

Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 17 June, 2026
Location: Jervis Bay Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.00pm

Please note: Council's Code of Meeting Practice permits the electronic recording and broadcast of the proceedings of meetings of the Council which are open to the public. Your attendance at this meeting is taken as consent to the possibility that your image and/or voice may be recorded and broadcast to the public.

Agenda

1. Meeting Conduct Statement
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of Minutes
 - Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee - 10 April 2024 1
5. Declaration of Interests
6. Reports
 - CFM26.1 St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 5
7. General Business

Membership

Clr Patricia White - Chairperson
All Councillors (Non-voting members)
CEO or nominee (Non-voting member)
Richard Carpenter
Ronald Carberry
Janis Natt
David Reynolds
Charles Court

Government Agency representatives:-
Local Aboriginal Land Council
NSW State Emergency Services
Department of Planning & Environment (DPIE)
Other relevant Government Agency representatives

Quorum – Three (3) (provided that a minimum of one (1) Councillor as the Chair or Acting chair and two community representatives are present)

Note: Any non-voting Councillor in attendance at any Committee meeting may act as an alternate voting member in circumstances where achievement of a quorum is required, noting that this doesn't apply when quorum specifies the quorum to require community member attendance.

Purpose:

The principal objective of the Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee is to assist Shoalhaven City Council in the development and implementation of one or more floodplain risk management plans for the central area of the Council. This will need to be in accordance with the NSW Floodplain Development Manual. The central area applies to the following catchments:

- St Georges Basin (includes Sussex Inlet);
- Jervis Bay;
- Currambene Creek;
- Moona Moona Creek;
- Currarong Creek;
- Berrara Creek
- Callala Creek; and
- Swan Lake

Role:

1. To assist the Council in the development and implementation of a Flood Study, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Floodplain Risk Management Plan for the areas listed under 'Purpose' (see above).
2. To assist the Council monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of the management plans during and after their implementation.
3. To assist the Council providing input into known flood behaviour as part of the Flood Study; and
4. Facilitate broader community consultation and participation in floodplain risk management through informing and liaising with member community groups.

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 10 April 2024
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.00pm

The following members were present:

Clr Matthew Norris – Chairperson
Clr Evan Christen (Remotely)
Clr John Kotlash (Remotely)
Mr Richard Carpenter
Mrs Janis Natt
Mr David Reynolds
Mr Ronald Carberry – Joined at 4.33pm
Mr Colin Bron – NSW State Emergency Service (Remotely)
Mr Dylan Whitelaw - (Remotely)
Mr Nathan Pomfret – DPE Biodiversity & Conservation (Remotely)
Mr Peter Swanson – Acting Manager - Environmental Services (Remotely)

Others present:

Mr James Ruprai – Director City Development
Mr Alexander Aronsson – Lead – Floodplain Management
Mr Mark Stone - Floodplain & Stormwater Quality Engineer
Mr Luke Evans – Rhelm (Remotely)
Dr Filippo Dall'Osso – Water Technology (Remotely) – Left at 4.23pm

Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Clr White.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee held on Wednesday 30 November 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declaration of Interests

Nil

PRESENTATIONS

CFM24.1 Lower Shoalhaven River & St Georges Basin Flood Evacuation Capability Assessment - Water Technology

**HPERM Ref:
D24/52373**

Dr Filippo Dall'Osso – Water Technology presented to the Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee on the Lower Shoalhaven River & St Georges Basin Flood Evacuation Capability Assessment and Triggers project. The below topics were discussed:

- Problems
- Project objectives
- Project scope
- Deliverables and progress

The Floodplain Management Team advised that the Flood Evacuation Capability Assessment and Triggers project is a technical study and it will not be placed on public exhibition for consultation however, where flood mitigation measures are identified, such as road raising or upgrades, or strategic changes to land use planning are recommended, these recommendations will feed into other Council processes that ultimately will go out for public exhibition and community consultation.

The presentation is attached to the Minutes.

CFM24.2 St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan Presentation - Rhelm

**HPERM Ref:
D24/52487**

Mr Luke Evans – Rhelm presented to the Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee on the St Georges Basin Risk Management Study. The below topics were discussed:

- Project overview
- Study area
- Data collection & model updates
- Floodplain risk management study
- FECA collaboration
- Mitigation options
- Floodplain risk management plan
- Engagement overview
- Future milestones

Clr Norris commented on the road rising and queried if there are any funding models that Council can apply for to facilitate this project. The Floodplain Management Team advised all mitigation methods through this study that are adopted in the Plan, are eligible for funding through the NSW Floodplain Management Grant.

Mr James Ruprai – Director City Development further clarified that there are funding options for Voluntary House Raising (if adopted in the Plan), where Council will facilitate the grant application process through the State Government and that the State Government generally funds \$2 for every \$1 spent by the property owner. It is voluntary for property owners, where their property is identified in the Plan, to sign up to this scheme.

The presentation is attached to the Minutes.

REPORTS

CFM24.3 Membership Resignation - Zachariah Cleary

HPERM Ref:
D24/30941

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee accept the resignation of Mr Zachariah Cleary and thank him for his contribution to the Committee and fill the vacancy through the current opened Expression of Interest.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee accept the resignation of Mr Zachariah Cleary and thank him for his contribution to the Committee and fill the vacancy through the current opened Expression of Interest.

CARRIED

CFM24.4 General Update on Flood Projects

HPERM Ref:
D24/55503

St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

Council has prepared a Get Involved webpage for the St Georges Basin FRMS&P, media release, and emails to notify all Community Consultative Bodies (CCBs) of the commencement of the St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

The Floodplain Management Team welcomes further ideas from the Committee on additional mitigation options to be included for consideration. More information is available on the Get Involved webpage.

Shoalhaven LGA Floor Level Survey for Flood Planning:

This project has received grant funding through NSW Reconstruction Authority. It was noted that this project is approximately 95% completed.

Expression of Interests:

Council's Expression of Interest is currently opened for membership, noting the Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee currently have three (3) positions vacant and this will remain open until all positions filled. The Floodplain Management Team encouraged the committee members to share this EOI with their networks.

Induction Program for Local Representatives:

Planning to launch within the next 6 months, an email will be provided to each member, a Q&A will be held in person and available on Teams.

Flood Alert Network Audit, Maintenance & Upgrade:

Recently audited all the existing gauges and staging the upgrade of the gauges with new technology, currently about 20% of the way through the upgrade. This is required to ensure the existing network is compatible with current technology such that that it will remain operational moving forward. This system is utilised by Council, the Bureau of Meteorology and NSW SES and is a critical network to protect life and property. This project is funded through Council's capital works program. Ongoing funding is critical for the ongoing operation of the Flood Alert Network.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

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

RESOLVED (By consent)

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

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.31pm.

Clr Matthew Norris
CHAIRPERSON

CFM26.1 St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

HPERM Ref: D26/232882

Department: Technical Services

Approver: Kevin Norwood, Director - City Services

Purpose:

To provide the Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee (CFRMC) with an update on the outcome of the draft St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan public exhibition and community consultation. Then seek endorsement from the CFRMC for Council to consider the St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee endorse the *St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2026)* for Council adoption.

Community Strategic Plan:

- 1 Vibrant, active and safe communities
 - 1.5 Preparedness for disasters and emergencies

Delivery Program / Operational Plan:

- 1.5.2 Provide effective flood management to prevent or minimise the impacts of flooding

Background

Council received financial support from the NSW Floodplain Management Program to undertake the St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (FRMSP) to prepare a contemporary plan to manage the flood risk within the catchment into the future.

St Georges Basin (SGB) is a coastal lagoon with a relatively shallow and brackish waterbody, and an average depth of around 2-4 metres. The entire catchment covers an area of approximately 358 square kilometres, while the Basin itself covers an area of approximately 40 square kilometres, making it one of the largest coastal lakes in New South Wales. The SGB catchment includes a mix of urban, rural, and natural landscapes. It encompasses various waterways and tributaries that flow into the basin, such as Wandandian Creek, Tomerong Creek, Cockrow Creek, Cow Creek, and Tullarwalla Creek. Wandandian Creek and Tomerong Creek are the largest tributaries of the basin, with catchment areas of 159.3 square kilometres and 42.8 square kilometres, respectively.

As at the 2021 Census, the population of the urban area within the St Georges Basin catchment (including Sussex Inlet) was 20,370, while the population of the localities in the vicinity of the major tributaries of Wandandian Creek and Tomerong Creek was 1,633. It is also notable that various National Parks, State Recreational Areas, and several caravan parks border the Basin.

This project was undertaken in accordance with the NSW Flood Prone Land Policy, the *NSW Flood Risk Management Manual (2023)* and in close collaboration with the NSW State Emergency Service (SES), the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), and other agencies and stakeholders as required.

Council engaged a consultant, Rhelm, to assist with the preparation of the St Georges Basin FRMSP. This study will improve Council's understanding of flood behaviour and impacts on the community and better inform management of flood risk in the study area. Once adopted, it will replace the currently adopted *St Georges Basin FRMSP (2006)* and *St Georges Basin FRMSP – Climate Change Assessment (2013)* for management of flood risk within the study area into the future.

Public exhibition of the Draft St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was undertaken between 2 February and 15 March 2026. A detailed overview of this is provided under the Community Consultation section of this report.

The following amendments have been made to the final project deliverables following the public exhibition period:

- Update to final revision.
- Section 3.1 Engagement Purpose. This section was included to highlight the importance of community consultation and the role it plays in the NSW Flood Risk Management Framework.
- Section 3.6 Public Exhibition. This section was updated to summarise the outcomes of the public exhibition period.
- Section 7.12 Flood Planning Recommendations. Minor updates were made to this section.
- EM12 Wunda Avenue Flood Gates Investigation. This option was added to the Plan based on feedback from the community during the public exhibition period.

The final *St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2026)* can be viewed at the following links:

- [St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study](#)
- [St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Plan](#)
- [St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Mapping Compendium](#)

Risk Implications

By completing and adopting the study, Council meets its obligations under the NSW Flood Prone Land Policy to manage flood risk within the St Georges Basin catchment. The completed study represents best available flood information that should be implemented to inform strategic land-use and flood risk management decisions on flood liable land within the study area. Should the committee choose not to endorse the study for adoption, it may jeopardise Council's exemption from liability for decisions made within the St Georges Basin catchment relating to flood liable land under section 7.33 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Internal Consultations

No formal internal consultation has occurred, but relevant internal stakeholders have been consulted on an as needs basis throughout the project.

External Consultations

The Floodplain and Stormwater Team have worked closely with the NSW SES and NSW DCCEEW to deliver this project.

Community Consultations

Three rounds of community consultation activities have been undertaken as part of this project.

The first round was completed as part of the public exhibition of the draft St Georges Basin Flood Study (Cardno, 2022) between 6 June to 8 July 2022. Although focusing on the flood study, the community was also requested to provide feedback on flood risk mitigation measures they would like Council to investigate as part of the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

The second round was undertaken at the commencement of the St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan via the project's Get Involved webpage and through the Central Floodplain Risk Management Committee. The community was informed of the commencement of the project, of what measures Council would investigate and requested to provide information regarding additional measures to be investigated, if not already identified.

The third round of community consultation was undertaken as part of the public exhibition of the draft St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan from 2 February to 15 March 2026. The consultation process was intended to ensure that the Floodplain Risk Management Study reflects both technical evidence and community perspectives, and that its recommendations are socially acceptable, implementable and clearly understood by those affected by flooding now and into the future prior to finalising the Floodplain Risk Management Plan.

The following was used to inform the community:

- The issue of a media release.
- Notification of the public exhibition and community consultation period in the In Your Neighbourhood Community Newsletter and on Council social media pages.
- Notification of Community Consultative Bodies (CCBs) and community groups of the public exhibition and community consultation period.
- Mail out to property owners within the study area. This letter provided a link to the project Get Involved webpage. 3,057 letters were sent out to flood affected properties.
- Get Involved webpage, including the following:
 - *A Summary Report of the St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan (Rhelm, 2025).*
 - *St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (Rhelm, 2025) draft report.*
 - *St Georges Basin Map Compendium (Rhelm, 2025) draft report.*
 - Location-based summary video presentations discussing the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan development and key outcomes.
 - NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) FloodSafe brochure.
- Hard copies of the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan and Map Compendium reports were made available at Council's Admin Building (Nowra) for viewing.

Community engagement was undertaken via:

- General enquiries via phone calls throughout the community consultation period,
- An online survey hosted on Council's Get Involved website; and,
- Two drop-in sessions attended by Council, Rhelm, DCCEEW and SES staff.

Over the course of the public exhibition period:

- 630 people visited the project’s Get Involved website;
- The documents were downloaded 222 times;
- 13 people completed the online survey;
- 34 people were recorded at the drop-in sessions; and,
- 3 people emailed Council directly with comments relating to the study.

The online survey was completed by 13 respondents. The primary purpose of the survey was to collect qualitative data on community support (or otherwise) for the various options. The results of the survey are summarised in *Figure 1*.

The results indicated that all proposed options were supported to some extent by the community. Strong support for options ranged from 45% to 75%, while combined “strongly supported” and “somewhat supported” ranged from 70% to 100% for all options.

Whilst the response rate was relatively small (13 responses) compared to the number of residents in the study area, the responses received broadly supported the recommendations put forward in the FRMSP.

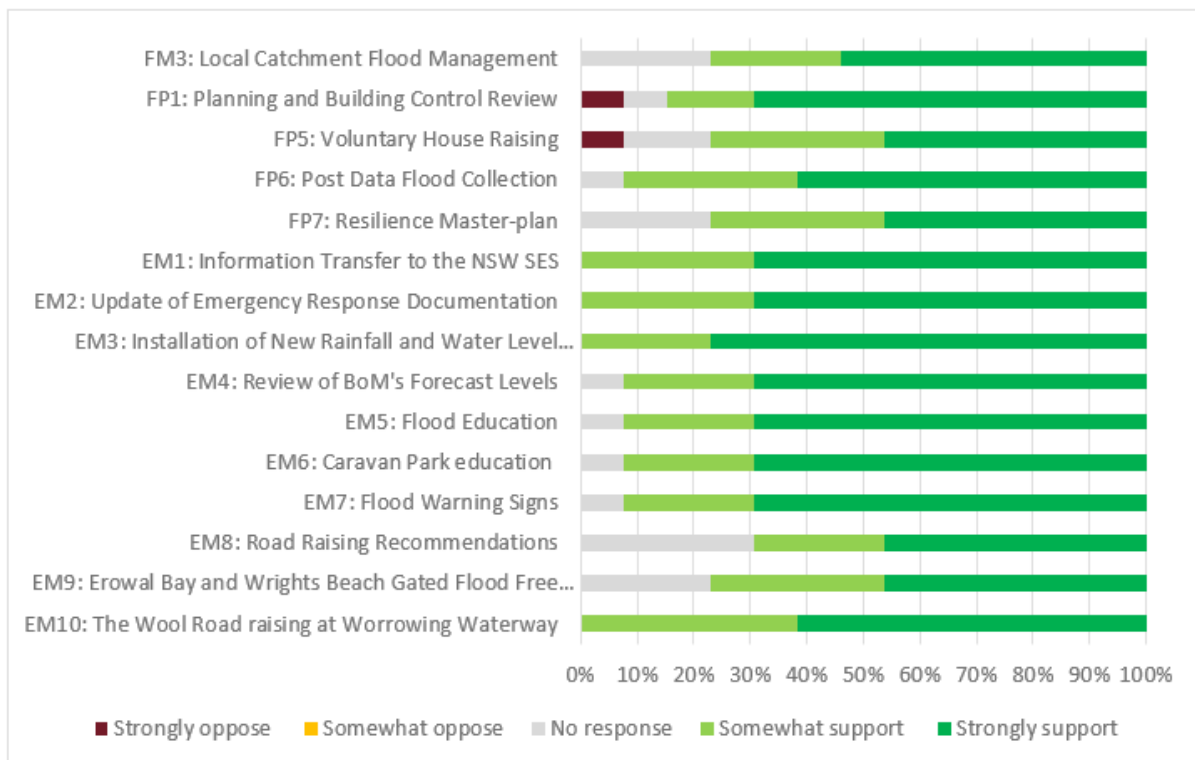


Figure 1 community Survey Responses to Mitigation Measures

Policy and Statutory Implications

Following adoption of the St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan deliverables, the outcomes from this investigation will be used as follows:

- Final St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan reports and Map Compendium will be made available on Council’s website. The mapping will be made available on Council’s online flood mapping.
- This data will be available via flood certificate requests and be included in Section 10.7 planning certificates for the St Georges Basin catchment.
- This information will be used to assess proposed development on flood prone land in accordance with the Shoalhaven LEP 2014 and DCP Chapters G9 and G10.

- This information will be used to inform strategic land-use and infrastructure proposals within the study area.

All flood information completed in the St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan investigation will be provided to the NSW SES.

The above ensures that Council satisfies its obligations under the *NSW Flood Prone Land Policy (2023)* and the *NSW Flood Risk Management Manual (2023)*.

The final St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Plan includes the flood risk management measures for adoption as listed in *Table 1*.

Table 1 St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Plan

Management Scenario	ID	Name	Priority
Flood Modification	FM3	Local catchment drainage upgrade	Medium
Property Management	FP1	Planning and Development Controls	High
	FP5	Voluntary house raising	Low
	FP6	Post flood data collection	Medium
	FP7	Resilience Masterplan	High
Emergency Response Management	EM1	Data handover to SES	High
	EM2	Update of Emergency response documentation	High
	EM3	Installation of new rainfall and water level gauges	Medium
	EM4	Review of forecast levels in BoM warning service	High
	EM5	Flood education	Medium
	EM6	Caravan Park education campaign	Medium
	EM7	Flood warning signs	High
	EM8	Road Raising Recommendations	Medium
	EM9	Erowal Bay and Wrights Beach gated flood free access	Medium
	EM11	The Wool Road raising at Worrowing Waterway	Medium
EM12	Wunda Avenue Flood Gates Investigation	Medium	

CFM26.1

Financial Implications

The St Georges Basin Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was 2/3 funded by the NSW Floodplain Management Program and 1/3 funded by Council's general funds. The project has been completed, and the grant is in the process of being acquitted.