

PRESENT

Cr Vanessa Keenan	Wagga Wagga City Council
Cr Rod Kendall	Wagga Wagga City Council
Brian Mahony	Community Member
Roz Prangnell	Community Member
Patricia Murray	Community Member
Jenny Rolfe	Community Member

IN ATTENDANCE

Craig Ronan	State Emergency Service (SES)
Steve Manwaring	Department Planning, Industry and Environment
Caroline Angel	Director Commercial Operations
Janice Summerhayes	Director Community
Mark Gardiner	Manager Environment & City Compliance
Peter Ross	Manager Technical and Strategy
Darryl Woods	Manager Council Businesses
Sylvester Otieno	Manager Operations
Mark Gardiner	Manager Environment and City Compliance
Sam Robins	Town Planner
Michael Friend	Co-opted Community Member
Maree Ingram	Administration Coordinator (Minute Taker)
Cath Goonan	WMAwater
Erin Askew	WMAwater
Steve Gray	GRC Hydro Pty Ltd
Felix Taaffe	GRC Hydro Pty Ltd
Peter Morris	Observer – invited to attend the meeting by the Chairperson
18 North Wagga residents	Observers – invited to attend the meeting by the Chairperson

APOLOGIES

Cr Greg Conkey	Wagga Wagga City Council
Peter Thompson	Wagga Wagga City Council
Cr Tim Koschel	Wagga Wagga City Council
Sue Hardwick	Co-opted Community Member
Barry Griffiths	State Emergency Service (SES)

The meeting of the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee commenced at 8.30am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this Land, on which this meeting takes place and to pay my respects to Elders past and present.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CM-1 MEETING MINUTES 1 OCTOBER 2019

Recommendation:

On the Motion of Councillor R Kendall and R Prangnell

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1 October 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil Declarations Received

REPORTS FROM STAFF

RP-1 OBSTRUCTIONS ON THE FLOODPLAIN

Recommendation:

On the Motion of P Murray and Councillor R Kendall

That the Committee

- a note the contents of the report**
- b hold a workshop following the next Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee meeting to review and provide input into the response to Resolution 19/440 of the 25 November 2019 Council meeting relating to stockpiling, levees and vegetation management on the Wagga Wagga Floodplain.**
- c request staff to undertake consultation with Local Land Services in respect to vegetation management on the Wagga Wagga Floodplain, prior to the workshop above.**

CARRIED

Discussion on the Report

Clarification was sought in respect to why North Wagga was referred to as an obstruction in the audit. Advice provided was that reference to North Wagga was in relation to the levee and the Borrow Pit (stockpiles). Request was made that the wording be changed in the audit. Advice provided from the meeting Chair was that the purpose of the report was for "information only" for the Committee and that further investigation is to be undertaken. It was also noted that obstructions can be deemed

a positive or negative obstruction on a floodplain. CA agreed to the change within the audit report relating to the concern North Wagga and the work obstruction.

Concerns were raised that obstructions such as stockpiles may not have been identified in the Wagga Wagga Revised Floodplain Risk Management Plan, as the only reference in the plan to obstructions is in relation to vegetation management. A question was asked as to whether the plan will need to be updated if the impact of the obstructions is deemed significant. This will be a decision for both the Committee and the Council.

Concerns also raised in respect to the removal of vegetation from the floodplain and the impact this could have in respect to undermining soil stability and the potential risk of severe flooding due to increased erosion. Point made was that flooding impacts maybe created elsewhere if vegetation is removed from a particular area.

Comments were made on the reference, contained within the WMAwater 2014 report, part3, page 38, to 150mm increase in 2012 flood height due to restrictions within the floodplain. This information is to be confirmed.

Question asked as to whether the impact of obstructions can be modelled. Response was yes they can, however in respect to issues such as vegetation and in particular trees, it is impossible to model all trees. It was noted that a model is only a "best estimate" to replicate a flood situation.

RP-2 PROJECT UPDATES

Recommendation:

On the Motion of Councillor R Kendall and R Prangnell

That the Committee

- a receive and note the report**
- b receive the presentations made to the Committee by WMAwater and GRC Hydro Pty Ltd**

CARRIED

WMAwater made a presentation to the Committee on the progress of the MOFFS in relation to overland flood flow emergency response and warning plans.

Questions on the presentation and reports

- *Cr Keenan raised a question as to whether the WaterRide software could be used to forecast overland flooding?*

Response: Council advised that there are two new staff members commencing at Council who have extensive hydrology experience. Council will look at the runoff model, aside from the warning systems. Council acknowledged that there is also

considerable work to be done with WaterRide software. Council to also investigate potential to do runoff models with WaterRide for major storm events.

- *SES acknowledged that Council continue to work with SES regarding major events as the work will complement each other.*

Response: Council advised that when the new Sydney Office Staff are in Wagga they will arrange to meet with the SES.

SES then advised they are in the process of employing a Planning and Research Officer.

Action: SES to show the type of mapping information they use in major events at the next meeting.

- *P Murray raised the question of a possibility of an app for floods similar to the "Fires Near Me" app?*

Response: SES advised that an app is being developed as a result of flooding events across Australia, although flash flooding is unpredictable.

WMAwater advised it may be better to identify places that may be susceptible to flooding as there are a lot of constraints to get flash flood information live. BOM warnings can be distributed by Council. It is a way to notify people by text.

SES comment - The BOM severe thunderstorm warning is the only warning currently in place for flash flood events. The BOM are looking at doing specific or detailed storm warnings for rural areas similar to the ones for metropolitan Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

- *P Murray asked could an app could bring up areas likely to be flooded?*

Response: WMAwater advised that flash flooding is all about timing

PM - could the key points in the study go on an app to highlight areas of potential flooding?

SES - the best indicators/tool is the BOM radar at the moment, no other app available at present. There is a need to look at other ways to warn people. The BOM is currently bringing three more radars online next year, two in the north and one in the south of the state.

BM – can you use the info provided in the presentation?

Response: SES - yes, we can look at worst case scenarios and be prepared for it. In relation to Overland/Riverine flooding we can do an exercise that combines both of these. We can invite the community representatives to the exercise if required.

- *WMAwater advised the Committee that members are welcome to provide comments on the Multi Criteria Matrix Assessment. It is a high level assessment to capture the benefits. WMAwater would like responses / feedback from the Committee by Christmas. Feedback can be provided directly to Caroline Angel.*

Cr Kendall raised concerns about accepting stages of the MOFFS report. Current understanding and historic understanding – no recommendation in Business Paper

report that there was a presentation by WMAwater, CA responded this was an oversight.

Project 1793

Council staff provided an update on the levee project. Endeavouring to open up more of the walking track by Christmas.

- *Cr Kendall raised concerns about the potential for dust issues, although only capping, concreting and topsoil works are left to do.*

Response: Poly pipe has been laid in these areas for watering, major dust works have now been completed.

- *S Manwaring asked about Marshalls Creek and interim measures for the bridge in the event of a flood?*

Response: Council advised the earthen levee and sheets piles can interface with water barrier systems

Action: This information to be included into the manual

- *Cr Kendall asked if Council be advising the Insurance Council once the levee is regarded as being 1:100*

Response: SM - Council's responsibility will be to advise the Insurance Council when the levee is fit for purpose

Council - Mayor stated at the recent media event that he would be getting in touch with the Insurance Council.

Cr Kendall asked when does this happen – before a potential flood, not sure, maybe at practical completion stage

Action: Cr Keenan – will take this matter on notice and provide advice back to the Committee

DW – practical completion – levee in current form is up to height with floodgates to be completed by January/February

CA – WMA were referencing this process, Council has a process

SM – Ongoing maintenance/audits etc – about this not just floodgates

North Wagga Feasibility Study

Council advised that the brief went out to the market and Council is currently assessing submissions. A report will be made to Council to appoint a contractor by end of this year or early next year.

- *MF asked if Council was happy with number of submissions?*

Response: Yes, Council is happy with number and quality of submission.

Cr Keenan – social element, thorough review of issues raised by community/committee

CA – two key points – trauma and impact

Mangoplah/Humula

Council was unsuccessful in the recent grant application. The funding application was \$230k for the two villages. The grants application process is competitive and Council is encouraged to try again in another round. SM advised that the application was unsuccessful for other reasons, not due to the quality of the application. The project didn't compete with other projects.

Cr Kendall discussed Mangoplah. His concerns were over no properties affected historically by overland flow, however the bridge is affected. What are the issues at

Mangoplah? Are they sufficient for the government to justify that the village be funded over somewhere else?

- *MF – MOFFS appear to be over budget – how much further to go over*

Response: In response to question from MF on the budget overrun in the report CA advised the \$3k was taken into account in current commitment – will be minimal amount going forward

- *SM – early warning Station – does Council want assistance with the tender?*
CA – expects the tender to be released prior to Christmas

Project 18640

WMAwater made a presentation to the Committee on the progress of the VOFFS.

The project is currently at Floodplain Risk Management Study phase, with a report planning to go out on public Exhibition in March 2020. The draft report will be distributed to committee, with the intention for the same process to occur as for the FRMS&P

- *OEH raised a concern that at the last meeting it was discussed to increase the size of the railway culverts at Uranquinty, however the report shows that this doesn't make a big difference.*

Response: GRCHydro advised they did look at the complete removal of the embankment and increasing culverts. This can be covered more in the report
OEH comment - The Uranquinty community are adamant that the railway culvert is the issue re flooding

GRCHydro - not propagating upstream, conveyance issue upstream

- *Cr Kendall asked where is sediment build up – upstream or down stream?*

Response: GRCHydro - both; very much upstream as well, the culvert needs a clean out every two years

- *Cr Kendall – are there issues other than just sediment build up?*

Response: GRCHydro – yes, we are worried about what happens upstream and the influence of this on the culverts

BM comment - the real problem is between the bridges, low area between railway and highway bridge. This needs to be mitigated as water comes into the village from this area

GRCHydro – the levee upgrade would come through this area. The levee is dropping off between bridges and there is a strong case for levee upgrade with good BC value.

Cr Kendall – in relation to the levee upgrade is there consideration of pump station upgrades in lower part of Uranquinty where most flooding occurs must be included?

GRCHydro – there is a strong case for upgrade of levees in Uranquinty. Control flooding with relatively low lying earthen levees.

Cr Kendall – is there restrictions in planning for floor levels in the future?

BM comment – we need to look at drainage, this is having a major effect (not remit for GRC Hydro), it's a Council issue.

GRC – should be less overland flooding if the levees are upgraded

Cr Keenan – need to consider modelling a combination of mitigation measures

GRC – different channels with levee raising, now have better idea of realistic combinations.

- *S Robins asked will the study include a break down of the three scenarios? For the committee it would be a good indication where worst impacts come from, what overland flow does on its own in Uranquinty*

Response: GRCHyrdo yes, to properly assess drainage at low point would have to run that regarding overland flow

S Robins comment - it important to know difference regarding flows – levee eastern side – to do with overland flow – remove 150mm not technically too much water – what will BC show

GRCHydro – a levee may only be half a metre high in certain areas. Have this factor and available space for implementation – can be protected

Cr Kendall – include in recommendation acknowledgement of two presentations made at the meeting. Moved Cr Kendall seconded Roz Prangnell

Two North Wagga residents left the meeting at 9.16am

Remainder of North Wagga residents left the meeting at 9.45am

Jenny Rolfe left meeting at 9.45am

Janice Summerhayes left the meeting at 10.20am

Michael Friend left the meeting at 10.45am

Sylvester Otieno left meeting at 10.45am

RP-3 FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

Recommendation:

On the Motion of P Murray and R Prangnell

That the Committee

- a adopt the 2020 meeting schedule of the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee**
- b receive a report on the terms of engagement for Community Committee members in respect to the September 2020 Local Government Election**

CARRIED

Discussion on Report

Cr Keenan moved that all workshops to be held on same day as meetings – all voting members present agreed.

Cr Keenan – moved not to change the date and time of future Committee meetings – all voting members present agreed

QUESTIONS/BUSINESS WITH NOTICE

QWN-1 North Wagga Representation on the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee

Fiona Ziff requested that consideration be given to a representative from North Wagga be included on the Committee going forward.

Response provided - A report from staff to be included in the agenda of the next Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee detailing how this may be facilitated.

The Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee rose at 11am.