

ITEM 21

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JOHN DORAHY - MANAGEMENT OF FLOOD IMPACTS ON WOLLONGONG LGA WATERWAYS

Councillor John Dorahy has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 Council request a combined meeting of all Wollongong floodplain committees early in the new term of Council to receive an update following the April 2024 flood event, with the aim to explore -
 - a Options to lessen the impacts of increasing high volume rainfall events.
 - b Local emergency announcements to improve resident and business evacuation processes.
 - c Early community announcements when high rainfall events are anticipated, to provide residents and businesses with the opportunity to shore up the homes or businesses.
- 2 A Briefing be delivered to Councillors to provide information on –
 - a Council's processes around follow up on customer requests relating to flooding events.
 - b What planning is in place to address the issues causing creek and waterway flooding issues such as vegetation growth and debris accumulation.
 - c Detail on potential management options such as gabion walls, concrete waterway lining and available debris control structures.
- 3 Council consider the impacts on our beaches where the debris has been deposited into the oceans via waterways and stormwater infrastructure and how to the improve the clean-up of beaches after these events.”

Background provided by Councillor John Dorahy:

While we boast about Wollongong being where the mountains meet the sea, this unique topography poses challenges to us all when faced with major rainfall events.

Wollongong City Council has been active in assisting residents and business owners clean up following flooding events. It is evident however, through my conversations within the community, that many residents and business owners in the LGA feel council is not doing enough to lessen the impacts of these events on homes and businesses and community sentiment is that a more proactive approach to mitigating flooding of our waterways is needed.

Council has an obligation to provide more effective controls to improve waterway outages including clearing of fallen trees, shopping trolleys and other debris before major rainfalls occur, causing culverts to block and resulting in nearby homes and businesses being flooded.

As a councillor and Chairperson of the Central Floodplain Committee, I believe it is critical that all floodplain committees receive a combined review and update on the recent high rainfall events which have caused significant damage to homes, businesses, council properties and the lives of our residents. It is incumbent on councillors and Wollongong City Council as an organisation to investigate all options to afford our residents and business owners the confidence in us to ensure Wollongong City Council is looking after their issues and potential challenges for future flooding events.