

MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Monday, 21 March 2022
Location: Council Chambers, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4:07pm

The following members were present:

Clr Patricia White - Chairperson
Clr Serena Copley (remotely) – left meeting at 6:06pm
Clr Evan Christen
Mr John Gould – Shoalhaven Riverwatch
Mr David Brawn
Mr Mark Kielly
Mr Phil Guy
Mr Michael Roberts - Manager - Environmental Services
Mr Adam Carney – (remotely) – joined at 4:25pm

Others Present:

Mr James Ruprai – Director City Development
Mr Michael Roberts - Manager - Environmental Services
Mr Mark Stone – Senior Floodplain Engineer
Mr Alexander Aronsson – Floodplain & Stormwater Quality Engineer
Mr David Whyte – Cardno (remotely)
Mr Robin Byrne - SES Nowra Unit Flood control (remotely)
Mr Nathan Pomfret – Department of Planning and Environment (remotely)

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Len White and Clr Wells.

NFM22.5 Election of Chairperson

RESOLVED (John Gould / Phil Guy)

Michael Roberts - Manager - Environmental Services assumed the Chair and asked the members present if there were any nominations for the role of Chairperson.

Clr Patricia White was nominated by John Gould for the position of Chairperson, seconded by Phil Guy. There were no additional nominations received.

The Committee agreed the election process was conducted fairly and reasonably. Michael Roberts - Manager - Environmental Services - declared Clr Patricia White as Chairperson.

Clr White resumed the Chair.

CARRIED

Confirmation of the Minutes

Mark Stone - Senior Floodplain Engineer – advised that there was an error in the Agenda which showed the minutes of the last meeting being held on 19 May 2021. However, the last meeting was held on 25 November 2020. This was noted and the Minutes of the meeting of 25 November 2020 were confirmed.

RESOLVED (Clr White / John Gould)

That the Minutes of the Northern Floodplain Risk Management Committee held on 25 November 2020 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil.

PRESENTATIONS

NFM22.3 Presentation - Purpose of the FRMC and NSW Government Flood Program – Department of Planning and Environment.

**HPERM Ref:
D22/107705**

Mark Stone - Senior Floodplain Engineer – advised that this presentation has previously been presented to the FRMC by John Murtagh - Senior Natural Resource Officer, Environment, Energy & Science, Department of Planning and Environment.

Nathan Pomfret - Environmental, Energy & Science - Department of Planning and Environment - made a presentation to the meeting for the benefit of new members on the Committee.

- Council has 13 adopted Flood Studies and 12 adopted Floodplain Risk Management (FRM) Plans which identify risk and management options across the Shoalhaven. The plans are being progressively implemented across the Shoalhaven in a prioritised manner.
- Council has continued to prepare flood studies for unmapped catchments and to review adopted Plans in a prioritised order such as the current review of the Lower Shoalhaven River Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.
- Current Works and Studies that are being undertaken are:
 - Maintenance of Lower Shoalhaven River Flood Mitigation Scheme – Annual NSW Government grant to assist with the costs in maintaining existing flood mitigation assets
 - Lower Shoalhaven River Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Review
 - St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Review – this will be discussed at the Central Floodplain Risk Management meeting to be held on 30 March 2022.
- The NSW Floodplain Development Manual (2005) is currently under review and on public exhibition until 4 April 2022. The reviewed name is the NSW Flood Risk Management Manual.
- Flood Prone Land Policy – primary objective is to reduce the impact of flooding and flood liability on individual owners and occupiers of flood prone property, and to reduce private and public losses from floods utilising ecologically positive methods, where possible.

The presentation will be forwarded with these minutes to members of the Committee.

Note: Mayor Amanda Findley joined the meeting remotely at 4:45pm.

NFM22.4 Presentation - Lower Shoalhaven River Flood Study – Cardno

HPERM Ref: D22/107712

David Whyte – Cardno – made a presentation to the meeting. The topics covered in the presentation were:

1. Background on the Flood Study process and Study Objectives
2. Model Development – hydrological and hydraulic models
3. Design Event Modelling
4. Results and Impacts of Flooding
5. Next Steps – public exhibition and community consultation, complete the Final Flood Study based on feedback, complete the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan including assessment of available flood mitigation options

The presentation will be forwarded with these minutes to members of the Committee.

Note: Cllr Copley left the meeting at 6:06pm.

REPORTS

NFM22.1 Lower Shoalhaven River Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Update

HPERM Ref: D22/87287

Mark Stone - Senior Floodplain Engineer - provided an update on the Lower Shoalhaven River Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan:

- The Draft Lower Shoalhaven River Flood Study Report has been completed. A Summary Report has also been prepared to assist with community engagement.
- Independent expert peer review of the study has been completed and comments implemented.
- Feedback has been provided by Council, Department of Planning and Environment, and SES.
- Next step is to put the Draft Lower Shoalhaven River Flood Study Report on public exhibition and community consultation to seek input on the report and suggestions for flood mitigation measures to be considered in the FRMS&P.
- Council has received an extension to the DPE funding term completion date to 21 November 2022.

Discussion took place in relation to the various methods to be considered for community engagement phase:

- Cllr White suggested that a webinar option be considered as part of the community consultation process.
- Phil Guy recommended that Council utilise the existing CCB network for the presentation and hold a Q&A session.
- The community engagement phase is suggested to be held for a four week period, which was planned for the end of April but will likely be moved to mid to late-May to ensure any necessary changes are made to the report prior to public exhibition and community consultation and to prepare required community consultation material.
- David Whyte – Cardno – will prepare a video recording of the presentation which will be available on the “Get Involved” page.

Action: Mark Stone - Senior Floodplain Engineer - to send out the adopted methods and planning for the community consultation process to FRMC members prior to any public exhibition or community involvement.

Recommendation

The Committee receive the draft Lower Shoalhaven River Flood Study report for information and endorse the commencement of public exhibition and community engagement for the Draft Flood Study.

RECOMMENDATION (Phil Guy / John Gould)

The Committee receive the draft Lower Shoalhaven River Flood Study report for information and endorse the commencement of public exhibition and community engagement for the Draft Flood Study.

CARRIED

NFM22.2 General Update on Flood Projects

**HPERM Ref:
D22/87503**

The report provided an update on Council's grant funding and the current status of the flood projects.

Clr White advised that most importantly that Council will be conducting a visual audit of all flood mitigation drains and levies during April 2022.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

The Committee receive the General Update on Flood Projects report for information.

RESOLVED (Clr White / John Gould)

The Committee receive the General Update on Flood Projects report for information.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 6:38pm.

Clr Patricia White
CHAIRPERSON