

Attachment 7 to Item 3.1.1.

Floodplain Management Sub Committee Business Papers 27 September 2023

Date of meeting: 26 March 2024 Location: Council Chambers Time: 4:00pm



Floodplain Management Sub-Committee

Date of meeting: 27 September 2023 Location: Council Administration Building and by Audio-Visual Time: 3:00 PM

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FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE 1. AGENDA

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

1. AGENDA

- 1.1. Welcome
- 1.2. Apologies
- **1.3. Declaration of Interests**

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes: 23 August 2023

1. AGENDA

Minutes of the Meeting of the Floodplain Sub-Committee held in the Large Committee Room, Windsor, on 23 August 2023 commencing at 3:00pm.

ATTENDANCE

| Present: | Councillor Les Sheather, Hawkesbury City Council - (Chairperson) Councillor Amanda Kotlash, Hawkesbury City Council - (Deputy Chairperson) Mr Andrew North, Community Representative Mr Christopher Bell, Community Representative Mr Wayne Mitchell, Community Representative Mr Lawrence Rose, Community Representative Mr Lawrence Rose, Community Representative Mr Troy Myers, Community Representative Mr Kevin Jones, State Emergency Services - (Audio-Visual Link) Mr Harry Panagopoulos, Department of Planning & Environment - (Audio- Visual Link) Dr Stephen Yeo, Infrastructure NSW - (Audio-Visual Link) |
|----------------|---|
| Apologies: | Mr Murray West, Community Representative Mr Lewis Adey, Community Representative |
| In Attendance: | Mr Andrew Kearns, Hawkesbury City Council Ms Colleen Haron, Hawkesbury City Council Mr Phillip Bow, Hawkesbury City Council |

Ms Robyn Kozjak, Hawkesbury City Council

| Member | 26/07/2023 | 23/08/2023 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Mr Andrew North | A | 1 |
| Mr Christopher Bell | A | 1 |
| Mr Wayne Mitchell | 1 | 1 |
| Mr Lewis Adey | * | Α |
| Mr Harry Panagopoulos | A | * |
| Mr Kevin Jones | × | 1 |
| Dr Stephen Yeo | A | 1 |
| Councillor Amanda Kotlash | × | ~ |
| Councillor Les Sheather | * | * |
| Mr Lawrence Rose | ~ | 1 |
| Mr Murray West | * | Α |
| Mr Troy Myers | × | * |

Key: A = Formal Apology ü = Present X = Absent - no apology

APOLOGIES

Apologies from Mr Murray West and Mr Lewis Adey were noted.

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Andrew North seconded by Mr Christopher Bell.

Floodplain Management Sub-Committee 23 August 2023

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Mr Kevin Jones joined the meeting (via audio-visual link) at 3:05pm.

Mr Troy Myers arrived at the meeting at 3:44pm.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interests made.

Floodplain Management Sub-Committee 23 August 2023

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FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes: 23 August 2023

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Committee resolved on the Motion of Mr Wayne Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Amanda Kotlash, that the Minutes from the previous meeting held on Wednesday, 26 July 2023 be confirmed.

Floodplain Management Sub-Committee 23 August 2023

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes: 23 August 2023

3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

| 3.1.1. | FPSC - Floodplain Risk Management Project Updates - (161821, 124414, 95498) |
|--------|---|
| | |

Directorate: City Planning

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Floodplain Management Sub-Committee receive the update on the status of Council's Floodplain Risk Management Projects.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Amanda Kotlash and seconded by Mr Andrew North.

That the Floodplain Management Sub-Committee:

- 1. Receive the update on the status of Council's Floodplain Risk Management Projects.
- 2. Be forwarded, via email, with a revised survey questionnaire as discussed at the meeting.

Floodplain Management Sub-Committee 23 August 2023

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

| FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Minutes: 23 August 2023 | |
| 3.1.2. | FPSC - Recommendations of Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Plan 2012 - (161821, 124414, 95498) |
| Previous Item: | 3.1.3, Floodplain Management Sub-Committee (28 June 2023) 3.1.3, Floodplain Management Sub-Committee (26 July 2023) |
| Directorate: | City Planning |

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the future actions identified in Table 1: *Status of Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2012 Recommendations* provided as Attachment 1 to this report be referred to the consultants for consideration for inclusion in the review and update of this Plan.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Lawrence Rose and seconded by Mr Christopher Bell.

That the future actions identified in Table 1: Status of Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2012 Recommendations provided as Attachment 1 to this report be referred to the consultants for consideration for inclusion in the review and update of this Plan.

Floodplain Management Sub-Committee 23 August 2023

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes: 23 August 2023

3.1.3. FPSC - Links to Relevant Information - (161821, 124414, 95498)

Directorate: City Planning

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Floodplain Management Sub Committee receive the information provided within the report.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Wayne Mitchell and seconded by Mr Troy Myers.

That the Floodplain Management Sub Committee receive the information provided within the report.

Floodplain Management Sub-Committee 23 August 2023

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes: 23 August 2023

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Scheduling / Timing of Meetings

A short discussion was had in relation to the timing of Floodplain Management Sub-Committee meetings going forward. It was noted that this matter is currently under review.

The next Floodplain Management Sub Committee meeting is proposed to be held on Wednesday, 27 September 2023 at 3:00pm.

The meeting terminated at 5:05pm.

Floodplain Management Sub-Committee 23 August 2023

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

3.1.1 FPSC - Floodplain Management Project Updates - (161821, 124414, 95498)

Previous Item: 3.1.1, Floodplain Management Sub-Committee (23 August 2023)

Directorate: City Planning

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide updates in respect of the status of Council's various Floodplain Risk Management Projects, noting that this includes details of the recently commenced Redbank Creek Flood Study.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Floodplain Management Sub Committee receive the update on the status of Council's Floodplain Risk Management Projects.

BACKGROUND

Currently, Council has three Floodplain Risk Management projects underway that are funded through the Department of Planning and Environment's Floodplain Management Program, including:

1. Review of Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2012.

This project is to undertake a review of the Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2012 considering the release of the Regional Flood Study for the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley by Infrastructure NSW.

2. Combined Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creek and Greens Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

This project is to undertake a Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs and Greens Creek to understand flood risk in these catchments where extended isolation and risk to life is present, to develop a portfolio of flood management options including engineering works, evacuation planning and appropriate development controls.

3. Redbank Creek Flood Study.

The Redbank Creek Flood Study involves a comprehensive technical investigation of the flood behaviour of Redbank Creek that will provide the foundation for the development of a floodplain risk management plan in the future. It aims to give an understanding of the full range of flood behaviour and consequences in the Study Area.

This project has recently commenced with the appointment of a consultant to undertake the flood study, which is expected to be completed by September 2024.

3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

DISCUSSION

1. Review of Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

Figure 1 below details what stage the Review of the Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Project is at:

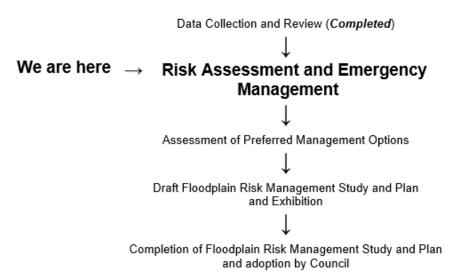


Figure 1: Status of the Review of the Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Project

At the Floodplain Management Sub-Committee Meeting on 23 August 2023, Committee Members discussed the plan for upcoming community consultation to seek community opinion on potential options for the management of impacts from flooding of the Hawkesbury River.

In addition, this community engagement will also provide an opportunity for the community to be heard, thereby developing trust and confidence in the process, and increasing the community acceptance of study outcomes.

The Sub-Committee provided feedback in terms of the content and format of the online survey to be used as part of the community consultation, which was incorporated into the final version of the survey.

This consultation commenced on 4 September 2023, and is scheduled to finish on 2 October 2023 (four weeks).

Engagement with the community includes:

- Council website Your Hawkesbury Your Say, including online survey
- Media releases
- Social media.

Details of the consultation can be viewed at:

Management Options for Hawkesbury River Flooding | Your Hawkesbury Your Say (yourhawkesburyyoursay.com.au)

3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

The results of this consultation will be used to inform the Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Plan. Practical measures will be considered for inclusion into the draft Review, and following public exhibition and adoption by Council, will be implemented through the updated Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

2. Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creeks and Greens Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

Figure 2 below details what stage the Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creeks and Greens Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Project is at:

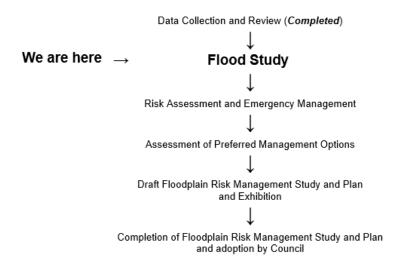


Figure 2: Status of the Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creeks and Greens Creek Floodplain Management Project

A report was presented to the Floodplain Management Sub-Committee Meeting on 26 June 2023 outlining the community engagement plan to be used to gather insights from the community in relation to the Combined Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creek and Greens Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Project.

This consultation finished on 27 August 2023, and a summary of this consultation is provided in the report at Item 3.1.3 of this Business Paper.

3. Redbank Creek Flood Study

Figure 3 below details what stage the Redbank Creek Flood Study Project is at:

3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

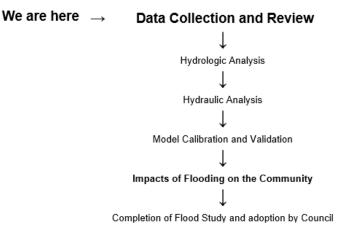


Figure 3: Status of the Redbank Creek Flood Study Project

The recent floods severely damaged existing properties adjacent to Redbank Creek, as well as bridge crossings and part of Terrace Road within North Richmond. The Redbank Creek Flood Study is being undertaken to investigate flood behaviour within the Redbank Creek catchment, and provide the basis for the development of a floodplain risk management plan in the future.

This Project will commence with the consultants undertaking site inspections to familiarise themselves with the locality, and the compilation and review of existing flood and GIS information for the catchment. This along with preliminary modelling activities will inform the identification of additional data required to meet the study objectives.

This stage of the Project will also include community consultation to seek local knowledge of flooding behaviour and consequences, as well as providing an opportunity to inform and educate residents, and secure acceptance of any future recommended management measures.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no supporting documents for this report.

0000 END OF REPORT O000

3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

3.1.2 FPSC – Presentation – Resilience and Emergency Management – (161821, 124414, 95498)

Directorate: City Planning

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

At this Floodplain Management Sub Committee Meeting, Council's Resilience and Emergency Management Coordinator will present on the recent upgrades to the Disaster and Emergency Dashboard located on Council's website.

The purpose of this report is to introduce this presentation, and provide a summary of the matters that will be discussed during the presentation, and relevant website links.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Floodplain Management Sub Committee receive the presentation by Council's Resilience and Emergency Management Co-ordinator on the recent upgrades to the Disaster and Emergency Dashboard.

BACKGROUND

The Disaster and Emergency Dashboard is a resource developed by Council and accessed via Council's website. It provides live updates from existing data/information sources in relation to road conditions, road closures, weather warnings, fire incidents, power outages, flood alerts and bush fire alerts, all in the one location.

The Dashboard provides residents with a single point of reference to keep up to date with vital information before, during and after a disaster or emergency event, and provide links to information and resources from relevant agencies such as the State Emergency Services, Police and Rural Fire Services. The Dashboard was established in October 2020.

DISCUSSION

A presentation from Council's Resilience and Emergency Management Co-ordinator will be provided to the Sub Committee to detail recent upgrades to the functionality and use of the Disaster and Emergency Dashboard, including:

- An overview of the concept
- What has been updated and why
- A walk through the dashboard.

The Disaster and Emergency Dashboard can be accessed at https://disaster.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/

ATTACHMENTS

There are no supporting documents for this report.

0000 END OF REPORT O000

3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

| 3.1.3 | FPSC - Combined Rivers Community Engagement Outcomes - (161821, 124414, 95498) |
|----------------|--|
| Previous Item: | 3.1.4, Floodplain Management Sub-Committee (28 June 2023) |
| Directorate: | City Planning |

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present to the Floodplain Management Sub-Committee the outcomes of the recent community engagement in relation to the Combined Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creek and Greens Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Project.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Floodplain Management Sub Committee note:

- 1. The outcomes of the community engagement undertaken to gather local information and experiences about recent or historical floods, and seeking suggestions related to flooding in the Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creeks and Greens Creek.
- 2. The information has been referred to the consultants for the Project to be used in the preparation of the Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creeks and Greens Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

BACKGROUND

Consultation is a vital part of succeeding in floodplain management. It provides an opportunity to gather local knowledge in relation to flood behaviour and the impacts of specific events. In addition, community engagement provides opportunities for the community to be heard, and develops trust and confidence in the process, thereby increasing the community acceptance to study outcomes.

The purpose of community consultation is to:

- Inform the community about the study
- Identify community concerns
- Gather information from the community by participation
- Develop and maintain community confidence and collaboration with the study results
- Inform the community about flood risks in the area
- Seek input from the community in respect to floodplain management options.

Engagement with the communities within each of the Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creeks and Greens Creek catchments included:

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- Council website Your Hawkesbury Your Say, including an online survey
- A mail out of the survey and supporting documents to property owners and residents within the study areas
- Face to face engagement at council Community Hubs.

DISCUSSION

Community consultation was undertaken for a four week period between 31 July 2023 to 27 August 2023. The consultation included the use of a questionnaire, which could be completed online or via the copy mailed out to all property owners and residents within the study area.

During the consultation period, a total of 44 responses were received, of which 31 were completed versions of the copy of the questionnaire that was mailed out, whilst 13 had been completed via the online survey. Of the 44 responses, 41 were via the questionnaire, 2 provided individual comments and 1 provided a video.

A total of eight people attended the Community Hubs to share their experiences and ideas, two of these from the Colo area and six from the Macdonald Valley.

The majority of responses came from the Colo River (29%) and Macdonald River (63%) Catchments.

Of interest, the consultation highlighted that:

- The majority of respondents have had a long-standing association with the Macdonald River and Colo River Catchments, in particular
- During the recent flooding, most of the respondents were cut off by floodwaters for more than a week
- Respondents identified that they were 'aware' of flooding, and that most would not evacuate in a future event
- Websites, social media and the radio are equally relied upon as a source of information during a flood event.
- The main concerns and issues that were raised centred on limited or no phone/internet connection, and the lack of adequate warning for the loss of services, as well as the time it takes to reinstate or repair services and infrastructure.

A summary of responses to individual questions is provided below:

1. How many years have you lived, worked or visited in the catchment?

Figure 1 shows how long respondents have had an association with the locality:

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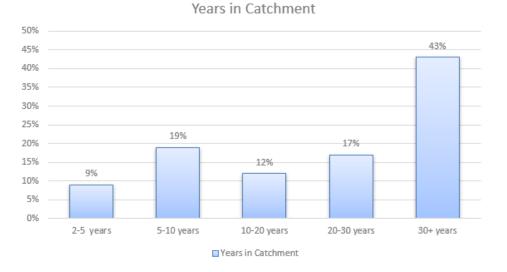


Figure 1: Percentage of people living, working or visiting the catchment over the years

Figure 1 highlights that 43% of respondents to the questionnaire had been living, working or visiting the area for 30 years or more.

It is also noted that when asked 'How aware are you of flooding?', 98% of respondents identified themselves as being 'aware'.

2. Were you cut off by floodwaters at home or another location in recent flooding?

Responses to this question included multiple answers given that recent flooding included the events in March 2021, March 2022 and July 2022. In this regard, it can be seen from questionnaire responses that isolation could be 3-5 days, 5-7 days and more than a week depending on the flood event. In one response it was identified that the residents were cut off for 21 days.

Figure 2 shows the number of households that were cut off by floodwaters within the identified time periods, which identifies the longest period of isolation for each response:

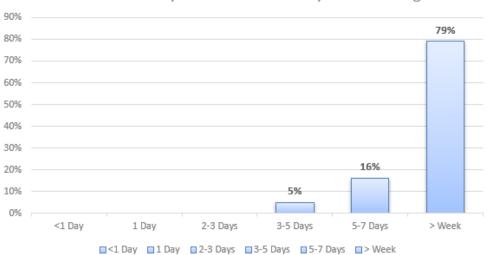




Figure 2: Period of time in which households were cut off by floodwaters

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3. How do you anticipate you would respond in a major flood in this area?

Figure 3 shows whether respondents are likely to evacuate in a major flood event in the future:

Would You Evacuate in a Major Flood?

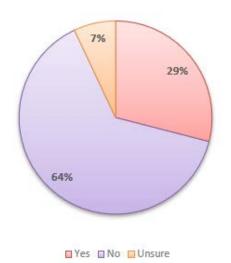


Figure 3: Number of respondents that would or would not evacuate in a major flood in the future.

Popular reasons for evacuating include:

- Discomfort, inconvenience or cost of isolation
- Need for access to medical facilities, and
- Personal safety.

Popular reasons for not evacuating include:

- House is located outside of the flood
- Care for animals
- Security
- Discomfort, inconvenience or cost of evacuating.

Those respondents who were unsure, advised that evacuation would depend on the circumstances at the time.

4. What information do you look for during a flood event?

Figure 4 identifies the main types of information that the respondents seek during a flood event, and shows that road closures, evacuation notices and flood characteristics (e.g. magnitude/height, area impacted, duration) are equally important:

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Type of Information Looked for in a Flood Event

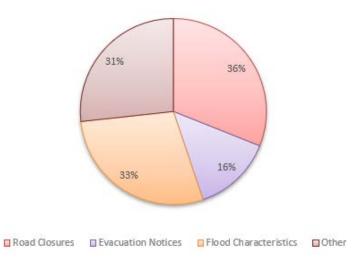


Figure 4: Type of information respondents look for during a flood event

Some of the other information that residents rely on during a flood event include:

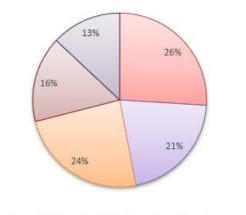
- Resident's Facebook page or word of mouth
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Ferry closures
- Food/Fuel availability
- River height data/levels
- Experience/knowledge
- Electricity availability.

5. Where do you currently get updates and information?

Figure 5 identifies the main sources of information that the respondents seek during a flood event, and shows that websites, social media and the radio are equally relied upon:

FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE 3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

Where Do You Get Updates/Information



■Website ■Radio ■Social Media ■Smartphone App ■Other

Figure 5: Sources of updates and information during a flood event

Some of the other sources of information that residents rely on during a flood event include:

- Television
- Rural Fire Services, State Emergency Services and Wardens
- River
- Neighbours and word of mouth.

What We Heard from the Community

The main concerns and issues that were raised at the Community Hubs and though additional comments provided on the questionnaire centred on limited or no phone/internet connection and the lack of adequate warning for the loss of services, including:

- The lack of mobile phone coverage which prevents getting information relating to flooding and welfare matters
- The lack of communication/notice relating to ferry closures, road closures and electricity being turned off
- The loss of electricity, internet and phones closures and the time it takes to reinstate these
- Road, bridges and ferry closures and the time it takes to reinstate or repair these.

Next Steps

The information collected through this community consultation has been referred to the consultants for this Project, and it will be used for validation of the flood model, and in the formulation of management options to reduce risks from flooding. Formal correspondence has been forwarded to all respondents to thank them for their input, and also to advise that further advice will be provided to them when the draft Study and Plan are available to publicly exhibit in early/mid 2024 (timing subject to the completion of the flood model).

ATTACHMENTS

There are no supporting documents for this report.

0000 END OF REPORT 0000

3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

Meeting Date: 27 September 2023

| 3.1.4 | FPSC - Review of Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Plan 2012 - Management Options - (161821, 124414, 95498) |
|----------------|--|
| Previous Item: | 3.1.2, Floodplain Management Sub-Committee (23 August 2023) |
| Directorate: | City Planning |

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to detail potential management options proposed by Sub-Committee Members to be considered for inclusion in the Review of the Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the management options identified in this report be referred to the consultants for consideration in the review and update of the Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

BACKGROUND

At the Meeting on 23 August 2023, the Floodplain Management Sub-Committee discussed potential management options to be included in the Review of the Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Project. In this regard, consideration of management options was undertaken as part of the discussions at this meeting involving:

- The recommended management options of the current Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Plan 2012
- The community questionnaire to seek the community's preferences for the management of flood impacts, and
- Other options raised in general discussion.

Given that community consultation to seek public opinion in this regard commenced on 4 September 2023, it is considered timely that the Sub-Committee also submit their new ideas for management options.

Sub-Committee members were requested to provide new options for consideration, additional to those within the current Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Plan or identified within the community questionnaire.

DISCUSSION

The following potential management options to mitigate the impacts of flooding of the Hawkesbury River have been submitted by Sub-Committee members to be considered in the Review of the Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan:

2. Promote Warragamba Dam wall raising as the best mitigation option.

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- 3. A channel between Currency Creek Chain of Ponds to the Hawkesbury River to lower flood levels in the Windsor Basin thereby extending evacuation time.
- 4. High level bridge above the Probable Maximum Flood between Mitchell Road, Sackville North and West Portland Road and Laws Farm Road intersection to the west. This would give guaranteed access to 30 thousand residents in any flood with the possibility of the necessity to maintain the operation of Sackville and Lower Portland Ferry's.
- 5. Transport for NSW to formulate an above a 1 in 20 flood plan to manage the ferries on the Hawkesbury River. In the most recent floods ferries were damaged and nearly broke their moorings. There are no vessels /tugs on the river that could tow a break-a-way ferry and the damage to property and possibly Brooklyn Bridge downstream needs to be addressed. It is likely that there are no replacement ferries available to replace 1 or more if they were lost.
- 6. Improvements to the power supply, including high level crossings, under water cabling, or being provided from the west (Lithgow).
- 7. Improvements to telecommunications towers, including generators on remote towers, access to and servicing of these towers during floods.
- 8. Request Transport for NSW to investigate the possibility of lifting the three bridges on Springwood Road, (being McMahons, Lynchs and Shaws) to above 1 in 100mAHD level to allow access from the Hawkesbury (west of the river) to Springwood when the bridge over the Grose River is completed.
- 9. Government (legislative and financial) support for the cleaning and maintenance of flood ways, and the existing floodplain drainage systems and flood gates, including, but not limited to, Bardenarang Creek, Mackenzies Creek, South Creek, Eastern Creek, Buttsworth Creek, Currency Creek, Rickaby Creek and Richmond Lowlands. The above have played a major role in managing minor floods on agricultural properties.

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee discuss these suggestions prior to referring these to the consultants undertaking this Project for consideration, and where relevant be included in any future floodplain risk management study and plan for the Hawkesbury River.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no supporting documents for this report.

0000 END OF REPORT O000

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

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4. GENERAL BUSINESS



Floodplain Management Sub-Committee Meeting

End of Business Paper

This business paper has been produced electronically to reduce costs, improve efficiency and reduce the use of paper. Internal control systems ensure it is an accurate reproduction of Council's official copy of the business paper.