

MINUTES

FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (NORTHERN AREA)

Wednesday 30 July 2025

In Attendance

MEMBERS

Cr Richard Martin - Chair	Councillor Delegate
Cr Jess Whittaker	Councillor Delegate
Cr Ryan Morris	Councillor Delegate
Shaza Rani	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Stuart Milling	Transport for NSW
Amanda Pollock	SES Illawarra/South Coast Region
Warwick Erwin	Community Representative
Susan Jamason	Community Representative
Nathan McBriarty	Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning (Council)
David Green	Land Use Planning Manager (Council)

INVITED

Manel Mariner	Floodplain and Stormwater Services Manager (Council)
Motiur Rahman	Floodplain Management Engineer (Council)
Yelia Pandika	Floodplain Management Engineer (Council)
Clare Robinson	Emergency Management Officer (Council)
Erin Askew	WMA Water (Consultant)
David Tetley	Catchment Simulation Solutions (Consultant)



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1 STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1.1 Welcome and Introduction

Committee members introduced themselves, including, Councillors, Council staff, community representative and State Government agencies representatives.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

Committee Chair acknowledge the traditional owners of the land.

1.3 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of:

- Andrew Monk (TfNSW)
- Dylan Whitelaw (SES)
- Nathan Pomfret (DCCEEW)
- Ali Sevenler (Council)
- Ray Piatek (Council).

1.4 Disclosures of Interests

No disclosures of interest were raised.

2 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT UPDATES

2.1 Collins Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

David Tetley (CSS) presented the final report for Collins Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, below the key outcomes:

- Key Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan recommendations included structural flood mitigation measures, catchment-wide planning updates, community education programs, property-level flood information updates, and voluntary house raising/purchase schemes.
- Some options were not economically viable but kept for future consideration during asset replacement.
- Public exhibition received 25 written submissions, with additional feedback after a major flood event in 6 April 2024.
- The plan was updated to include new options derived from the community feedback and analysis of the 6 April 2024 flood event.
- Estimated costs: ~\$2M for location-specific works, \$250K for catchment-wide actions, \$3.6M for voluntary house purchase.

Committee voted unanimously to endorse the final Collins Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for Council adoption.

2.2 Hewitts Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

Erin Askew (WMA water) presented the draft report for Hewitts Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, below the key outcomes:

- Four flood mitigation structural options were recommended: levee bank at Hewitts Ave, mine embankment for upstream storage, South Arm diversion, and drainage upgrades along Cliff Parade.
- Vegetation management to be extended on council-owned land.
- Trash rack installations recommended at two high-priority locations.
- Non-structural measures: emergency response improvements, communication facilitation, flood education, and warning systems.
- Property modification measures were proposed, updated flood planning levels, DCP updates, voluntary house raising/purchase schemes (12 additional properties identified), and guidance for resilient building, were also recommended.

Committee voted unanimously to endorse the draft Hewitts Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for public exhibition.

2.3 Ursula Road Flood Mitigation Scheme – Project Updates

Council informed this project is at late design-stage.

2.4 Otford Causeway Safety Improvements – Project Updates

Council is currently investigating options to improve safety during storm events in this spot.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

- Discussion on the importance of ongoing community education, flood preparedness workshops, and the need for better communication and notification systems, especially for new residents. Clare Robinson (Council) described SES-led flood preparation workshops and Council's efforts to improve outreach.
- Council staff provided clarification regarding the frequency of the Committee meetings. Meetings will be held as required, aligning meetings with key project milestones.
- Council staff thanked David Tetley (CSS), in his last committee meeting, for his excellent and precise work in Collins Creek FRMSP.

3.1 Action Items Raised in the Meeting

- *Insurance Premium Advocacy:* Council to investigate how Council can engage with insurance companies to reassess flood risk and potentially reduce premiums after mitigation measures are implemented and ensure consistency across all catchments.
- *Asset Ownership Clarification:* Council to clarify ownership and maintenance responsibility for the culvert under Memorial Drive and York Street, as raised by a resident's concern.
- *Otford Causeway Safety Improvements:* Council committed to deliver causeway safety improvements (signage, sensors, or other measures) for flood-prone roads within the current financial year.
- *Community Education:* Council and SES to continue and expand flood preparedness workshops and community education, especially targeting new residents and high-risk areas.
- *Let's Talk Sessions:* Council to notify the affected residents about upcoming public exhibition (online and Let's Talk face to face sessions), sending letters to all affected properties (owners and residents).
- *Final Collins Creek FRMSP Council Adoption:* Council to proceed with adoption of the Collins Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, following committee endorsement.
- *Draft Hewitts Creek FRMSP Public Exhibition:* Council to start public exhibition of the Draft Hewitts Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, following committee endorsement.

4 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held as required.

5 CLOSE MEETING

The meeting closed at 17:00.