

# Meeting notes

## Floodplain Management Advisory Committee

Date	07/08/2020	Time	09:33 am
Venue	Forster Office Chambers – Breese Parade Forster	Note-taker	Peter Hatton
Present	Cr. Peter Epov (Chair) Evan Vale (MCC) Scott Nicholson(MCC) Greg Crisp (Community Rep) Eric Saville (Community Rep) Andrew Staniland (MCC) Richard Pamplin (MCC) Peter Hatton (MCC)  Zoom (online) attendees – Richard Murphy (DPIE) Stephanie Lyons (BMT) Chris Thomas (Advisian) Maria Frazer (SES)		
Apologies	Cr. Karen Hutchinson (Deputy Chair) Michael Stubbs (SES) Lloyd (Robert) Gill (Community Rep) Jane Cowan (Community Rep) Lesley Woods (Community Rep) Kenneth Billings (Community Rep) Peter Neal (Community Rep) Tony Day (SES) Jennifer Granger (Community Rep) Garry Woodward (Community Rep) Janet Troope (Community Rep) Rhett Pattison (MCC)		

## Meeting items

Item	Key points/actions
<p>1</p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>Meeting opened at 0931.</p> <p>Committee Chair welcomed all attendees and opened meeting. The Chair introduced and welcomed Mr Eric Saville and formally thanked and accepted Mr Saville as a new community representative committee member representing the Bulahdelah area.</p>
<p>2</p> <p><b>Floodplain Management Program Update</b></p>	<p>Evan Vale (MCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evan highlighted that the flood event of Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February peaked at less than a 20% AEP event apart from the Cedar Party Creek / Gorman Creek area where the flood surface height exceeded the 1% AEP. The MHL flood gauge equipment was overtopped and repairs including raising the equipment height are yet to be completed.</li> <li>• Evan mentioned the flood studies and plans currently underway as well as the addition of the review of the Bulahdelah FRMSP.</li> <li>• Two new Floodplain Management Grant applications submitted – Nabiac Town Creek Flooding and Watercourse Rehabilitation Detailed Design and Stage 1 Construction as well as the Wallis Lake-Wallamba River FRMSP. Evan mentioned that the announcement of whether these funding applications are successful should be known early November.</li> <li>• Proposed next meeting date – after discussion between members the chair recommended that the next meeting date be set for mid-November to suit funding announcements.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair suggested that we aim for all studies to be completed by September 2021.</p>
<p>3</p> <p><b>Manning River FRMSP Update</b></p>	<p>Stephanie Lyons (BMT)</p> <p>Stephanie gave an informative and detailed presentation to the committee with the main points being –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood Study completed by BMT in 2016 and adopted by Council in 2017.</li> <li>• Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan public exhibition and community information session in February / March 2020 resulted in minor community response and feedback which resulted in minor additions to the Plan.</li> <li>• Floodplain Management options include – Various Levee options with varying CBR values, nominated Road upgrades, On-going flood gate maintenance and Entrance management.</li> <li>• The independent LEP/DCP review recommended updating and reviewing Councils LEP and DCP and recommended a “matrix” approach be used with differing options depending on area involved.</li> <li>• Review and update Council mapping including Flood Hydraulic Category mapping produced in this work.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and review of Local Flood Plans.</li> <li>• Floodplain Risk Management Study now finalised and ready to be placed on public exhibition and community information session.</li> </ul> <p>Member comments –</p> <p>Richard P – Taree CBD levy option would require a Heritage Feasibility Study (suggested cost \$25,000) if this option was to be pursued.</p> <p>Evan V – Raised that he had identified inconsistencies and errors with the Harrington flood gauge datum and advised he is consulting with the SES and the BOM to have the matter rectified.</p> <p>Maria F – advised she has been asked by Tony day to be part of the above discussion.</p> <p>The Chair - suggested that the members of the FMAC be recognised in the reports overseen by the committee.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Stephanie for her presentation and endorsed that the committee recommend that Council adopt the Manning River Floodplain Risk Management plan with the inclusion of Richard Pamplin's identified Heritage Feasibility Study costing and the addition of the FMAC membership to the document.</p> <p>The committee supported the Chairs recommendation.</p> <p>Refer attached BMT presentation for more detail.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Port Stephens Foreshore FRMSP Review</b></p>	<p>Stephanie Lyons (BMT)</p> <p>Stephanie gave an address to members on progress of the Review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study area from Karuah village east to the coastline</li> <li>• Review of existing 2002 WMAwater FMSP which included design flood levels for both still water and wave run-up scenarios.</li> <li>• Includes 2010 WMAwater Climate Change Review. This study included the most current flood level information and sea level rise (SLR) increases of 0.55m (2050) and 0.91m (2100) were used.</li> <li>• The study found that future SLR projections could be directly applied to both present day still water and wave run-up levels.</li> <li>• Key outputs include high quality spatial rich mapping (Hazard mapping based upon depth only as velocity was difficult without flow), property inundation and flood damages assessment as well as independent review of existing Planning Provisions.</li> <li>• This work was essentially a mapping process only.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Stephanie for her presentation and endorsed that the committee recommend that Council place the Port Stephens Foreshore FRMSP Review on Pubic Exhibition. The Chair also requested that community groups within the study review area be targeted to provide comment on the Review and also recommended that Committee members comment on the Review during the exhibition period.</p> <p>The committee supported the Chairs recommendation.</p>

	Refer attached BMT presentation for more detail.
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Karuah River and Stroud FRMSP Update</b></p>	<p>Chris Thomas (Advisian)</p> <p>Chris apologised to members if his presentation content was familiar.</p> <p>Chris discussed the study background and referenced the significant impact on Stroud from the April 2015 storm event which coincided with the major event impacting the Dungog area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotspots have been identified including Mill and Lamans Creek.</li> <li>• 1% AEP is mainly contained within the incised channel resulting in not too much effect on residential properties (very few affected properties).</li> <li>• Historically flood events provide little warning to residents.</li> <li>• No viable options for Flood Modification are apparent.</li> <li>• Road upgrades were identified for future consideration in future roadworks programs. Vulnerable roads have been categorised using the new Flood Hazard Classifications (H1 – H6).</li> <li>• Low level river crossings provide the greatest risk.</li> <li>• Although there was an increased level of community concern since the 2015 event community concern has waned and there was only a small amount of community feedback when placed on exhibition. Although only minimal community interest the interest shown was genuine.</li> <li>• The most vulnerable risk areas are the Showground and the Stroud Community Lodge (Nursing Home). These amenities would benefit from the installation of flood warning signage and the establishment and review of Local Flood Plans for these facilities.</li> <li>• The installation of an additional Flood Gauge is not justified due to the low town population density a community education program of providing the community and area visitors with detail, awareness and warning of the potential effects and consequences of flood in the area is considered more beneficial. Emergency Response Measures are the most viable and cost effective means of reducing risk to the community.</li> </ul> <p>Member comments –</p> <p>The Chair – can rainfall values be used to calculate risk? Chris replied – Yes but it is a complicated method, and it is useful to use in development applications.</p> <p>Greg C – why no justification for the installation of additional gauges and a warning system? Chris replied – the installation of an additional gauge/warning system could lead to a false sense of security for the community and emergency management personnel. It would be better to rely on early warning advice from the BOM and the SES as well as Local Flood Response Plans for vulnerable facilities (the Stroud Lodge and the Showground).</p> <p>Maria F – It is important to note that NSW SES does not support the use of private/individual flood evacuation plans as a condition of consent and does not have the statutory authority to endorse them.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Chris for his presentation and endorsed that the</p>

	<p>committee recommend that Council adopt the Karuah River and Stroud FRMSP including the immediate action of the installation of Flood Risk Warning signage and previous level indicators at the Showground, the development of Local Flood Response Plans for both the Stroud Lodge and the Showground and the formulation and delivery of a Community Education Program by the SES and Council.</p> <p>The committee supported the Chairs recommendation and additional actions.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Gloucester FRMSP Update</b></p>	<p>Stephanie Lyons (BMT)</p> <p>Stephanie gave an address to members on progress of the FRMSP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood Study and Floodplain Management Study completed in 2004.</li> <li>• Revised Flood Study undertaken in 2015 leading to this FRMSP review being commissioned.</li> <li>• Recent flood events not significant enough to alter flood frequency analysis.</li> <li>• Revised PMF modelling approach used to derive PMF by combining the three PMF peaks of the Gloucester to Avon confluence, Avon to Gloucester River confluence and the Gloucester River to Barrington River confluence. Revision resulted in slight increases PMF levels on the Avon and Gloucester Rivers and an increase of 0.7m in confluence area at Gloucester township.</li> <li>• Revised approach to determine Flood Function used with results confirmed using encroachment analysis.</li> <li>• Addition of Hydraulic Categorisation mapping outputs.</li> <li>• Modelling analysis used - 3 x 1%AEP (PMF), 1%AEP + 0.5m freeboard (Flood Planning Level).</li> <li>• Flood Damages assessment undertaken.</li> <li>• Identified potential risk management options including Flood, Property and Response modification measures.</li> <li>• Flood Damages assessment estimated an average yearly cost of \$660,000.</li> <li>• Flood Modification measures included Gloucester CBD Levee construction option as well as Caravan Park access upgrade options.</li> <li>• Floodplain Management options included House raising and flood proofing of Commercial properties as well as revising Planning and Development Controls including the amendment of our definition of Flood Prone Land LEP clause.</li> <li>• Recommended installation of new flood gauge at Wellards Lane to provide warning advice of flooding affecting the town area from the Sandy Creek catchment.</li> <li>• Response Modification measures included improved flood warning, updating and developing Local Flood Plans as well as Community Education and awareness programs.</li> </ul> <p>Member comments –</p> <p>Maria F – the SES do not support private/individual flood evacuation plans and not review or endorse them.</p>

	<p>Richard P – Council must use the Standard LEP Template and cannot vary definitions or clauses.</p> <p>Chris T – raised that the definition in the Flood Plain Development Manual included the PMF extent as the definition of 'flood prone land' and the intent and definition may be different.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Stephanie for her presentation and endorsed that the committee recommend that Council place the Gloucester FRMSP on Public Exhibition. The Chair also suggested that this study would receive a lot of community interest.</p> <p>The committee supported the Chair's recommendation.</p> <p>Refer attached BMT presentation for more detail.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>General Business</b></p>	<p><b>Racecourse Creek Study Update</b></p> <p>Andrew Staniland (MCC)</p> <p>Andrew gave a brief presentation concentrating on the coastal processes and coastal management areas of the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racecourse Creek Flood Study and Options Plan is progressing well and is Final Draft.</li> <li>• Report indicates that beach works with a dune berm height up to 3m do not impact or adversely affect flooding from the Racecourse catchment.</li> <li>• The logic behind the four management options including a detention basin was discussed and agreed to by the committee.</li> <li>• Andrew recommended that because the coastal processes are of no impact on flooding in Racecourse Creek the Study should now be managed by Council's Flood team.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Andrew for his presentation and endorsed that the committee recommend that Council place the Racecourse Creek Flood Study on Public Exhibition.</p> <p>The committee supported the Chair's recommendation.</p> <p>The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1210.</p>

### Next meeting

Date	November 2020 (date to be confirmed)	Time	9:30 am
Venue	To be confirmed	Note-taker	Peter Hatton