

MEETING AGENDA/MINUTES

Meeting Floodplain Advisory Panel Meeting

Team Name:

Date: 27th November 2017

Time: 9:30am

Venue: Port Stephens Council

Chairperson: Sam Tyter

Minutes: Jye Estatheo

Purpose of Meeting: Discuss Anna Bay & Tilligerry Creek Flood Study, Williamtown-Salt Ash Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan and Port Stephens Council Flooding updates

Attendance

Lih Chong – Jacobs	Richard Murphy – OEH	John Simpson – HWC	Thomas Jory – SES	Joan Frost – Community Rep
Monty Bull – Community Rep	Paul Le Mottee - Councillor	Giacomo Arnott - Councillor	Andrew Behrens - PSC	Cameron Donaldson – PSC
Sam Tyter - PSC	Michael Osborne - PSC	Jye Estatheo - PSC		

Apologies

John Rapson – Community Rep	Jake Bush – Community Rep			
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Item	Topic/Minutes	Responsible Officer
1.0	Welcome to the Group	Chair
	<p>Chair welcomed group to the Floodplain Advisory Panel Meeting. This meeting was called primarily to discuss the recently completed Anna Bay and Tilligery Creek Flood Study Report and the Williamtown Salt Ash Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan. The meeting also provided an opportunity to update the Panel on PSC flooding progress. The elected Panel consisted of Councillors, Council Officers, State Officials and elected community members. A number of apologies were made on the day due to alternative commitments.</p>	
2.0	Port Stephens Council Flooding Unit Update	Andrew Behrens
	<p>Council provided updates on recent advances in floodplain management undertaken by the Council. The following updates were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paterson River Flood Study: Maitland City Council adopted the flood study earlier this year. The flood study has used up-to-date data and is more detailed and comprehensive than the previous study resulting in generally lower flood levels and a reduction in flood hazard categories in some areas covering PSC LGA. The study will be uploaded to our website and available for use. Now that Council has the GIS flood study data we are in a position to process it. Once the data is processed PSCs Flood Hazard Maps will be updated to reflect the outcomes of the study. • Shoal Bay Drainage Study: Bullecourt St drainage improvements have been implemented as advised through the Shoal Bay Drainage Study. Localised drainage improvements have been constructed in Rigney St and Horace St over the last few months. Further drainage system hydraulic improvements have commenced this month in Horace St. These drainage improvements will mitigate the impact and severity of flooding in the area. Council are looking into further works in the area as outlined within the Study such as drainage system improvements along Tomaree Road coupled with roadworks. • Overland Flow Study: The overflow flow study has been completed with the consultant reviewing the data. The information obtained will enable Council to identify overland flowpaths, extend the coverage of existing detailed modelling, and to identify other areas of sufficient flood severity to warrant a more detailed, standard flood study. Once this is finalised and the data has been processed Council will be able to update the Flood Hazard Maps to reflect the outcomes of the Study. • Medowie Voluntary Purchasing: Council believes its 'Medowie Voluntary Purchasing' grant application of a property in Ballot Close was unsuccessful on the first round offers. There is the possibility of the second round offers however this project is unlikely to proceed without external funding. • Flood Emergency Management tool: Council has engaged a consultant to develop a real-time flood forecasting system for the Hunter, Williams and Paterson River catchments. The system will be an Emergency Management Tool assisting Council and other agencies in decision-making during emergency management events by prediction areas of flood affection and peak flood levels. 	

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3.0	Panel Discussion	Committee
	<p>A question was posed to SES: Was the forced evacuation of the Raymond Terrace Junction Hotel in January 2016 the catalyst for SES in revising their warning products? SES responded that the turnover of staff was the main driver, and the shift towards informing the community about flood behaviour. This approach will allow SES to have an adaptive flood evacuation procedure with community engagement.</p> <p>A question was posed to Council: What effect or influence would the Williamstown/Salt Ash Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan have on the Williamstown Investigation Zone and the PFAS issue and vice versa? It was also asked if this study facilitated the aerospace development planned at the airport to move forward after being stagnant for some time. Council explained that the Department of Defence are currently undertaking a study assessing the soil, surface water, sediment and ground water at and in the vicinity of the Williamstown Investigation Zone. The Williamstown / Salt Ash Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan is a purely an engineering study and does not take into account the impacts of the contamination issue faced at Williamstown. Council clarified that strategic planning are currently working on identified drainage issues including potentially re-opening of Dawson's Drain to Fullerton Cove. Note that this will be reliant on the findings of Defence's Drainage study for the area. The completed Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan will provide flooding information to guide strategic planning to adequately assess the proposed development from a flooding perspective.</p> <p>An issue was identified by the Anna Bay Drainage Union representative regarding the lack of easements for drainage along Main Drain. The representative stated it had a letter (tabled) from the Minister for Natural Resources dated 29 April 1993 that under the Drainage Act 1939, the Union has the power to refuse acceptance of any additional stormwater from outside the Union boundary. The representative looked forward to new floodgates would be installed and appropriate consultation would be undertaken pending any potential implementation of future drainage options.</p> <p>Concern was raised about the flood levels indicated in the Anna Bay & Tilligerry Creek Flood Study in certain areas, questioning the validity of the results from residents residing in the area since the 1800s. It was requested that historical drainage channel outlets including the McKinley Swamp and the Boat Harbour outlet be assessed as a potential drainage solution to localised flooding.</p> <p>Council stressed that the purpose of the Anna Bay & Tilligerry Creek Flood Study was to gain an understanding of the flooding behaviour in the study area. The report clearly indicates that the mitigation options put forward have been included for preliminary analysis only and will not be implemented without further investigation. Council advised that potential drainage mitigation options were investigated for engineering feasibility and any derived option would be further assessed in a thorough manner in the next stage of the floodplain risk management process. Council will apply in March 2018 for a grant to OEH for this next stage.</p>	

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	<p>The Anna Bay & Tilligerry Creek Flood Study report recommends Council consider reducing the freeboard for overland flow. Council has taken this recommendation on board and will be submitting a Report to Council to revise the Floodplain Risk Management Policy appropriately. OEH supported the change in policy. Council's current policy applies a standard 500mm freeboard to all flooding levels for the purposes of setting flood planning levels. The proposed revision would see a 300mm freeboard apply to areas of overland flow with the 500mm freeboard remaining for all other flooding areas. The Floodplain Advisory Panel support Council officers submitting a report to Council to seek the revised Policy to go on public exhibition for comment.</p>	
4.0	Agency Updates	OEH/SES/HWC
	<p><u>State Emergency Services (SES)</u> SES are currently undertaking an internal restructure with emphasis on more local government area (LGA) representation and division of key roles. Internal Hunter restructuring into 9 LGAs with division of key roles. PSC LGA consists of two units, Tomaree Peninsula & Raymond Terrace, with a unit controller at each. A larger restructure also carried out across the NSW State looking to expand LGA's. SES is also carrying out a revision of its early warning products at a state-level. In the past SES have issued warning and evacuation orders, the shift now is to place more onus on the residents to make low-risk decisions by providing updated context / clear instructions on flooding through improved products such as emergency alerts and social media. Tactical planning is a constant refinement process to identify what individual teams on the ground will do during times of flood.</p> <p><u>Hunter Water Corporation (HWC)</u> HWC advised that its primary interest with respect to flooding is in Medowie, especially stormwater management options from Medowie to Campvale Drain Inundation Area (CDIA). HWC is also interested in planning options for Medowie with respect to the CDIA and the risks associated with pumping raw water from an urbanised catchment into Grahamstown Dam (a drinking water dam). HWC also advised that new culverts will be installed under Grahamstown Rd by the completion of next calendar year.</p> <p><u>Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)</u> OEH advised that 57 Coastal and Floodplain grants were successful have recently been awarded. OEH will clarify as to whether Council's application for the Voluntary House Purchase at Medowie was successful. The next round of grants will occur in March 2018. OEH recommended Council reapply for the Williams River Flood Study during this time.</p> <p>OEH indicated details of the recently established SES data portal. The data portal will act as a central repository for all flood data / knowledge for the NSW State by securing flood studies. A number of Councils have applied for access to the portal.</p>	

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	<p>OEH encourages Port Stephens Council and other Councils to apply for access to the data portal. OEH also encouraged Council to think about implementing a policy for cumulative filling of flood storage areas, and also a policy on shelter in place and its stance towards new development. OEH are currently reviewing the Flood Impact Mitigation Scheme, re-writing the Floodplain Development Manual and developing guidance for Australian Rainfall & Runoff 2016.</p>	
5.0	<p>Williamtown / Salt Ash Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan</p>	<p>Michael Osborne</p>
	<p>An overview of the Williamtown / Salt Ash Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was provided to the Panel. The Management Plan indicates no major physical works are proposed over the next two decades. The proposed actions can be summarised into three approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Modification Measures, including the investigation of a consistent flood immunity for roads based on the adopted road hierarchy. • Property Modification Measures, including using the latest flood levels and controls as part of Land Use Planning and Development Controls. • Response Modification Measures, including the implementation of Flood Warning Arrangements. <p>The Panel agreed that pursuing the implementation of a flood emergency management tool would be a logical and beneficial next step for both Council and residents. Council have already engaged a consultant with works expected to be completed in the coming months. (See above in PSC flooding updates)</p> <p>The Panel supported the motion to submit a Council Report that sought adoption of the Williamtown / Salt Ash Floodplain Risk Management Study by Council.</p>	

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6.0	Anna Bay & Tilligerry Creek Flood Study	Jacobs
	<p>Council's flooding consultant, Jacobs, provided an overview of the Anna Bay & Tilligerry Creek Flood Study. The draft Flood Study had completed the Public Exhibition Process stage and comments received from all stakeholders had been collated in the Report. The key themes from the public submissions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to Blanch St low point mitigation option, • Concern about mitigation options putting more water into Moors Drain and its minor drains, • Increase capacity for Moors Drain & floodgates capacity required. <p>Jacobs provided the following summary responses to the public submissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise / augment the assessed mitigation options, • Consider extended list of mitigation options, • Consider benefits and cost/impacts of mitigation options, • Consider views of community on prioritisation of mitigation options, • Mitigation options will be investigated during the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan <p>Jacobs stated that the aim was to complete the Flood Study by the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>The Panel supported the motion to submit a Council Report that sought adoption of the Anna Bay and Tilligerry Creek Flood Study (once finalised) by Council.</p>	
7.0	Close	Chair
	Next meeting of the Floodplain Advisory Panel to be held in March 2018.	

MEETING CLOSED AT 12:00 Midday

NEXT MEETING

Date: March 2018 **Time:** TBA **Venue:** TBA

MEETING CODE OF COOPERATION

We start on time and finish on time.

We all participate and contribute – everyone is given opportunity to voice their opinions.

We use improvement tools that enhance meeting efficiency and effectiveness.

We actively listen to what others have to say, seeking first to understand then to be understood.

We follow up on the actions we are assigned responsibility for and complete them on time.

We give and receive open and honest feedback in a constructive manner.

We use data to make decisions (whenever possible).

We strive to continually improve our meeting process and build time into each agenda for reflection.

We will promote best practice, keeping open minds, combining our experiences and shared learnings to inform our deliberations.