of these plans may have a life of 10 years.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Glenda advised the Committee Jeremy Morgan was leaving Council and his replacement was yet to be advised. Jeremy thanked and acknowledged our community members for their involvement with and knowledge brought to, the Committee.

Glenda introduced Manel Mariner, Floodplain and Stormwater Manager. Manel commenced with Council on 17 April 2023 as Floodplain and Stormwater Unit Leader replacing Joel Harris. Manel advised he was looking forward to his new role, improving the LGA and meeting and working with the Committee.

4 NEXT MEETING

To be advised

5 CLOSE MEETING

5.44pm