



Hawkesbury City Council

extraordinary
meeting
business
paper

date of meeting: 24 August 2021

location: by audio-visual link

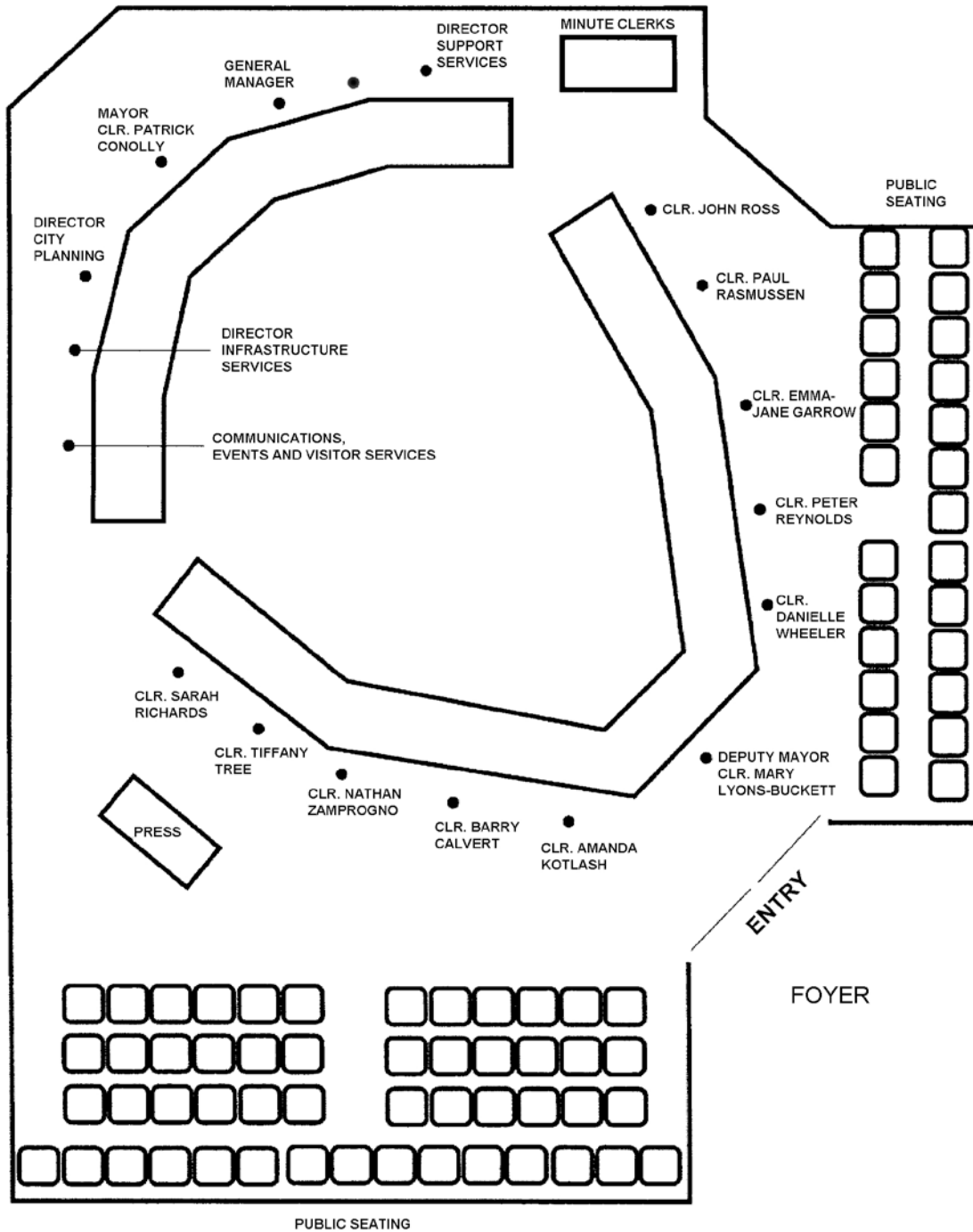
time: 6:30 p.m.



mission statement

***Hawkesbury City Council
leading and working
with our community
to create a healthy
and resilient future.***

Hawkesbury City Council



EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Table of Contents

Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE
	PROCEDURAL MATTERS	3
	SECTION 2 – Mayoral Minutes	7
Item: 162	MM - Fee Waiver or Reduction - Application Assessment Fees - (125610)	7
	SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion	11
Item: 163	NM - Disaster and Emergency Management - (138882, 79351)	11

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Table of Contents

Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Procedural Matters

Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Welcome

The Mayor, Councillor Patrick Conolly will acknowledge the Indigenous Heritage.

The General Manager will address the Council meeting, mentioning:

- Emergency Procedures
- Recording of the Council Meeting
- Statement regarding people addressing the Meeting
- Mobile phones

Attendance

Attending Councillors and Council staff members will be noted for the purposes of the Minutes.

Apologies and Leave of Absence

The Mayor will ask for any Apologies or Leave of Absence Requests to be noted.

Declaration of Interest

The Mayor will ask for any Declaration of Interests from the attending Councillors. These will then be addressed at the relevant item.

Acknowledgement of Official Visitors to the Council

The Mayor will acknowledge and welcome official visitors to the Council and make any relevant presentations as required.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Procedural Matters

Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

ordinary

section 2

mayoral minutes

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 2 – Mayoral Minute
Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 2 – Mayoral Minute
Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

SECTION 2 – Mayoral Minutes

Item: 162 **MM - Fee Waiver or Reduction - Application Assessment Fees - (125610)**

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting of 27 April 2021, Council considered a report outlining a range of assistance measures for those members of community affected by the significant flood event in March 2021. Council resolved, in part:

“That:

1. *Should an Application be submitted to Council related to a flood impacted property to carry out construction or reconstruction works associated with the property, the applicable fees will be waived for applications lodged up until June 2022.*
2. *Where possible, Development Applications, Construction Certificate applications and the like from flood impacted areas are to be prioritised by Council’s assessment team for any applications lodged up until 30 June 2022.”*

A circumstance has arisen where a member of the Lower Portland community has sought a waiver of application fees for the building of a new home.

In circumstances such as this one where a property has not been directly affected by the flood, residents are not presently eligible for this fee waiver.

Nevertheless, the residents of Lower Portland and Upper Colo have been subject to prolonged disturbance as a result of the flood impacts and ongoing closure of Greens Road and the Upper Colo Bridge, respectively. The emotional and financial toll on residents has been significant.

In light of this, it is recommended that the application fee waivers or reductions be extended to those residents who have been significantly affected by on-going road closures.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Council establish the following category of fee waiver or reduction:
 - Where applications submitted to Council to carry out construction or reconstruction works on a property either directly affected by the March 2021 flood event or subject where residents are affected by prolonged disturbance as a result of road closures arising from the March 2021 flood event, the applicable application assessment fees (Development Application and Construction Certificate) will be waived for applications lodged up until 30 June 2022.
2. In accordance with Sections 610E and 610F of the Local Government Act 1993, Council give public notice of at least 28 days of the proposed category of fee waiver or reduction.
3. At the expiration of the public exhibition period outlined in Part 2, the following action be taken:
 - a) Should any submissions be received regarding the proposed category of fee waiver or reduction, a further report be submitted to Council, or

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 2 – Mayoral Minute
Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

- b) Should no submissions be received, Council adopt the new proposed category of fee waiver or reduction outlined in Part 1.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF MAYORAL MINUTE Oooo

ordinary

section 5

notices of motion

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion

Item: 163 **NM - Disaster and Emergency Management - (138882, 79351)**

Submitted by: Councillors Lyons-Buckett and Wheeler

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That Council:

1. Receive and note information regarding the current status of Council's Emergency Management Plan, including preparedness of evacuation centres and welfare protocols.
2. Receive an update on the review of the 2019/2020 bushfires, including recommendations and progress on recommended actions.
3. Receive and note the current progress with repair of Greens Road, Lower Portland and Upper Colo Bridge, and updated funding arrangements, work plans and timelines.
4. Receive and note the update and timelines for the MacDonald Valley Flood Study.
5. Receive and note the list of outstanding items from the initial Emergency and Disaster Management Committee meeting (14 April 2021) and the outstanding items incorporated into that Committee from the dissolved Committees.
6. Directs the Emergency and Disaster Management Committee to meet no later than the 16 September 2021 to consider matters listed in item 5 and any additional matters referred.

NOTE BY MANAGEMENT

As noted in relation to point 6 of the Notice of Motion, which requests a meeting of the Disaster and Emergency Committee to occur, the following comments are provided as background and will be expanded in reports to the Committee.

1. The Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) is responsible for the Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN), which also incorporates Consequence Management Guides for each hazard identified within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

In accordance with legislative requirements, the EMPLAN is reviewed every three years, or following activation of the Plan.

The periodic review aligned with the successive activation of the Plan following the 2019/2020 bushfires and the flooding events of 2020 and 2021.

As part of this review and to ensure compliance with the Evacuation Management Guidelines COVID-19 Supplement V2.0 (August 2020), an audit was completed in February 2021 of all evacuation centres identified in the EMPLAN.

The audit was conducted by all agencies responsible for the activation and management of evacuation centres; including NSW Police, NSW Health, Welfare, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Council. Each site was assessed for compliance with NSW Evacuation Management Guidelines (March 2014) prior to inclusion in the Hawkesbury EMPLAN.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

The final draft of the updated Hawkesbury EMPLAN was submitted on 22 July 2021 to the Regional Emergency Management Committee for review and endorsement.

Following endorsement the Plan can be brought back to Council via a Councillor Briefing Session or Committee meeting, noting that elements of the Plan will remain confidential.

2. Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee conducted an After Action Review following the 2019/2020 bushfire on 11 March 2020, which Council contributed to.

On 11 May 2020 Council conducted a workshop with Councillors, *Reflections and Learnings from our Recent Bushfire Tragedy*, facilitated by Anne Leadbeater. This review was followed up with an Emergency Management briefing for Councillors to clarify the role of Council in emergency management; which included the responsibilities of Council, combat agencies and the various functional areas.

Follow up interviews with Councillors form the basis of Anne Leadbeater's report Reflecting on Council's Role in Emergency Management. This report and the associated recommendations are to be presented to the Disaster and Emergency Committee for review and endorsement.

Council continues to work with the LEMC, particularly the relevant combat agencies, to implement these documented learnings during future events.

3. The construction works for restoration of the damaged sections of Greens Road, Lower Portland is being finalised and works on providing interim repairs at the closure (the northernmost failure) are expected to commence in approximately two weeks, with the works taking approximately four to six weeks to carry out.

This will provide for restricted access along this section of road, with ongoing safety monitoring and load restrictions. Detailed design of final restoration options is continuing and these designs will have regard for a range of issues including longevity, appearance, constructability and construction timeframe.

Works at the site south of the Juniors Club, which is currently open but load limit restricted are being reviewed and will take into account the need to minimise disruptions and closures. At this stage works at that site will be programmed when works at the northern site are completed.

It should be noted that the damage to Greens Road and the geotechnical issues to address the repair are complex, with the road being formed on a highly unstable slope with vertical drop-offs below waterline and narrow working area /road formation. Safe restoration of the site for users has been paramount as well as ensuring that the reconstruction is resilient to future flooding or stability issues.

Council has received a briefing on the work plan for the replacement of the Upper Colo Bridge, and a process for community engagement is currently being developed.

4. The various actions and tasks associated with preparation of the Combined Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creek and Green Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan are outlined below. The combined Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creek and Green Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan is due to be completed December 2022.

It should also be noted that this work is being undertaken at the same time as the Review of the Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2012 which is due for completion August 2022.

Currently the NSW State Government through Infrastructure NSW and State Emergency Service have been undertaking significant work in the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley with respect to flood risk planning and implementation of the Hawkesbury Nepean Floodrisk Management Strategy (Resilient

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

Valley, Resilient Communities). This work has included various flood studies and other associated projects. Given both the volume and nature of the work being undertaken by the NSW State Government, there has been a significant level of interest from state agencies in terms of the two Hawkesbury projects. This necessitated all relevant state agencies being involved and signing off on the Project Brief that was to be provided to flood consultants to quote prices for the project. Obtaining consensus did take some time. The final Project Brief for both projects was highly technical in nature.

Additionally, following the completion of Project Briefs and receipt of quotations from consultants there has been a process with the funding body in terms of consideration and approval of work plans and selected consultants to undertake the projects, approval for which has recently been obtained from the funding body. This approval was obtained in June 2021.

Engagement with the community is a key component of both projects, and particularly the Combined Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creek and Green Creek project in order to ensure that local knowledge is fully captured, and conversely that the community fully understands the flood risks and hazards, and the proposed approach to managing those risks.

The actions and tasks associated with preparation of the Combined Macdonald River, Colo River, Webbs Creek and Green Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, include:

Data collection and review:

- Site Inspections
- Data Collection and Review
- List of data/information sourced
- Summary of available data/information proposed to be used to inform the Study
- Review of existing flood data, including the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Regional Flood Study
- Review of existing Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study
- Review of existing legislation, plans, policies and procedures
- Review of Flood Planning Level
- Stage 1 Report
- Presentation to Officers and Committee.

Risk Assessment and Emergency Management:

- Flood hazard assessment
- Flood function assessment
- Flood damages assessment
- Risk to life assessment
- Emergency management classification
- Property database
- Flood Hazard Categorisation and assessment of land use type compatibility with hazards
- Flood function Categorisation
- Identify risks to existing and new development
- Identify risks to life
- Assessment of future growth in the Study Area
- Identify and assess evacuation constraints and capability
- Compile Property database spreadsheet
- Mapping
- Stage 2 Report
- Presentation to Officers and Committee.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

Assessment of Preferred Management Options:

- Identification and assessment of potential management options
- Detailed assessment of preferred management options
- Rationale for preferred management options
- Ranking of options
- Program for implementation of management options
- Stage 3 Report
- Presentation to Officers and Committee.

Draft Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan and Exhibition:

- Finalisation of draft Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan
- Presentation to Officers and Committee
- Report to Council for Exhibition
- Public exhibition and community consultation
- Review of submissions
- Further option assessment (if required).

Completion of Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan:

- Preparation of final Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan
- Presentation to Officers and Committee
- Final study and plan submitted to Council for adoption
- Handover of all deliverables to DPIE EES and to the NSW flood data portal.

5. The Disaster and Emergency Committee met on 14 April 2021. Council at its meeting on 13 July 2021 considered the report of the Disaster and Emergency Committee meeting and the following items from Item 1 – Emergency Planning and Response considered by the Committee required further action:

1. *"4. Council write to residents and businesses in flood-affected areas to provide written information about recovery services, Services NSW registration, clean-up and any other relevant information."*

To complement the information available to flood-affected residents on Council's website and social media channels, a series of direct communications methods have been utilised.

Residents were encouraged to register for email updates and to date 487 registrations have been received. Initial emails were distributed weekly; however the frequency has now changed to fortnightly.

Additional direct communications were undertaken as follows:

- 1,200 flyers distributed in August 2021 to residents in Bilpin, Colo, Lower Portland and Macdonald Valley; flyers included information about recovery services available to impacted residents
- Tailored engagement email sent in July 2021 to 99 impacted residents in Lower Portland and Colo
- Direct postal engagement in August 2021 with 98 impacted residents in Lower Macdonald.

Ongoing community engagement by Council's Community Planning and Partnerships Branch ensures the needs of the impacted communities are understood and connections and referrals to appropriate services are facilitated.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 24 August 2021

2. *"5. Council seek to facilitate the production of an overall review of the 2021 Flood to provide operational information to a future Council and the Community."*

An Interagency and Functional Area After Action Review was facilitated by NSW Police on 9 July 2021. Council submitted a series of observations for consideration and actively participated in the review. Finalisation of the report is progressing and will be made available upon receipt.

Council has also conducted an internal review following the 2021 flooding event. Follow up actions have been identified across a wide range of functions aligned with emergency management principles of prevent, prepare, respond and recover.

Whilst staff are progressively working through the actions to ensure Council is in a better position to support the community in the event of future disasters.

An interim report, including actions undertaken, can be submitted for information at a Disaster and Emergency Committee meeting.

In relation to Item 2 – Floodplain Management Matters, the following matters required action:

1. Advise Council that it should urgently advocate for the Richmond Bridge Duplication Project to include a bridge and approach roads that provide better access during a major flood event.
2. Recommend that Council advocate with all relevant agencies and organisations for resilience planning for infrastructure, in particular electricity, during flood events.
3. Recommend that the Committee continue to provide advice for Council's grant funded floodplain management projects.

A further report on these matters will be provided to a meeting of the Disaster and Emergency Committee.

6. It is proposed that the next Disaster and Emergency Committee Meeting be held in the week commencing Monday, 6 September 2021, subject to the availability of agency representatives and external parties.

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo



extraordinary
meeting

end of
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