

# Meeting notes

## Floodplain Management Advisory Committee

Date	23/07/2021	Time	09:30 am
Venue	MCC Yalawanyi Ganya – 2 Biripi Way Taree	Note-taker	Peter Hatton
Present	Scott Nicholson (MCC – Acting Chair) Evan Vale (MCC) Peter Hatton (MCC) Richard Pamplin (MCC) Janine Friedrich (MCC) Michael Millang (MCC) Peter Neal (Community Rep) Eric Saville (Community Rep) Ken Billings (Community Rep) Maria Fraser (SES)  Zoom (online) attendees – Cr. Karen Hutchinson (Deputy Chair) Matthieu Glatz (MHL) Tony Day (SES) Richard Murphy (DPIE) Oleg Makarynskyy (MCC) Jacqui Hannan (BMT)		
Apologies	Cr. Peter Epov (Chair) Rhett Pattison (MCC) Greg Crisp (Community Rep)		

## Meeting items

Item	Key points/actions
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>Meeting opened at 0932.</p> <p>Scott Nicholson welcomed all attendees and explained that in the absence of either the Chair or the Deputy Chair the Terms of Reference allow the meeting to be chaired by an alternate member. Cr. Hutchison via Zoom approved for Scott to chair the meeting.</p> <p>Scott accepted and then opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Floodplain Management Program Update</b></p>	<p>Evan Vale (MCC)</p> <p>Current activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gloucester and Avon Rivers FRMS&amp;P (refer BMT presentation content)</li> <li>• Port Stephens Foreshore FRMS&amp;P (refer BMT presentation content)</li> <li>• Racecourse Creek Old Bar (Paused – assessing and reviewing public consultation feedback)</li> <li>• Upper Myall (Bulahdelah) (refer MHL presentation content)</li> <li>• Town Creek (Nabiac) Flood Remediation Works (design complete and planning for construction to commence 2021 prior to Christmas.</li> <li>• Remote Area Flood Extents (draft modelling received and undergoing internal review).</li> </ul> <p>Future activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Street / Pulteney Street Taree flooding improvements – investigation into options to improve flooding/stormwater mitigation in this area.</li> <li>• Croakers Creek Oxley Island flood gate augmentation – works to improve flood mitigation in area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Previous Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<p>Accepted: Peter Neale</p> <p>Seconded: Richard Pamplin</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> March Flood Debrief Summary</b></p>	<p>Evan Vale (MCC)</p> <p>Widespread flooding was recorded across the Mid North Coast region of NSW with particularly severe flooding in our LGA with main impact in the Manning River and Myall River catchments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evacuation orders were issued and carried out for several areas.</li> <li>• Farquhar inlet notch created Friday 19<sup>th</sup> allowing river flow to breach berm and lower inland water levels.</li> <li>• Major flooding experienced at Gloucester, Wingham and Taree.</li> </ul> <p>Manning Catchment –</p>

- Very high rainfall totals across the entire catchment.
- Gloucester township peaked at 6.4m (highest on record) with main impact in CBD area.
- Mount George peaked at 13.35m (highest since 1978).
- Wingham peaked at 14.37m (highest since 1978).
- Taree peaked at 5.65m (highest since 1929) at 2:00 pm 20/03/2021. (correlates closely to the 1978 flood levels in many Taree township areas).
- Croki peaked at 2.97m (Minor BOM classification only).
- Harrington Entrance peaked at 1.31m (Harrington Swamp area at township peaked at 1.97m).
- Farquhar Park peaked at 2.42.
- Damage estimates to council road infrastructure above \$ 20 million.
- Damage estimates to other council assets approx. \$20 million.
- Multiple landslip sites.

Member Comments:

Evan V – The graphing and assessments by Oleg Makarynskyy (MCC) have been a great resource and extremely helpful in assessing and understanding flood behaviour and entrance efficiency in the event. Oleg is a great asset to his team.

Ken B – the sand island opposite Manning Point that was lost in the flood has now reappeared. Harrington Lagoon waterbody showing signs of drainage issues that are of concern and need attention. Would be very costly to maintain openings at both Harrington and Farquhar.

Peter N – Evidence that many parts of the river were scoured in the event with wharf structures that were previously covered are now visible

Myall Catchment –

- High rainfall totals across the entire catchment.
- Bulahdelah peaked at 4.22m (highest since the automated gauge was installed in 1985)
- Myall Lakes was “pumped up” (600mm higher than the 1% AEP) and water levels remained high for many weeks. The high Lake levels kept water levels in Bulahdelah village high for days and water levels at Nerong and Bombah Point areas high for weeks.
- Nerong village suffered severe flooding which isolated the eastern area of the village for a number of days.
- Tidal influence in the Tea Gardens / Hawks Nest water levels remained evident throughout the event.
- Bombah Point experienced flooding in exceedance of a 1% AEP event.

Member Comments:

Eric S – The unapproved works that the Caravan Park have done are severely influencing localised flooding in the town and “something has to be done”. Minor rainfall events are now having an effect on properties. Suggested that 80% of Bulahdelah’s overland flood water exits via this drainage area. (Evan response – agreed that 80% of Bulahdelah’s

	<p>stormwater passes through the Caravan Park and they will be ordered to remove their unapproved crossing structure).</p> <p>Cr Hutchinson - Local residents are concerned with the impact on flooding caused by the large amount of Sheoaks in Barnes Creek, (Evan comment – such concerns can be reported to Councils Customer Service team for actioning).</p> <p>Evan V – Rain and water level gauges in the Karuah River system near Stroud need reviewing to assist with the impact of flooding in the Stroud village.</p> <p>Wallis Catchment –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuncurry peaked at 1.01m with little effect on overland flooding inundation.</li> <li>• Tidal influence in the Wallis Lake at Forster/Tuncurry remained evident throughout the event resulting in Minor flooding only.</li> <li>• Nabiac experienced (5% AEP) flooding.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Review Upper Myall (Bulahdelah) FRMSP</b></p>	<p>Matthieu Glatz (MHL)</p> <p>Matthieu gave an informative and detailed presentation to the committee with the main points since his last presentation update being –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hydrologic model has been updated to include the March 2021 event.</li> <li>• Terrain surface used has been updated with the recent changes to ground surface levels of the new caravan park works.</li> <li>• Extensive model calibration now includes data from the recent March event. Other calibrated events used include the March 2013 and April 2015 floods.</li> <li>• The study included the capture of AHD floor level heights of 564 dwellings.</li> <li>• Hydraulic Categorisation data included in model outputs.</li> <li>• Refer attached presentation for full details.</li> </ul> <p>Member comments –</p> <p>The Chair thanked Matthieu for his very comprehensive and informative presentation.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Post Flood review</b></p>	<p>Evan Vale (MCC) - refer attached presentation for full details</p> <p>Evan tabled a list of Community Expectations that should be met in response to and during management of a flood event.</p> <p>Feedback from various channels suggests many of these expectations were not met.</p> <p>Member Comments:</p>

	<p>Peter N – He was watching BOM gauge readings from Mount George downstream and expected flooding of the magnitude received. (There was a loss of gauge readings due to loss of communication services). Peter asked whether new arrangements can be put in place for local property owners in upstream areas to pass on manual gauge readings to the SES to provide uninterrupted gauge level information in such events. The awareness of upstream water levels is essential for predicting downstream flooding effect and aids in planning response actions. (Tony Day response – no current arrangements in place as many of the property owners that provided this service in the past have “moved on” and/or no longer reside on the properties). Peter also commented that in this event, as in past events, telephoned upstream contacts who passed on their situational awareness reports suggesting that a large flood event was “coming” and this information prompted his actions on his property including the moving of stock to higher ground.</p> <p>Ken B – Raised concerns that Harrington population has a very high percentage of over 55’s and with only one access route to the village additional support for the village should be considered.</p> <p>Evan V – Council were monitoring the weather situation for many days leading up to the event and as a consequence made the decision to open Farquhar on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> being when he believed there was enough water head in the river to maintain the opening and assist in reducing the river level. Council has had post event discussion with the BOM and MHL in regards to working together in future events to provide better and more accurate situational awareness of area flooding.</p> <p>Peter H – This event also had a large coastal influence with over 400mm of rainfall falling in the coastal areas which increased downstream levels resulting from upstream flooding.</p> <p>Tony D – Mentioned the impact of the Freeway closure due to flooding had on response abilities during the event.</p> <p>Scott N – The Martin Bridge closure due to the need for TfNSW post flood clearance of structural adequacy also impacted access to Taree. At times Wingham, Taree, Cundletown were all isolated from each other.</p> <p><b>Action</b> : A new Brief will be issued to Committee Members seeking approval for an approach to council to carry out an independent Post Event Analysis Report.</p>
<p>7</p> <p><b>Port Stephens FRMS&amp;P</b></p>	<p>Jacqui Hannan (BMT)</p> <p>Jacqui gave a brief update on progress of the Study.</p> <p>With no comments or questions from the floor the following recommendation was tabled.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> The Port Stephens FRMS&amp;P be forwarded to Council for approval and adoption</p> <p>Accepted – Peter Neale</p>

	<p>Seconded – Richard Pamplin</p> <p>The Chair thanked Jacqui for her presentation and work on the FRMS&amp;P.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Gloucester FRMS&amp;P</b></p>	<p>Jacqui Hannan (BMT)</p> <p>Jacqui gave a brief update on progress of the Study.</p> <p>With no comments or questions from the floor the following recommendation was tabled.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation:</u></b> The Gloucester FRMS&amp;P be forwarded to Council for approval and adoption</p> <p>Accepted – Peter Neale</p> <p>Seconded – Richard Pamplin</p> <p>The Chair thanked Jacqui for her presentation and work on the FRMS&amp;P.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>General Business</b></p>	<p>Peter Neale – Raised concerns on who decides on where the dredged spoil sand from the Farquhar dredging activity is deposited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evan response – The coastal, flooding and drainage section share these concerns and have requested clarification from the Natural Systems section who are undertaking the dredging.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Action:</i></b> Evan to follow up with Council’s Natural Systems section and report back at next meeting.</p> <p>Eric Saville – Ongoing concerns with the current state of the drainage channel at the end of Prince Street Bulahdelah. Suggested that a formalised flood drainage path be created and maintained to alleviate the impact of future flooding events. The current condition of the channel is increasing the effects of flooding upstream of the channel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evan response – I have spoken to Council’s Works Engineer for the area and Council plans to have a walk through when conditions dry out as the area is currently inaccessible.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Action:</i></b> Evan to investigate and report back at next meeting.</p> <p>Evan – Council has been approached by the owner of Lots 51 – 55 Stroud Street Bulahdelah seeking interest from Council in purchasing these severely flood prone land parcels.</p> <p>Janine Friedrich (<a href="mailto:janine.friedrich@misdcoast.nsw.gov.au">janine.friedrich@misdcoast.nsw.gov.au</a>) – Janine introduced herself and outlined her role responsibilities as councils Community Recovery Officer and work carried out so far in this important role. Janine asked everyone to “reach out” to her if they are aware of anyone or any community that requires assistance.</p> <p>Richard Pamplin – Richard wished to convey his support of Cr Epov and Cr Hutchinson’s acknowledgements and thanks to the Committee members for their valued work during the term of the Committee.</p>

	With no further General Business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:39.
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### Next meeting

Date	TBA	Time	9:30 am
Venue	MCC Administration and Customer Service Centre Yalawanyi Ganya Taree.	Note-taker	Peter Hatton