

## MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, 21 April 2021  
**Location:** Council Chambers, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra  
**Time:** 4.07pm

The following members were present:

Clr Patricia White - Chair  
Clr Nina Digiglio – (Remotely)  
Mr Zachariah Cleary (Remotely)  
Ms Janis Natt  
Mr Phil Hansen - Acting Environmental Services Manager – (CEO Nominee)

Others Present:

Mr Mark Stone – Senior Floodplain Engineer  
Mr John Murtagh - Department of Planning, Environment and Industry (DPIE) (Remotely)  
Rod Whalen – NSW State emergency Services (Remotely)  
Mr Julian Skipworth - Water Modelling Solutions (Remotely)

### Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from David Tarbert, Richard Carpenter and Charles Court – Safe Navigation Action Group Inc.

### Confirmation of the Minutes

#### Recommendation

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

**RESOLVED** (Janis Natt / Clr White)

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

CARRIED

## Declarations of Interest

Nil.

## PRESENTATIONS

### CFM21.1 Floodplain Risk Management Presentation

**HPERM Ref:  
D21/141856**

John Murtagh, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) gave a presentation on Floodplain Risk Management in the context of the Shoalhaven, and the role of the Committee.

The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Clr White raised a question whether Burrill Lake would be eligible for flood funding as the most recent flood studies done for Burrill Lake are quite old. Would a new review need to be conducted to deem Burrill Lake eligible for funding? Mr Murtagh advised that any mitigation measures that are included in the Floodplain Risk Management Plan are eligible for a funding contribution from DPIE. He did however address the meeting later on this point where he advised that there was merit in reviewing either the Burrill Lake Flood Study (adopted 2007) or the Floodplain Risk Management Study (adopted 2013).

Clr White advised that many Burrill Lake residents have raised concerns in regard to the increase in their insurance premiums due to the construction of the new Burrill Lake Bridge.

### CFM21.2 Draft Currarong Creek Flood Study Presentation

**HPERM Ref:  
D21/141861**

Julian Skipworth, Water Modelling Solutions, gave a presentation to the meeting.

There are two methods of flood modelling basics that are used in this Flood Study, the Rainfall model and the Flood or Hydraulic model.

The key findings of the study are:

1. Currarong Road at Currarong Creek inundated in fairly frequent events (20% AEP and upwards) but to shallow depths and generally low velocity
2. Currarong Road begins to become unpassable in a 20% AEP event for small vehicles
3. Unpassable to all vehicles in a 5% AEP event
4. Eastern half of Currarong becomes isolated
5. Walton and Fishery Road may be cut in short duration storms (greater than 20% AEP)
6. Ponding water may develop in the western areas of Currarong starting in the 20% AEP event
7. Hazard will generally remain low for people but may cause above floor level inundation depending on ground conditions
8. Deeper inundation is generally well-confined to waterways rather than properties
9. Risk to property is generally quite low other than some small pockets
10. Main issue is overtopping of Currarong Road which cuts the evacuation route
11. Sea level rise has minimal impact on flood risk in this catchment
12. More critical event seems to be durations of 6-12 hours

## REPORTS

### **CFM21.3 Draft Currarong Creek Flood Study**

**HPERM Ref:  
D21/139378**

Council and DPIE have reviewed and provided feedback into the report. SES have not yet had a chance to respond as it coincided with the recent flooding across the State.

During discussion, it was raised that Council has a Policy for riverine flooding but not overland flooding. It was proposed that Council develop an overland flooding policy.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these Minutes.

#### **Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

The Committee receive the draft Currarong Creek Flood Study report for information and endorse the commencement of community engagement for the Draft Flood Study.

#### **RESOLVED** (Janis Natt / Zachariah Cleary)

That the Committee receive the draft Currarong Creek Flood Study report for information and endorse the commencement of community engagement for the Draft Flood Study.

CARRIED

### **CFM21.4 Update on the St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan**

**HPERM Ref:  
D21/141237**

Mark Stone provided a verbal update in relation to the St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan.

Lower Shoalhaven River and St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan (FRMS&P) peer review is underway and expected to be completed soon. The Flood Study will continue and be finalised.

The findings from the draft Flood Study report will be presented to a future Floodplain Risk Management Committee (FRMC) meeting to seek endorsement to undertake community consultation and public exhibition of the Flood Study report. At this time input will also be requested for options to be considered in the FRMS&P.

The DPIE funding term completion date is 20 November 2021.

At the previous FRMC meeting there was discussion resulting in a recommendation to end the investigation at a Flood Study only, but Council is now more confident that a Flood Study and some of the FRMS&P can be completed within the DPIE funding term. The FRMS&P milestones not completed by the funding term will need to be funded with a budget bid (if successful) and / or Council's Flood Program Budget.

Clr White raised the question that if there is a shortfall of funding after November 2021 is there an option to approach Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for additional funds.

John Murtagh explained that because the scope of the study had expanded from the original funding application (to approximately twice the original application amount), followed by DPIE offering a 60% increase in funding that there would be no scope to obtain additional funding or a time extension. However, there may be scope to apply for future funding in grant round but unsure at this point in time.

He added this note: Currarong Creek Flood Study – Limited hazard in overland flow but could enter houses. Intent is to try to ensure floor level of house is sufficiently high for overland flooding to flow around the house rather than through the house.

St Georges Basin / Sussex Inlet and Broughton Creek are high priority for review.

**Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

The Committee receive the report for information and endorse the continuation of this flood investigation through to the completion of the Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan.

**RESOLVED** (Janis Natt / Zachariah Cleary)

That the Committee:

1. Receive the report for information and endorse the continuation of this flood investigation through to the completion of the Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan.
2. Receive a report to a future meeting on the current status of the Works Program and the priorities.

CARRIED

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### CFM21.5 Additional Item - Currarong Creek Study - Verbal Update

Rodney Whalen – NSW State Emergency Services provided an update on the Currarong Creek Flood Study. SES will review the Draft Currarong Creek Flood Study and provide feedback.

Mark Stone advised that this feedback is welcome at any stage prior to the end of the community consultation period.

Note: Phil Hansen, Acting Environmental Services Manager, advised the meeting that he will be completing his acting role and Michael Roberts will be commencing in May as Kelie Clarke's replacement.

Clr White thanked Phil for an excellent job especially over the last few months with the flood events.

Janis Natt thanked Phil for engaging the community during his time in the role.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.50pm.

Clr Patricia White  
CHAIRPERSON