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**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
TO BE HELD IN THE MURRAY ROOM ON  
THURSDAY, 12 JUNE 2025 AT 2:00 PM**

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- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
  - CL01 p7 Torrent Consulting Update
  - CL02 p8 Project Update - Hanwood Stormwater Pump and Levee Project
  - CL03 p10 Project Update - McCormack Road Yoogali Levee - Stage 2 Project
  - CL04 p12 East Mirrool Regulator (EMR) Emergency Breaching Protocol
  - CL05 p13 Questions Taken on Notice at Floodplain Committee Meeting held 6 March 2025
  - CL06 p31 Correspondence Received from Community Members
- 6 p55 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

**DISTRIBUTION LIST**

Councillor Scott Groat (Chair), Laurie Testoni (Councillor - Alternate), Steve Manwaring (DCCEEW), Craig Ronan (NSW SES), Michael Borg (NSW SES), Ian Parisotto (Community Representative), Paul Rossetto (Community Representative), Ema Munro (Community Representative), John Kerrigan (Community Representative), Steve Mortlock (Community Representative)

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet; Director Utilities, Graham Gordon; Water & Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary and Minute Secretary, Joanne Bollen

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

This Committee meeting may be attended remotely and recorded by audio or audio-visual means for administrative purposes. No other recording is permitted.

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

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**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD IN MURRAY ROOM ON  
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 2:00 PM**

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**PRESENT**

Councillor Scott Groat (Chair), Laurie Testoni (Councillor - Alternate), Steve Manwaring (DCCEEW), Josh Stanbury (NSW SES), Stephen Mortlock (Community Representative), Ian Parisotto (Community Representative), Paul Rossetto (Community Representative), John Kerrigan (Community Representative), Dan Williams (Torrent Consulting) (ZOOM)

Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) representative not in attendance. MI attend only as invited guests

Quorum = 3

**STAFF**

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Water & Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary, Engineering Design & Approvals Manager, Jason Carrozza, Governance Manager, Leanne Austin and Minute Secretary, Joanne Bollen

**1 APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Ema Munro (Community Representative).

**2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Scott Groat that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 December 2024, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

**3 BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil.

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST****Pecuniary Interests**

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

**Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests**

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

## **Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests**

*Members making a less than significant non-pecuniary interest declaration may stay in the meeting and participate in the debate and vote on the matter.*

Committee Member, Paul Rossetto

CL07 Response to Letter Received from Yenda Progress Association

Reason – I have family members and friends living and working in the potential flood zone if the Northern Branch Canal is over topped by Mirrool Creek flood waters again.

Committee Member, Ian Parisotto

Reason – EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, informed the Committee that an induction process would be conducted during Clause 1 of the meeting. After the induction, Committee members would have the opportunity to review any declarations they have previously made. He emphasised his obligation to advise the Committee on declarations of interest.

Mr Stonestreet further clarified that when making a declaration, any reference to family members or friends would indicate either a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest or a Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, rather than a Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest.

## **5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **CL01 INDUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS - MANDATORY**

Leanne Austin, Governance Manager, provided an overview of the Committee induction process which Committee members may access on Council's website. Committee members are required to read the Code of Conduct policy and procedures, Code of Meeting Practice policy, Statements to the Media Policy, Social Media Policy, Information Protection Principles and Child Safe policy. Committee members are also required to complete the online policy acknowledgment form. Explanation was provided in relation to the requirement to declare any Conflicts of Interest Committee members may have in their consideration of Committee matters.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Stephen Mortlock that the Committee members note the Committee Induction requirements and complete induction process outlined in this report.

*Leanne Austin left the meeting, the time being 2:18pm.*

### **CL02 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference of the Committee were reviewed and discussed.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Councillor Laurie Testoni that the Committee adopt the Terms of Reference attached to the report, with the following changes made:

- Minimum number for quorum will be 5.
- 7 Community Representatives.

### **CL03 PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2025**

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee is scheduled for Thursday, 1 May 2025.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Stephen Mortlock that the Committee note the proposed meeting dates for 2025.

#### **CL04 REVIEW OF LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY AND FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY AND PLAN**

Dan Williams from Torrent Consulting provided the Committee with an update on the review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and Plan.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and John Kerrigan that the Committee note the report.

*Dan Williams left the meeting, the time being 3:10pm.*

#### **CL05 PROJECT UPDATE - HANWOOD STORMWATER PUMP AND LEVEE PROJECT**

Water & Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary's, update on the Hanwood Stormwater Pump and Levee Project was included in the Agenda.

Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, gave a verbal update on the progress of the project.

The main objective of the project is to provide the 1% AEP flood immunity to the Hanwood community.

The project has reached near completion stage, with the remaining works to be finalised by end of March/early April 2025.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Stephen Mortlock and Ian Parisotto that the Committee note the information.

#### **CL06 PROJECT UPDATE - MCCORMACK ROAD YOOGALI LEVEE - STAGE 2 PROJECT**

Water & Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary's, update on the McCormack Road Yoogali Levee – Stage 2 Project was included in the Agenda.

Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, gave a verbal update on the progress of the project.

Stage 2 and Stage 3 works consist of a levee along McCormack Road and Burley Griffin Way and from McCormack Road to the railway line respectively.

With available funding Council has progressed with the Stage 2 works which consist of two parts:

- (i) Stage 2a - Raising of McCormack Road from Bosanquet Road to Newman Road; and
- (ii) Stage 2b – Raising DC605J channel bank as a levee from Bosanquet Road to Burley Griffin Way.

This project is scheduled to be completed by end of June 2025.

Mr Gordon advised the Committee that Council would investigate alternative construction methodologies for Stage 3 of the project and report back to the Committee in the future.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Stephen Mortlock and Paul Rossetto that the Committee note the report.

*Councillor Laurie Testoni left the meeting, the time being 3:46pm.*

## **CL07 RESPONSE TO LETTER RECEIVED FROM YENDA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

Paul Rossetto presented additional questions regarding the response to the Yenda Progress Association Inc. letter. These questions were taken on notice and a response will be drafted to present to the Committee for endorsement.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Stephen Mortlock and Paul Rossetto that the Floodplain Management Committee endorse the draft letter of response to Mr. Paul Rossetto of the Yenda Progress Association Inc. Mirrool Creek Flood spokesman.

## **6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of John Kerrigan and Paul Rossetto that the report be noted.

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Leaking Pipe – Corner Beelbangera Road and Myall Park Road**

Paul Rossetto raised the issue of a leaking irrigation pipe at the corner of Beelbangera Road and Myall Park Road near Yenda.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and John Kerrigan that:

- (a) Council write to Murrumbidgee Irrigation to request they fix the leak on an underground irrigation pipe at the corner of Beelbangera Road and Myall Park Road near Yenda.
- (b) Once the leak is repaired, Murrumbidgee Irrigation level the surface to accommodate slashing of grass but also to lower the surface to below the Myall Park Road crest to allow future flood water easier access down between the Beelbangera Road and railway line. This will take some pressure off the rising height of flood water trapped in Yenda by the railway line and Murrumbidgee Irrigation unused earth banks remnant from when an open irrigation channel was there.

## **8 MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY CLOSED COMMITTEE**

### **CC01 APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Ian Parisotto that the applications for membership from Joseph Dal Broi and Wendy Quayle be received and membership to the Committee be approved.

## **9 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 1 May 2025 at 2:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 4:12pm.

**CLAUSE**      **CL01**

**TITLE**        **Torrent Consulting Update**

**TRIM REF**    **25/63240**

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Torrent Consulting to provide an update on the review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and Plan.

**CLAUSE**      **CL02**

**TITLE**            **Project Update - Hanwood Stormwater Pump and Levee Project**

**FROM**            **Durgananda Chaudhary, Water & Wastewater Manager**

**TRIM REF**      **25/63931**

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### **SUMMARY**

The Hanwood Stormwater Pump and Levee Project has reached near completion stage. An update is given in the report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**The Committee note the information.**

### **REPORT**

The following major works have been completed:

- Earthen levee along DC DA and DC HANDEPOT completed.
- Kidman Way raised a levee and as per TfNSW requirements.
- Drainage network along Kidman Way, Mallee Street, and service lane between Mallee Street and Wattle Street.
- All 4 pumps operational.

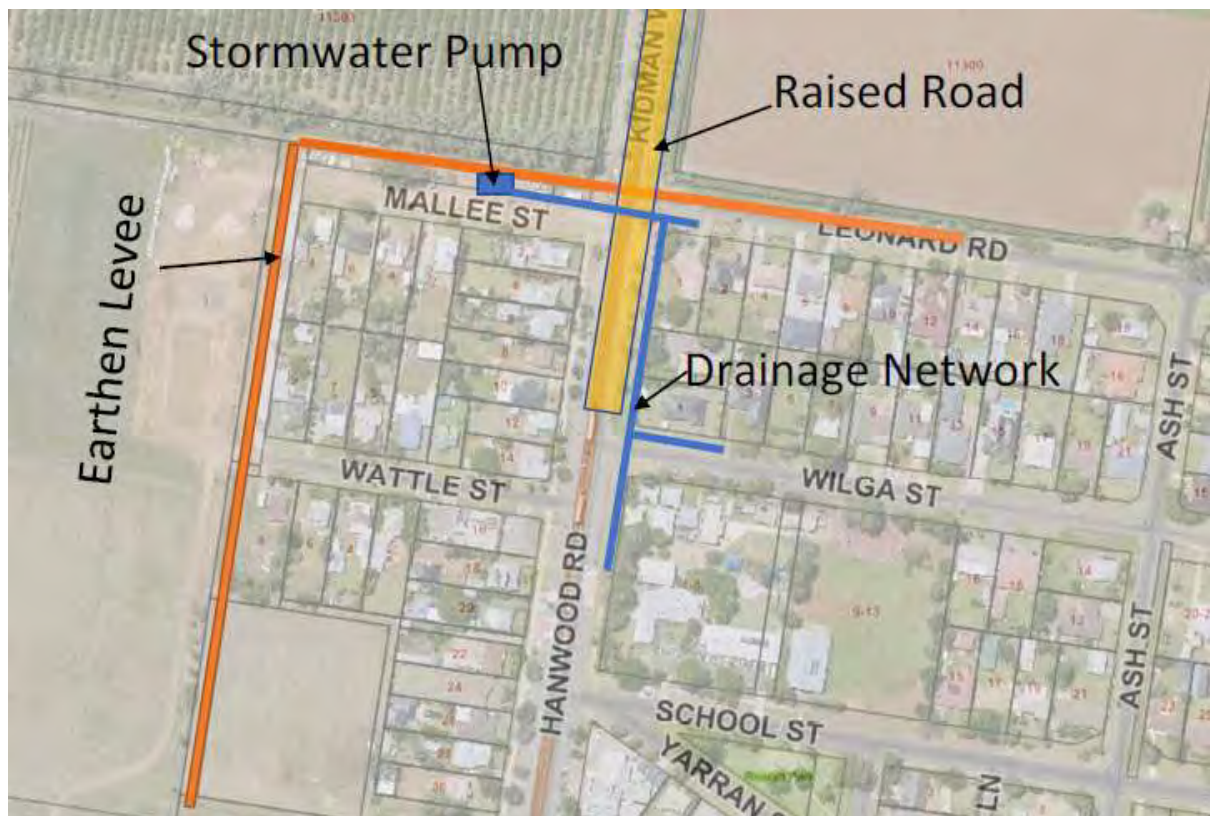
Works to be completed:

- Pump shed/awning and security fencing.
- Official commissioning of the pump.

The 3 – stage project was funded by the State and the Commonwealth.

The project will provide the 1% AEP flood immunity to Hanwood village.





#### [LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

#### [ATTACHMENTS](#)

Nil

**CLAUSE**      **CL03**

**TITLE**        **Project Update - McCormack Road Yoogali Levee - Stage 2 Project**

**FROM**        **Durgananda Chaudhary, Water & Wastewater Manager**

**TRIM REF**    **25/63932**

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### **SUMMARY**

This report gives an update on the McCormack Road Yoogali Levee – Stage 2 Project.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**The Committee note the report.**

### **REPORT**

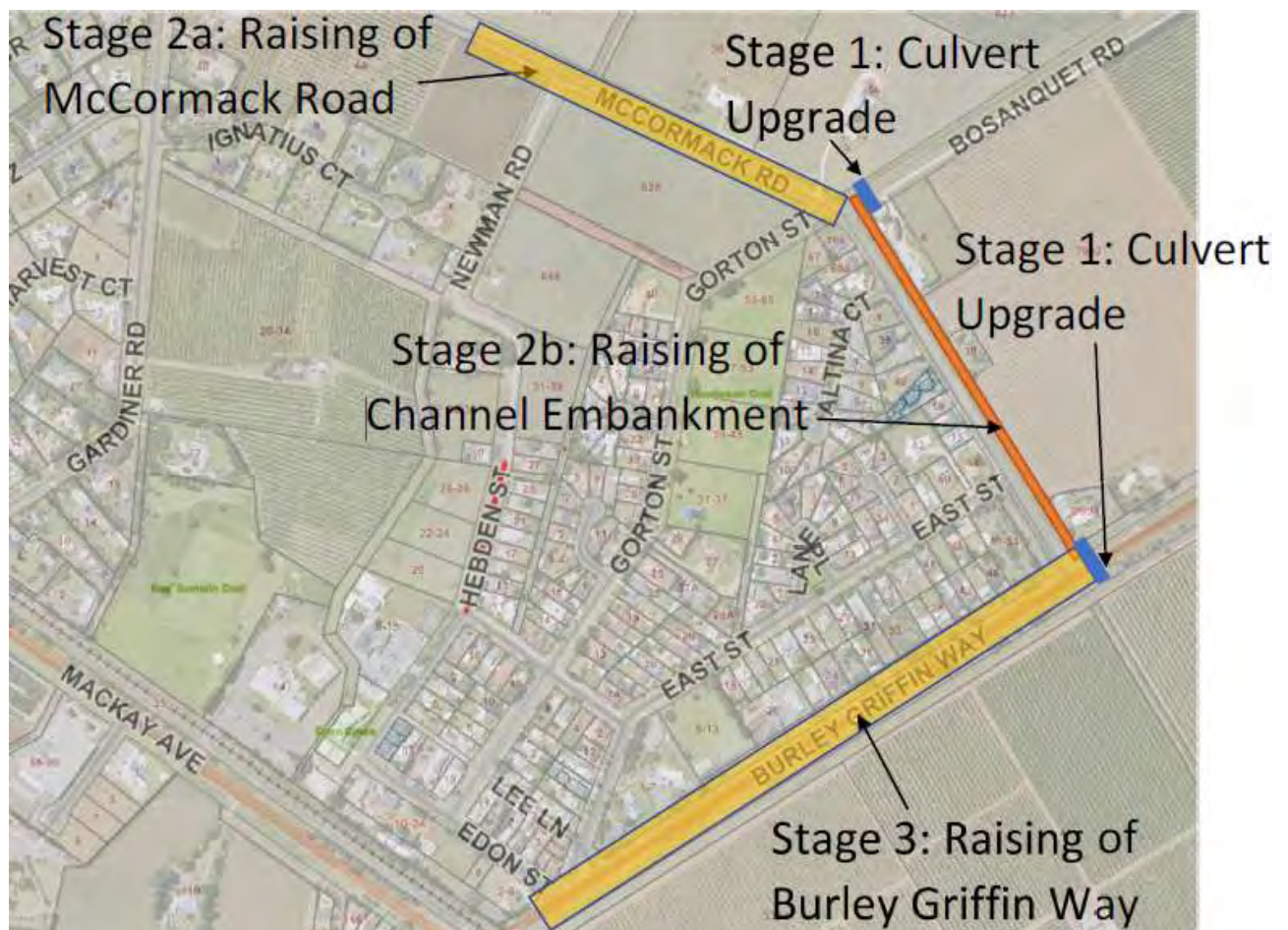
Stage 1: Upgrade of Culverts at Bosanquet Road and Burley Griffin Way – completed.

Stage 2a: Raising of McCormack Road from Newman Road to Bosanquet Road - to be completed by June 2025.

Stage 2b: Raising of DC605J Channel embankment from Bosanquet Road to Burley Griffin Way - to be completed by June 2025.

Stage 3: Raising of Burley Griffin Way from Railway line to McCormack Road:

- No funding available;
- Estimated cost obtained from TfNSW in 2024 was \$5.0M, which is not fundable under existing floodplain management funding programs;
- Council to investigate alternative flood mitigation option and/or seek alternative funding source.



### [LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

### [ATTACHMENTS](#)

Nil

**CLAUSE**      **CL04**

**TITLE**        **East Mirrool Regulator (EMR) Emergency Breaching Protocol**

**FROM**        **Graham Gordon, Director Utilities**

**TRIM REF**    **25/61772**

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### **SUMMARY**

A request was received by Cr Scott Groat to *“supply a report on the cost of breaching the main canal at the EMR per emergency breaching protocol design document and the contractor employed to breach the canal”*.

The EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework was adopted by Griffith City Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The initiation of an emergency breach of the Main Canal has been recommended to occur during a Major Flood. It is difficult to predict when and if this would occur at anytime in the future.

When a major flood event is predicted to occur or is occurring the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) is activated. An EOC is a multi-agency centre established under the State Emergency and Rescue Management (SERM) Act 1989 to coordinate support to a combat agency during an emergency. Any breaching of the main canal would be coordinated through the EOC and it would be difficult to collate costs regarding this process. In regards to engaging contractors, this would be dependant on who is available at the time.

As a result of the breaching works being undertaken through the EOC process there is a possibility of funding to assist recovery and reinstatement of damaged critical infrastructure such as the main water supply network to the Griffith LGA.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the information be noted.**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

<b>CLAUSE</b>	<b>CL05</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Questions Taken on Notice at Floodplain Committee Meeting held 6 March 2025</b>
<b>FROM</b>	<b>Graham Gordon, Director Utilities</b>
<b>TRIM REF</b>	<b>25/59393</b>

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### **SUMMARY**

The attached questions were taken on notice at the last meeting of the Floodplain Committee, held 6 March 2025.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**The report be noted.**

### **REPORT**

*CL06 Yoogali Levee – enlarge Main Drain J using the soil removed as a new channel bank.*

This may be referring to the section of Main Drain J (western channel bank) from McCormack Road to the intersection of Burley Griffin Way and Mackay Avenue and forms part of the Yoogali Levee Stage 3. As reported to the Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Stage 3 of the Yoogali Levee has been put on hold due to estimated works being \$5 million. Further design options for the Stage 3 levee are required to propose other funding options. These design options will be carried out at a later date and could incorporate the raising of the western Main Drain J channel bank.

*CL07 Thank You for response. I couldn't see the impact on downstream properties report recommended by the mover of the motion Steve Manwaring?*

This is documented in the EMR Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework. Refer to the report present as CL07 of the Floodplain Committee meeting on the 6th March 2025.

*Several apparent Conflicts of Interest not declared. Why not a property map showing owners of property adjacent to the site.*

Conflicts of interest are at the discretion of the Committee members.

*Foreshadowing a letter to the General Manager, Mr Stonestreet.*

Noted and the letter was received by Council on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 10:18am. Refer to Attachment (b).

*Couldn't see Councils Legal Liability report.*

Council Legal Advice from BAL Lawyers regarding Mirrool Creek Levees was in Confidential Attachment (j) in the CL07 report of the Floodplain Committee meeting on the 6th March 2025. A copy of this is now also shown in Attachment (c) of this report.



*What was the main reason Council agreed to the MI proposed NBC realignment works?*

Clarification is required by Mr Rossetto in relation to his NBC statement. All previous documents refer to the acronym of NBC as the Northern Branch Canal. The NBC was not realigned and the previous report to the Floodplain Committee meeting on the 6th March 2025 was discussing the realignment of the North Meribee Channel. To enable a response, it is intended to interpret NBC as the North Meribee Channel.

Council agreed to the proposed North Meribee Channel realignment works as it aligned with the floodway map in the EMR Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework. Refer to the report presented as CL07 of the Floodplain Committee meeting on the 6th March 2025.

*What criteria other than financial savings was used by Council to assess the benefits to the Community for the MI NBC realignment works?*

Council used the modelling results from the EMR Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework to assess the benefits to the Community for the MI North Meribee Channel realignment works. Refer to CL07 of the Floodplain Committee meeting on the 6th March 2025.

*Where does the extra flood water come from accumulating at the NBC realignment site as compared to the 1978 report map not showing a floodway there but further North.*

All flood waters accumulating at the North Meribee Channel come from Mirrool Creek, tributaries flowing into Mirrool Creek and flood ways as defined in the EMR Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework.

*Are there any property owners benefitting from the NBC re-alignment.*

Yes, refer to the report present as CL07 of the Floodplain Committee meeting on the 6th March 2025.

*Are there any downstream property owners impacted by the NBC realignment works.*

Access to properties along Halse Road may be impacted during times of flood as was the case prior to the realignment works.

*Will any compensation for damage be available to them in the event of increased flooding, both frequency and volume.*

In times of extreme floods, Local Government Areas can be declared a Natural Disaster Area by the State Government and this may attract financial assistance from the State Government.

*Why weren't all property owners impacted by the new works given notice of the work and time to consider their options?*

This was not a Council funded or managed project.

*When will the new flood study review most likely take place given there has been significant changes to the landscape upstream of the EMR.*

Once Flood Mitigation Works at Hanwood and Yoogali have been completed and endorsed by the State Government then Griffith City Council will look into applying for funding to carry out a review of the current flood study. A review is also triggered by a major event which provides additional data to the existing flood models.

*Upgrade Flood Gates Option recommended in Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek August 2015 report.*

Noted.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

*Could Council write to MI asking to fix the leak on an underground irrigation pipe at the corner of Beelbanger Road and Myall Park Road near Yenda. When the leak has been repaired could MI level the surface to accommodate slashing of grass but also lower the surface level to below the Myall Park Road crest so as to allow future flood water easier access down between the Beelbagera Road and railway line taking some pressure off the rising height of flood water trapped I Yenda by the railway line and MI unused earth banks remnant from when an open irrigation channel was there.*

Please refer to Attachment (d) for a copy of the letter written to MI.

#### [LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

#### [ATTACHMENTS](#)

- |     |   |    |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Questions Taken on Notice - Floodplain Committee Meeting held 6 March 2025 <a href="#">↓</a>          | 16 |
| (b) | Reply to GM letter 120325 - from Paul Rossetto - 250325 <a href="#">↓</a>                             | 18 |
| (c) | Confidential Attachment (j) from Floodplain Management Committee Meeting 6 Mar 2025 (confidential)    |    |
| (d) | Letter to MI - Leaking Irrigation Pipe Beelbanger and Myall Park Road - 23 May 2025 <a href="#">↓</a> |    |

**Griffith City Council Floodplain Committee**

Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

- ✓ 4. Declaration of Interest submitted. ✓
- ✓ CL03 Unavailable for June meeting date, May would suit better.

CL06 Yoogali Levee- enlarge Main Drain J using the soil removed as a new channel bank.

CL07 Thank You for response. I couldn't see the impact on downstream properties report recommended by the mover of the motion Steve Manwaring?

Several apparent Conflicts of Interest not declared. Why not a property map showing owners of property adjacent to the site.

Foreshadowing a letter to the General Manager, Mr Stonestreet.

Couldn't see Councils Legal Liability report.

What was the main reason Council agreed to the MI proposed NBC realignment works?

What criteria other than financial savings was used by Council to assess the benefits to the Community for the MI NBC realignment works?

Where does the extra flood water come from accumulating at the NBC realignment site as compared to the 1978 report map not showing a floodway there but further North.

Are there any property owners benefitting from the NBC re-alignment.

Are there any downstream property owners impacted by the NBC realignment works.

Will any compensation for damage be available to them in the event of increased flooding, both frequency and volume.

Why weren't all property owners impacted by the new works given notice of the work and time to consider their options?

When will the new flood study review most likely take place given there has been significant changes to the landscape upstream of the EMR.



Upgrade Flood Gates Option recommended in Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek August 2015 report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Could Council write to MI asking to fix the leak on an underground irrigation pipe at the corner of Beelbagera Road and Myall Park Road near Yenda. When the leak has been repaired could MI level the surface to accommodate slashing of grass but also lower the surface to below the Myall Park Road crest so as to allow future flood water easier access down between the Beelbagera Road and railway line taking some pressure off the rising height of flood water trapped I Yenda by the railway line and MI unused earth banks remnant from when an open irrigation channel was there.

1.

Letter redrafted and critiqued in blue ink

GRIFFITH

CITY COUNCIL

Reply to letter dated 5/12/2024

12 March 2025

Paul Rossetto

Yenda Progress Association

Mirrool Creek Flood spokesman

Dear Mr Rossetto

Your letter dated 5 December 2024, from the Yenda Progress Association Inc. Mirrool Creek spokesman was tabled at the Floodplain Management Committee Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024. At the meeting the committee noted the letter and asked that the responses to the Yenda Progress Association be drafted and presented at the next meeting, prior to the responses being sent to the Yenda Progress Association.

A comprehensive report addressing the issues outlined in your letter was reported to the Floodplain Management Committee on the 6 March 2025 and the Committee endorsed the following information as a response to your letter.

The Yenda Progress Association Mirrool Creek Sub Committee recommend Council not endorse Flood Management Committee meeting minutes of 6 March 2025 for the following reasons: -

- a) GCC FMC minutes 6 March 2025 as per Council website 20/3/25 are incomplete and therefore not a true and accurate record of the meeting
- b) Following an extensive critique of your letter our YPA Mirrool Creek Sub Committee have found significant omissions (par. 16, 17, 18 & 19) in calculating projected flood volumes requiring immediate review before Council endorses the FMC minutes of 6 March 2025 meeting.

The Report

**North Merribee Channel Realignment and Emergency Main Canal Breaching Protocol.**

1. The North Merribee Channel is a supply offtake from the Main Canal irrigation Supply Canal and is located approximately 6.6kms Southeast of the East Mirrool Regulator (EMR). The North Merribee Channel supplies irrigation water to farmland heading back to the EMR and adjacent to and bordering the Mirrool Creek. The North Merribee Channel also supplies irrigation water to farmland on the northern side of Mirrool Creek via and under creek pipe. (a small lawson siphon) The North Merribee Channel also has a dual purpose of disposing of



flood water if over topped via a 90 ML per day outlet into Mirrool Creek. Recently, excavated as it was very badly grown over and completely blocked by Cumbungi.

2.The North Merribee Channel crosses the formed floodway which was constructed on Mr John Halse's property in the late 1970's The John Halse long rice bay (flood storage area) was formed in 2003 after extensive lasering on his property. Quite visible on Google Earth Pro comparing years 2002 and 2004. Satellite pictures provided. Gilberts Drain with a capacity of 500ML per day was constructed by several property owners in the late 1970's following 1974 flood and 1978 Barellan to Yenda Mirrool Creek Guidelines Floodplain Development Report. It was also severely restricted by small culverts and embankment redirecting flood water south.

3.The formed floodways' upstream of the EMR have been constructed on and around properties in the late 1970's The initial small levees were internal levees on Reg Gilberts property and built by rice bank delver and later a road grader, and have been done in accordance with the Guidelines for Mirrool Creek Floodplain Development Barellan to Yenda. The 1978 Barellan to Yenda Report was a) never enacted because of opposing views between upstream property owners and downstream property owners above the EMR concerned about flooding impacts on Halse Road. b) the floodway network mentioned in the 1978 Barellan to Yenda Report was a proposed floodway network.

4.The report for these guidelines was carried out by Water Resources Commission – New South Wales in July 1978 and issued to Landowners as a Mirrool Creek Mitigation Scheme. The intention of the report was for a Mirrool Creek Flood Mitigation Scheme however as stated above was not agreed to by all landholders. WaterNSW is presently requesting all owners of earthworks to conduct a flood impact study on downstream properties. In recent years since water trading has become profitable many new earthworks have been built for the purpose of capturing Mirrool Creek flood water. Contrary to WaterNSW registering floodplain diversion guidelines 5% rule.

5.Griffith City Council was made aware of these Guidelines after the 2012 Yenda flooding and obtained a copy for future reference. The copy of the 1978 Barellan to Yenda Report has a map missing, the centre piece of the dispute between upstream landholders and downstream landholders above the EMR disagreeing with diverting flood water Southwest onto Halse Road instead of Gilberts Drain.

6.After the devastating 2012 Griffith floods Griffith homes were not flooded, Yenda & Yoogali homes were flooded with which saw the Township of Yenda totally inundated with flood waters, Mirrool Creek Floodwater, Griffith City Council consulted and worked with the Yenda community, Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Murrumbidgee irrigation lacked the due diligence required to ensure the decommissioned floodgates were replaced and ready for the next flood. Bureau of Metrology Meteorology (BOM) Before the flood BOM forecast 100mm of rain, after 300mm of rain was received BOM deleted their original forecast and replaced it with a 300mm forecast. Recently BOM was accused of not accurately predicting 300mm of rain following cyclone Alfred rain depression hitting the NSW coast. State Emergency Services (SES) ordered an evacuation of Yenda residents 24 hours before flood



waters slowly entered the town not allowing Yenda residents to lift furniture or collect valuable keepsakes, photos or pets. Water NSW and relevant state bodies that could provide funding to develop and construct a flood mitigation system for Yenda.

7. Griffith City Council followed the Floodplain Risk Management Process outlined in the NSW Floodplain Development Manual: except for the 1:100 ARI flood mitigation standard. The management of flood liable lands and developed mitigation strategies for the Griffith LGA.

8. One of the flood mitigation strategies for Yenda, adopted by Griffith City Council on 13 November 2018 was the EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework. The Emergency Breaching of the Main Canal was originally suggested as an interim measure in the 2015 August Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek Flood Study and Risk Management Plan Report.

9. The EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support – 2018 has been supported by Griffith City Council, (GCC) Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) State Emergency Services (SES) and Water NSW. Although suggested by consultants in the 2015 August Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek Flood Study and Risk Management Plan Report the Emergency Main Canal Breaching Protocol is NOT listed as a long-term solution to mitigating the Yenda flooding issue. Option: UPGRADE FLOOD GATES is recommended by BMT consultants as a long-term solution to Yenda Flooding Issue. It's been 13 years since the devastating 2012 Yenda flooding so its timely for the new Council to finish the job to 1:100 ARI standard recommend by the 2005 NSW Flood Plain Management Manual.

10. Is also supported by the majority of Yenda residents who now receive reduced house insurance premiums Cheaper premiums are great in the short term but not if another flood inundates Yenda again causing an estimated \$90 million dollars in damage. due to this innovative engineering solution which has been collaborated by many agencies to achieve a cost-effective solution in flood mitigation. The Emergency Main Canal Breaching Protocol has not been proven in a major flood scenario. It states timelines of 36 hrs to 48 hours from onset of rain to flooding when in fact the 2012 peak flood surge occurred a lot quicker than that.

11. Griffith City Council received funding from the State and Commonwealth Governments for (i) installation of flood warning system at Barellan Bridge and at the EMR site, The flood warning system mentioned at Barellan Bridge is only one source of floodwater impacting the EMR. Other flood warning systems, or at least rain gauges are required at Binya Creek and Colinroobie Runner, the main source of flood water during the 2012 Yenda March 5 flood (ii) upgrade of flood gates at the EMR site, the upgrade of flood gates mentioned was a replacement of the decommissioned set of flood gates on the southern bank of the Main Canal. Both crucial information for making an informed decision on managing flood within Griffith LGA. If the NSW Flood Manual standard was applied to the Yenda EMR Main Canal obstruction of Mirrool Creek 'UPGRADE FLOODGATES OPTION' recommended by Consultants BMT on 2 occasions; both in the August 2015 Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek



Flood Risk Management Report & Councils own November 2018 Emergency Breaching Protocols & Support Framework document there would not be a need to “for making an informed decision managing flood within Griffith LGA.” Murrumbidgee Irrigation could manage flood levels at the EMR at the push of a button in their offices.

12. Upgrade of the EMR flood gates downstream [southern bank](#) was completed in 2019 with funding provided by State and Local Governments and works in kind by Murrumbidgee Irrigation. The upstream [northern flood gates lay back irrigation doors](#), used by MI for operational and maintenance work were also upgraded by MI to improve the function of these gates in times of flood. [The Northern bank lay back doors lifted in 2012 due to rising flood waters unfortunately sealing off an important outlet for flood water. The Upgrade mentioned involved fitting of a two directional cable able to hold down the layback doors when required in times of flood.](#)

13. The EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework – 2018 project received a “Special Commendation Award’ In Flood Risk Management as the Project of The Year at the Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) Conference in 2018. [Self-nominated award leading to Hubris and ultimate failure when tested against forces of another 1:100 ARI rain event in the Upper Mirrool Creek catchment. Remembering the significant flood harvesting earthworks that Water NSW is investigating and NRAR have recently commenced Land & Environment court proceedings early this month.](#)

14. The Mirrool Creek Floodway Network detailed in Figure 3.3 on page 15 of the EMR Breaching Protocols Report was developed based on the information in the Guidelines for Mirrool Creek Flood Plain Development, Barellan to Yenda 1978, community consultation and analysis of the current flood ways as constructed at the time of writing the report. As clearly depicted in Figure 3.3 there is a significant flow along the floodway in which the North Merribee Channel obstructs. [The Mirrool Creek Floodway depicted on page 15 Figure 3.3 is not the only Option discussed in the Report with another potential floodway map provided by Ms Sally Jones including Gilberts Drain. Another reason for MI proposed North Merribee Channel realignment is found on page 16 last sentence of last paragraph labelled Operations of Daltons Runner: - “A better long-term solution for the management of flood waters in the Daltons Runner would be to improve the connectivity through to Halse Road floodway and divert flows to the EMR siphons.” This information is important to be aware of because it adds an additional 25m3 per sec or 2000ML per day to the already overtaxed under canal siphon. Requiring an earlier declaration of Emergency Canal Breaching Protocol because previously the Daltons Runner Flood water would enter the main canal at Daltons Road irrigation outlets and still requiring Murrumbidgee Irrigation to shut down the Main Canal. This new information was not made clear to the previous FMC meeting February 8 2024.](#)

15. On numerous occasions Griffith City Council as the Flood Authority has had to instruct Murrumbidgee Irrigation to remove / breach the North Merribee Channel across the existing floodway in order to protect neighbouring properties and convey floodwaters to the EMR so it could be managed in accordance the EMR Breaching Protocols. These works and reinstatement of the North Merribee Channel were at the cost to the Yenda / Griffith



ratepayer. The Australian Association of Civil and Construction Engineers state that timing of peak surge is critical in mitigating flood damage. The controlled breaches by Murrumbidgee irrigation would occur once the flood peak has passed. Open flows as in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation North Meribee Channel Realignment would not only add to the peak surge arriving at the EMR siphons but may potentially allow water to arrive there quicker contrary to sound flood planning principles.

16. In order to improve the floodway system and prevent the costs associated with the temporary removal of the channel works, Griffith City Council consulted with Murrumbidgee Irrigation on a solution to which would see the construction of a permanent system for this part of the North Meribee Channel and allow for the works proposed on the North Meribee Channel. These works will not cost the Griffith / Yenda rate payer anything as they are fully funded by Murrumbidgee Irrigation. This solution really only suits the neighbouring landholders, (names not declared as to potential conflicts of interest) does not save Council money in the long run because of repair costs to Halse Road already in excess of one hundred thousand dollars, pushes extra water towards the under canal siphons than before that used to run down the Main Canal & out the southern bank flood gates and still requires Murrumbidgee Irrigation to shut down the Main canal as an earlier Emergency Breaching Protocol trigger may be reached due to the extra water arriving at the EMR siphons during 'peak surge'.

17. The North Meribee Channel realignment works will allow passage of approximately 55m<sup>3</sup>/sec (4752ML/d) of flow and prevents flooding of farms upstream of the East Mirrool Regulator (EMR). This new permanent work will allow flood water to pass through the identified floodway / dedicated flow path unobstructed. This therefore prevents floodwater going through farms and utilises Halse Road as a flood conduit instead of uncontrollably letting it go through private property. The North Meribee Channel works have converted farmland from a flood storage – (Areas where floodwaters accumulate before being conveyed downstream. These areas are important for detention and attenuation of flood peaks). to a Floodway – (Areas and Flow paths where a significant proportion of floodwaters are conveyed. The 55m<sup>3</sup>/sec mentioned above refers to the Halse Floodway but not the Dalton Runner and its flow capacity is 25m<sup>3</sup>/sec. If combined with Halse Floodway capacity it reaches 80m<sup>3</sup>/sec capacity well in excess of the present EMR under canal siphons.

18. Given the adopted EMR Emergency Breaching Protocol and Decision Support Framework – 2018 calculated the 55m<sup>3</sup>/sec flow towards the EMR there is no further additional analysis required. Wrong! above we showed how the Dalton Runner flow of 25M<sup>3</sup>/sec is additional to the 55m<sup>3</sup>/sec at the Halse Storage Area requires an urgent Mirrool Creek and EMR Flood Review.

19. After the Griffith Floodplain Committee Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 Griffith City Council received an email on the 6<sup>th</sup> December from Ms. Sally Jones, a property owner on Halse Road. The email had a link to Figure 3 which was a modified version of Figure 3 out of the Guidelines for Mirrool Creek Flood Plain Development Barellan to Yenda 1978 Report. The figure does not have a date on it but Ms Jones believes this was the final approved floodway plan. Ms Jones provided this new information as an objection to the works Council



endorsed Murrumbidgee Irrigation to do on the North Merribee Channel. Whilst the newly presented information indicates a possibility for alternate floodway, the reality is that the main floodway was constructed on Mr John Halse's property to direct floodwater around his house and down to the EMR via Halse Road. The works proposed by MI on the North Merribee Channel will ensure this operates as constructed and as calculated in the EMR Breaching Protocols. [Yenda Progress Association also has a full copy of the 1978 Barellan to Yenda Mirrool Creek Flood Development Guidelines Report provided by Adrian Piccoli's office in 2012. Figure 3 does not show a floodway, not even a proposed floodway at the site of the Murrumbidgee irrigation North Merribee Channel Realignment works. Figure 2 shows generalised flooding but not a floodway. The reference to John Halse Floodway is confusing, firstly it was built in 2003 when extensive lasering was done on his farm. It's a Flood Storage are not a floodway and is unauthorised. Council objected to the Halse Farm Levee to Water NSW on or about February March 2024. It really makes us wonder what Council was thinking endorsing MI North Merribee Channel realignment and at the same time objecting to the Halse Farm Levee and 7 other property Levees. Calculation in the EMR Breaching Protocols need to be urgently Reviewed as we have identified Dalton Runner connectivity adds additional 25m3/sec flood water to the 55m3/sec not calculated for in the EMR Emergency Breaching Protocol document. \(BMT page 15 last sentence, last paragraph under par. Operations of Daltons Runner\).](#)

#### **Levee Works in Mirrool Creek Catchment**

20. After the 2016 flood, it was brought to Council's attention that levee works were being carried out along Mirrool Creek with the Griffith LGA. Council acted upon the information, met with the farm owners, and requested them to stop levee works. Council also sought legal advice on this matter and presented the outcome to the community in a public forum in 2019.

21. In March 2024, Griffith City Council lodged objections to eight (8) levee works applications to Water NSW and suggested that Water NSW should develop 'floodplain management plans' for the entire Mirrool Creek catchment. The plans should contain rules and set out management zones to coordinate approval of new flood works or approval of amendments to existing works.

22. Griffith City Council also raised this issue during the information session of the Southern Floodplain Management Plans in Darlington Point on 27 June 2023.

23. Griffith City Council has been lobbying the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and water (DCCEEW) for the development of floodplain management plans for Mirrool Creek since the 2012 flood.

#### **New Siphon Under the Main canal**

24. The existing siphons under the main supply canal at the EMR are MI's asset and Council understands that MI has carried out structural integrity assessment of the structures and carries out necessary maintenance work. [A 2011 MI engaged a concrete consultant whom recommended replacement sooner rather than later.](#)



25. This work has not been recommended in the Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2015. Council will consult with MI and look into the option of a new siphon for flood mitigation purpose in the next review of the Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan”

#### **Upgrade EMR Flood Gates Option**

26. The suggestion was noted by the Committee

Its more than a suggestion it's a long-term recommendation by the consultants BMT for successful passage of floodwater to a 1:100ARI standard past the Main Canal obstruction.

Once again thank you for your letter, should you have any further question, please feel free to contact Council

#### **CONCLUSION**

Given the corrections we have found necessary in the report contained within the General Managers letter

a) we urgently request Councillors ‘Lay on the Table’ the Floodplain Management Committee minutes 6 March 2025 until such time as the new information is reviewed and the Report amended and

b) An urgent Flood Study Review of Mirrool Creek catchment paying particular attention to the new Murrumbidgee Irrigation North Merribee Channel Realignment works, unauthorised earthworks, levees and flood plain harvesting drains and storages in the Upper Mirrool Creek catchment and impacts upon downstream properties, Council infrastructure – Halse Road and communities like the township of Yenda.

Thank You

Yenda Progress Association Mirrool Creek Sub Committee











Source, on un-named stream, subject to Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources.

Local Government Area of Griffith

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **John Halse** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 107 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper, Lot 108 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper. Lot 109 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Griffith

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Dalton Road Estate Pty Ltd** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 130 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Griffith

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **James Dalton** and **Helen Dalton** for an approval for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 84 DP 751679, Parish Bondi, County Cooper, Lot 131 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper, Lot 54 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Jeffery Mickan** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 8 DP 713545, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 9 DP 713545, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 17 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper Lot 20 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper.

Local Government Areas of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Sergio Panazzolo** and **Sylvana Panazzolo** for an approval for a **Flood Work** for a **levee** located at Lot 111 DP 41955, Parish Bondi County Cooper, Lot 81 DP 46268, Parish Gibbs County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Ian Dahlenburg** for an **approval** for a **Flood**



**Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 16 DP 751702, Parish Gibbs County Cooper, Lot 17 DP 751702 Parish Gibbs County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Brian Dunn** and **Tina Dunn** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **levee** located at Lot 28 DP 751702 Parish Gibbs County Cooper, Lot 29 DP 751702 Parish Gibbs County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Maurice Walsh** and **Kim Walsh** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **levee** located at Lot 112 DP 41955, Parish Bondi, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **James Dalton** and **Helen Dalton** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 2 DP 1139774, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Matthew Irvin**, **David Irvin** and **Bernadette Irvin** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 13 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 16 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 21 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper Lot 24 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 25 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 26 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Fransis Curran** and **Suzanne Curran** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 59 DP 751717, Parish Moura, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Harold Nicholls** and **Renee Nicholls** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 29 DP 751740, Parish Waugh,



County Cooper, Lot 12 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot County Cooper, Lot 43 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 5 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Margaret Eckley, Brenton Eckley** and **Bradley Eckley** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 8 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 9 DP 5751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Wumbulgal Pty Ltd** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** and **drain** located at Lot 5 DP 549909, Parish Moura, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **West Meribee Management Pty Ltd** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** and **drain** located at Lot 14 DP 870450, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

New England Fold Belt Coast Groundwater Source

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **North Wish Pty Ltd** for an **approval** for a **Water Supply Work** and **Water Use** for a **Bore** with a **capacity of 75 ML/year** at Lot 13 DP1161416, Parish Orara, County Fitzroy and **water use** for **Irrigation** at Lot 13 DP1161416, Parish Orara, County Fitzroy. The application relates to New England Fold Belt Coast Groundwater Source, subject to North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2016 Water Sharing Plan.



**General Manager Customer Services & Water Delivery**  
**Locked Bag 6010**  
**Griffith NSW 2680**

**By Email:** [info@irrigration.com.au](mailto:info@irrigration.com.au)

Dear Lindsay Golsby-Smith,

**LEAKING AT THE CORNER OF BEELBANGERA ROAD AND MYALL PARK ROAD**

Council has been advised that Murrumbidgee Irrigation supply channel is leaking at the corner of Beelbangera Road and Myall Park Road. Please arrange for the channel to be repaired as the water leaking from the channel will damage the road pavement.

Please see the recommendation from Council's floodplain committee requesting further works within the channel reserve.

*"Once the leak is repaired, Council requests Murrumbidgee Irrigation level the surface to accommodate slashing of grass but also to lower the surface to below the Myall Park Road crest to allow future flood water easier access down between the Beelbangera Road and railway line. This will take some pressure off the rising height of flood water trapped in Yenda by the railway line and Murrumbidgee Irrigation unused earth banks remnant from when an open irrigation channel was there."*

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned on 1300 176 077

Yours Sincerely

|

Phil King  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS**

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Griffith City Council, Wiradjuri Country, PO Box 485, Griffith NSW 2680, 1 Benerembah Street, Griffith NSW 2680

Ph: 1300 176 077 ABN: 81 274 100 792  
Email: [admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au) Web: [www.griffith.nsw.gov.au](http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au)

**CLAUSE**      **CL06**

**TITLE**        **Correspondence Received from Community Members**

**FROM**        **Joanne Bollen, Governance Officer**

**TRIM REF**    **25/49354**

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### **SUMMARY**

The attached correspondence was received from Community members.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the information be received.**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- |     |  |    |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Correspondence from Paul Rossetto 21/03/2025 <a href="#">↓</a> | 32 |
| (b) | Correspondence from Paul Rossetto 25/03/2025 <a href="#">↓</a> | 35 |
| (c) | Correspondence from Paul Rossetto 28/03/2025 (confidential)    |    |
| (d) | Correspondence from Paul Rossetto 08/05/2025 <a href="#">↓</a> | 47 |
| (e) | Correspondence from Sally Jones 20/05/2025 <a href="#">↓</a>   | 49 |

Paul Rossetto

GCC FMC member

Mr Brett Stonestreet

Griffith City Council

Griffith NSW 2680

Re: Floodplain Management Committee Minutes 6/3/25

Please distribute to Councillors and FMC members.

Dear Brett,

As a new attendee at the GCC Floodplain Management Committee meeting 6/3/25 I am surprised and disappointed at the information not recorded in the summarised FMC minutes I read for the first time last night on Council's website indicating the minutes are not 'a true and accurate record' of the FMC meeting 6/3/25.

a) My Conflicts of Interest explanation not recorded: My reply to Mr Stonestreet explanation of Pecuniary and Non – Pecuniary but significant Conflicts of Interest why my declaration of a Conflict of Interest is non -pecuniary and that is because "I DO NOT any pecuniary interest from family & friends affected by Yenda flooding."

b) Clause 7 – Reply to Yenda Progress Association letter dated 5/12/24

Not recorded discussion and questions in Clause 7 asked by FMC members.

Confusion after Mr Gordons statement at 3.50pm intending to leave the meeting at 4.00pm.

My hurried Tabling of Questions on Notice.

Confusion about which Recommendation we were moving, seconding & voting for- Tabling of Questions or Council Recommendation.

**The Minutes of the FMC meeting 6/3/25 presented to Council meeting 25/3/25 should be moved by a Councillor to "Lay on The Table" until the next FMC meeting scheduled 1/5/25 so the minutes can be amended by members present at the meeting to reflect a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

**Secondly, the very fact that the FMC meeting minutes of 6/3/25 recorded on Council's website last night recorded my Tabling of questions on Notice indicate the potential for new information important to Councillors. Copy of questions attached.**

Yours faithfully

Paul Rossetto



## **Griffith City Council Floodplain Committee**

Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

4. Declaration of Interest submitted.

CL03 Unavailable for June meeting date, May would suit better.

CL06 Yoogali Levee- enlarge Main Drain J using the soil removed as a new channel bank.

CL07 Thank You for response. I couldn't see the impact on downstream properties report recommended by the mover of the motion Steve Manwaring?

Several apparent Conflicts of Interest not declared. Why not a property map showing owners of property adjacent to the site.

Foreshadowing a letter to the General Manager, Mr Stonestreet.

Couldn't see Councils Legal Liability report.

What was the main reason Council agreed to the MI proposed NBC realignment works?

What criteria other than financial savings was used by Council to assess the benefits to the Community for the MI NBC realignment works?

Where does the extra flood water come from accumulating at the NBC realignment site as compared to the 1978 report map not showing a floodway there but further North.

Are there any property owners benefitting from the NBC re-alignment.

Are there any downstream property owners impacted by the NBC realignment works.

Will any compensation for damage be available to them in the event of increased flooding, both frequency and volume.

Why weren't all property owners impacted by the new works given notice of the work and time to consider their options?

When will the new flood study review most likely take place given there has been significant changes to the landscape upstream of the EMR.

Upgrade Flood Gates Option recommended in Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek August 2015 report.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

Could Council write to MI asking to fix the leak on an underground irrigation pipe at the corner of Beelbanger Road and Myall Park Road near Yenda. When the leak has been repaired could MI level the surface to accommodate slashing of grass but also lower the surface to below the Myall Park Road crest so as to allow future flood water easier access down between the Beelbagera Road and railway line taking some pressure off the rising height of flood water trapped I Yenda by the railway line and MI unused earth banks remnant from when an open irrigation channel was there.

1.

Letter redrafted and critiqued in blue ink

GRIFFITH

CITY COUNCIL

Reply to letter dated 5/12/2024

12 March 2025

Paul Rossetto

Yenda Progress Association

Mirrool Creek Flood spokesman

Dear Mr Rossetto

Your letter dated 5 December 2024, from the Yenda Progress Association Inc. Mirrool Creek spokesman was tabled at the Floodplain Management Committee Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024. At the meeting the committee noted the letter and asked that the responses to the Yenda Progress Association be drafted and presented at the next meeting, prior to the responses being sent to the Yenda Progress Association.

A comprehensive report addressing the issues outlined in your letter was reported to the Floodplain Management Committee on the 6 March 2025 and the Committee endorsed the following information as a response to your letter.

The Yenda Progress Association Mirrool Creek Sub Committee recommend Council not endorse Flood Management Committee meeting minutes of 6 March 2025 for the following reasons: -

- a) GCC FMC minutes 6 March 2025 as per Council website 20/3/25 are incomplete and therefore not a true and accurate record of the meeting
- b) Following an extensive critique of your letter our YPA Mirrool Creek Sub Committee have found significant omissions (par. 16, 17, 18 & 19) in calculating projected flood volumes requiring immediate review before Council endorses the FMC minutes of 6 March 2025 meeting.

The Report

**North Merribee Channel Realignment and Emergency Main Canal Breaching Protocol.**

1. The North Merribee Channel is a supply offtake from the Main Canal irrigation Supply Canal and is located approximately 6.6kms Southeast of the East Mirrool Regulator (EMR). The North Merribee Channel supplies irrigation water to farmland heading back to the EMR and adjacent to and bordering the Mirrool Creek. The North Merribee Channel also supplies irrigation water to farmland on the northern side of Mirrool Creek via and under creek pipe. (a small lawson siphon) The North Merribee Channel also has a dual purpose of disposing of



flood water if over topped via a 90 ML per day outlet into Mirrool Creek. Recently, excavated as it was very badly grown over and completely blocked by Cumbungi.

2.The North Merribee Channel crosses the formed floodway which was constructed on Mr John Halse's property in the late 1970's The John Halse long rice bay (flood storage area) was formed in 2003 after extensive lasering on his property. Quite visible on Google Earth Pro comparing years 2002 and 2004. Satellite pictures provided. Gilberts Drain with a capacity of 500ML per day was constructed by several property owners in the late 1970's following 1974 flood and 1978 Barellan to Yenda Mirrool Creek Guidelines Floodplain Development Report. It was also severely restricted by small culverts and embankment redirecting flood water south.

3.The formed floodways' upstream of the EMR have been constructed on and around properties in the late 1970's The initial small levees were internal levees on Reg Gilberts property and built by rice bank delver and later a road grader, and have been done in accordance with the Guidelines for Mirrool Creek Floodplain Development Barellan to Yenda. The 1978 Barellan to Yenda Report was a) never enacted because of opposing views between upstream property owners and downstream property owners above the EMR concerned about flooding impacts on Halse Road. b) the floodway network mentioned in the 1978 Barellan to Yenda Report was a proposed floodway network.

4.The report for these guidelines was carried out by Water Resources Commission – New South Wales in July 1978 and issued to Landowners as a Mirrool Creek Mitigation Scheme. The intention of the report was for a Mirrool Creek Flood Mitigation Scheme however as stated above was not agreed to by all landholders. WaterNSW is presently requesting all owners of earthworks to conduct a flood impact study on downstream properties. In recent years since water trading has become profitable many new earthworks have been built for the purpose of capturing Mirrool Creek flood water. Contrary to WaterNSW registering floodplain diversion guidelines 5% rule.

5.Griffith City Council was made aware of these Guidelines after the 2012 Yenda flooding and obtained a copy for future reference. The copy of the 1978 Barellan to Yenda Report has a map missing, the centre piece of the dispute between upstream landholders and downstream landholders above the EMR disagreeing with diverting flood water Southwest onto Halse Road instead of Gilberts Drain.

6.After the devastating 2012 Griffith floods Griffith homes were not flooded, Yenda & Yoogali homes were flooded with which saw the Township of Yenda totally inundated with flood waters, Mirrool Creek Floodwater, Griffith City Council consulted and worked with the Yenda community, Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Murrumbidgee irrigation lacked the due diligence required to ensure the decommissioned floodgates were replaced and ready for the next flood. Bureau of Metrology Meteorology (BOM) Before the flood BOM forecast 100mm of rain, after 300mm of rain was received BOM deleted their original forecast and replaced it with a 300mm forecast. Recently BOM was accused of not accurately predicting 300mm of rain following cyclone Alfred rain depression hitting the NSW coast. State Emergency Services (SES) ordered an evacuation of Yenda residents 24 hours before flood



waters slowly entered the town not allowing Yenda residents to lift furniture or collect valuable keepsakes, photos or pets. Water NSW and relevant state bodies that could provide funding to develop and construct a flood mitigation system for Yenda.

7. Griffith City Council followed the Floodplain Risk Management Process outlined in the NSW Floodplain Development Manual: except for the 1:100 ARI flood mitigation standard. The management of flood liable lands and developed mitigation strategies for the Griffith LGA.

8. One of the flood mitigation strategies for Yenda, adopted by Griffith City Council on 13 November 2018 was the EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework. The Emergency Breaching of the Main Canal was originally suggested as an interim measure in the 2015 August Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek Flood Study and Risk Management Plan Report.

9. The EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support – 2018 has been supported by Griffith City Council, (GCC) Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) State Emergency Services (SES) and Water NSW. Although suggested by consultants in the 2015 August Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek Flood Study and Risk Management Plan Report the Emergency Main Canal Breaching Protocol is NOT listed as a long-term solution to mitigating the Yenda flooding issue. Option: UPGRADE FLOOD GATES is recommended by BMT consultants as a long-term solution to Yenda Flooding Issue. It's been 13 years since the devastating 2012 Yenda flooding so its timely for the new Council to finish the job to 1:100 ARI standard recommend by the 2005 NSW Flood Plain Management Manual.

10. Is also supported by the majority of Yenda residents who now receive reduced house insurance premiums Cheaper premiums are great in the short term but not if another flood inundates Yenda again causing an estimated \$90 million dollars in damage. due to this innovative engineering solution which has been collaborated by many agencies to achieve a cost-effective solution in flood mitigation. The Emergency Main Canal Breaching Protocol has not been proven in a major flood scenario. It states timelines of 36 hrs to 48 hours from onset of rain to flooding when in fact the 2012 peak flood surge occurred a lot quicker than that.

11. Griffith City Council received funding from the State and Commonwealth Governments for (i) installation of flood warning system at Barellan Bridge and at the EMR site, The flood warning system mentioned at Barellan Bridge is only one source of floodwater impacting the EMR. Other flood warning systems, or at least rain gauges are required at Binya Creek and Colinroobie Runner, the main source of flood water during the 2012 Yenda March 5 flood (ii) upgrade of flood gates at the EMR site, the upgrade of flood gates mentioned was a replacement of the decommissioned set of flood gates on the southern bank of the Main Canal. Both crucial information for making an informed decision on managing flood within Griffith LGA. If the NSW Flood Manual standard was applied to the Yenda EMR Main Canal obstruction of Mirrool Creek 'UPGRADE FLOODGATES OPTION' recommended by Consultants BMT on 2 occasions; both in the August 2015 Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek



Flood Risk Management Report & Councils own November 2018 Emergency Breaching Protocols & Support Framework document there would not be a need to “for making an informed decision managing flood within Griffith LGA.” Murrumbidgee Irrigation could manage flood levels at the EMR at the push of a button in their offices.

12. Upgrade of the EMR flood gates downstream [southern bank](#) was completed in 2019 with funding provided by State and Local Governments and works in kind by Murrumbidgee Irrigation. The upstream [northern flood gates lay back irrigation doors](#), used by MI for operational and maintenance work were also upgraded by MI to improve the function of these gates in times of flood. [The Northern bank lay back doors lifted in 2012 due to rising flood waters unfortunately sealing off an important outlet for flood water. The Upgrade mentioned involved fitting of a two directional cable able to hold down the layback doors when required in times of flood.](#)

13. The EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework – 2018 project received a “Special Commendation Award’ In Flood Risk Management as the Project of The Year at the Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) Conference in 2018. [Self-nominated award leading to Hubris and ultimate failure when tested against forces of another 1:100 ARI rain event in the Upper Mirrool Creek catchment. Remembering the significant flood harvesting earthworks that Water NSW is investigating and NRAR have recently commenced Land & Environment court proceedings early this month.](#)

14. The Mirrool Creek Floodway Network detailed in Figure 3.3 on page 15 of the EMR Breaching Protocols Report was developed based on the information in the Guidelines for Mirrool Creek Flood Plain Development, Barellan to Yenda 1978, community consultation and analysis of the current flood ways as constructed at the time of writing the report. As clearly depicted in Figure 3.3 there is a significant flow along the floodway in which the North Merribee Channel obstructs. [The Mirrool Creek Floodway depicted on page 15 Figure 3.3 is not the only Option discussed in the Report with another potential floodway map provided by Ms Sally Jones including Gilberts Drain. Another reason for MI proposed North Merribee Channel realignment is found on page 16 last sentence of last paragraph labelled Operations of Daltons Runner: - “A better long-term solution for the management of flood waters in the Daltons Runner would be to improve the connectivity through to Halse Road floodway and divert flows to the EMR siphons.” This information is important to be aware of because it adds an additional 25m3 per sec or 2000ML per day to the already overtaxed under canal siphon. Requiring an earlier declaration of Emergency Canal Breaching Protocol because previously the Daltons Runner Flood water would enter the main canal at Daltons Road irrigation outlets and still requiring Murrumbidgee Irrigation to shut down the Main Canal. This new information was not made clear to the previous FMC meeting February 8 2024.](#)

15. On numerous occasions Griffith City Council as the Flood Authority has had to instruct Murrumbidgee Irrigation to remove / breach the North Merribee Channel across the existing floodway in order to protect neighbouring properties and convey floodwaters to the EMR so it could be managed in accordance the EMR Breaching Protocols. These works and reinstatement of the North Merribee Channel were at the cost to the Yenda / Griffith



ratepayer. The Australian Association of Civil and Construction Engineers state that timing of peak surge is critical in mitigating flood damage. The controlled breaches by Murrumbidgee irrigation would occur once the flood peak has passed. Open flows as in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation North Meribee Channel Realignment would not only add to the peak surge arriving at the EMR siphons but may potentially allow water to arrive there quicker contrary to sound flood planning principles.

16. In order to improve the floodway system and prevent the costs associated with the temporary removal of the channel works, Griffith City Council consulted with Murrumbidgee Irrigation on a solution to which would see the construction of a permanent system for this part of the North Meribee Channel and allow for the works proposed on the North Meribee Channel. These works will not cost the Griffith / Yenda rate payer anything as they are fully funded by Murrumbidgee Irrigation. This solution really only suits the neighbouring landholders, (names not declared as to potential conflicts of interest) does not save Council money in the long run because of repair costs to Halse Road already in excess of one hundred thousand dollars, pushes extra water towards the under canal siphons than before that used to run down the Main Canal & out the southern bank flood gates and still requires Murrumbidgee Irrigation to shut down the Main canal as an earlier Emergency Breaching Protocol trigger may be reached due to the extra water arriving at the EMR siphons during 'peak surge'.

17. The North Meribee Channel realignment works will allow passage of approximately 55m<sup>3</sup>/sec (4752ML/d) of flow and prevents flooding of farms upstream of the East Mirrool Regulator (EMR). This new permanent work will allow flood water to pass through the identified floodway / dedicated flow path unobstructed. This therefore prevents floodwater going through farms and utilises Halse Road as a flood conduit instead of uncontrollably letting it go through private property. The North Meribee Channel works have converted farmland from a flood storage – (Areas where floodwaters accumulate before being conveyed downstream. These areas are important for detention and attenuation of flood peaks). to a Floodway – (Areas and Flow paths where a significant proportion of floodwaters are conveyed. The 55m<sup>3</sup>/sec mentioned above refers to the Halse Floodway but not the Dalton Runner and its flow capacity is 25m<sup>3</sup>/sec. If combined with Halse Floodway capacity it reaches 80m<sup>3</sup>/sec capacity well in excess of the present EMR under canal siphons.

18. Given the adopted EMR Emergency Breaching Protocol and Decision Support Framework – 2018 calculated the 55m<sup>3</sup>/sec flow towards the EMR there is no further additional analysis required. Wrong! above we showed how the Dalton Runner flow of 25M<sup>3</sup>/sec is additional to the 55m<sup>3</sup>/sec at the Halse Storage Area requires an urgent Mirrool Creek and EMR Flood Review.

19. After the Griffith Floodplain Committee Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 Griffith City Council received an email on the 6<sup>th</sup> December from Ms. Sally Jones, a property owner on Halse Road. The email had a link to Figure 3 which was a modified version of Figure 3 out of the Guidelines for Mirrool Creek Flood Plain Development Barellan to Yenda 1978 Report. The figure does not have a date on it but Ms Jones believes this was the final approved floodway plan. Ms Jones provided this new information as an objection to the works Council



endorsed Murrumbidgee Irrigation to do on the North Merribee Channel. Whilst the newly presented information indicates a possibility for alternate floodway, the reality is that the main floodway was constructed on Mr John Halse's property to direct floodwater around his house and down to the EMR via Halse Road. The works proposed by MI on the North Merribee Channel will ensure this operates as constructed and as calculated in the EMR Breaching Protocols. [Yenda Progress Association also has a full copy of the 1978 Barellan to Yenda Mirrool Creek Flood Development Guidelines Report provided by Adrian Piccoli's office in 2012. Figure 3 does not show a floodway, not even a proposed floodway at the site of the Murrumbidgee irrigation North Merribee Channel Realignment works. Figure 2 shows generalised flooding but not a floodway. The reference to John Halse Floodway is confusing, firstly it was built in 2003 when extensive lasering was done on his farm. It's a Flood Storage are not a floodway and is unauthorised. Council objected to the Halse Farm Levee to Water NSW on or about February March 2024. It really makes us wonder what Council was thinking endorsing MI North Merribee Channel realignment and at the same time objecting to the Halse Farm Levee and 7 other property Levees. Calculation in the EMR Breaching Protocols need to be urgently Reviewed as we have identified Dalton Runner connectivity adds additional 25m3/sec flood water to the 55m3/sec not calculated for in the EMR Emergency Breaching Protocol document. \(BMT page 15 last sentence, last paragraph under par. Operations of Daltons Runner\).](#)

#### **Levee Works in Mirrool Creek Catchment**

20. After the 2016 flood, it was brought to Council's attention that levee works were being carried out along Mirrool Creek with the Griffith LGA. Council acted upon the information, met with the farm owners, and requested them to stop levee works. Council also sought legal advice on this matter and presented the outcome to the community in a public forum in 2019.

21. In March 2024, Griffith City Council lodged objections to eight (8) levee works applications to Water NSW and suggested that Water NSW should develop 'floodplain management plans' for the entire Mirrool Creek catchment. The plans should contain rules and set out management zones to coordinate approval of new flood works or approval of amendments to existing works.

22. Griffith City Council also raised this issue during the information session of the Southern Floodplain Management Plans in Darlington Point on 27 June 2023.

23. Griffith City Council has been lobbying the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and water (DCCEEW) for the development of floodplain management plans for Mirrool Creek since the 2012 flood.

#### **New Siphon Under the Main canal**

24. The existing siphons under the main supply canal at the EMR are MI's asset and Council understands that MI has carried out structural integrity assessment of the structures and carries out necessary maintenance work. [A 2011 MI engaged a concrete consultant whom recommended replacement sooner rather than later.](#)



25. This work has not been recommended in the Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2015. Council will consult with MI and look into the option of a new siphon for flood mitigation purpose in the next review of the Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan”

#### **Upgrade EMR Flood Gates Option**

26. The suggestion was noted by the Committee

Its more than a suggestion it's a long-term recommendation by the consultants BMT for successful passage of floodwater to a 1:100ARI standard past the Main Canal obstruction.

Once again thank you for your letter, should you have any further question, please feel free to contact Council

#### **CONCLUSION**

Given the corrections we have found necessary in the report contained within the General Managers letter

a) we urgently request Councillors ‘Lay on the Table” the Floodplain Management Committee minutes 6 March 2025 until such time as the new information is reviewed and the Report amended and

b) An urgent Flood Study Review of Mirrool Creek catchment paying particular attention to the new Murrumbidgee Irrigation North Merribee Channel Realignment works, unauthorised earthworks, levees and flood plain harvesting drains and storages in the Upper Mirrool Creek catchment and impacts upon downstream properties, Council infrastructure – Halse Road and communities like the township of Yenda.

Thank You

Yenda Progress Association Mirrool Creek Sub Committee











Source, on un-named stream, subject to Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources.

Local Government Area of Griffith

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **John Halse** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 107 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper, Lot 108 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper. Lot 109 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Griffith

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Dalton Road Estate Pty Ltd** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 130 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Griffith

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **James Dalton** and **Helen Dalton** for an approval for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 84 DP 751679, Parish Bondi, County Cooper, Lot 131 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper, Lot 54 DP 751746, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Jeffery Mickan** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 8 DP 713545, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 9 DP 713545, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 17 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper Lot 20 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper.

Local Government Areas of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Sergio Panazzolo** and **Sylvana Panazzolo** for an approval for a **Flood Work** for a **levee** located at Lot 111 DP 41955, Parish Bondi County Cooper, Lot 81 DP 46268, Parish Gibbs County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Ian Dahlenburg** for an **approval** for a **Flood**



**Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 16 DP 751702, Parish Gibbs County Cooper, Lot 17 DP 751702 Parish Gibbs County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Brian Dunn** and **Tina Dunn** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **levee** located at Lot 28 DP 751702 Parish Gibbs County Cooper, Lot 29 DP 751702 Parish Gibbs County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Leeton

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Maurice Walsh** and **Kim Walsh** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **levee** located at Lot 112 DP 41955, Parish Bondi, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **James Dalton** and **Helen Dalton** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 2 DP 1139774, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Matthew Irvin**, **David Irvin** and **Bernadette Irvin** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 13 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 16 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 21 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper Lot 24 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 25 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 26 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Fransis Curran** and **Suzanne Curran** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 59 DP 751717, Parish Moura, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Harold Nicholls** and **Renee Nicholls** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 29 DP 751740, Parish Waugh,



County Cooper, Lot 12 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot County Cooper, Lot 43 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 5 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Margaret Eckley, Brenton Eckley** and **Bradley Eckley** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** located at Lot 8 DP 751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper, Lot 9 DP 5751740, Parish Waugh, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **Wumbulgal Pty Ltd** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** and **drain** located at Lot 5 DP 549909, Parish Moura, County Cooper.

Local Government Area of Narrandera

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **West Meribee Management Pty Ltd** for an **approval** for a **Flood Work** for a **Levee** and **drain** located at Lot 14 DP 870450, Parish Yenda, County Cooper.

New England Fold Belt Coast Groundwater Source

Published: 07 February 2024

Objections close: 11:59pm, 06 March 2024

WaterNSW has received an application from **North Wish Pty Ltd** for an **approval** for a **Water Supply Work** and **Water Use** for a **Bore** with a **capacity of 75 ML/year** at Lot 13 DP1161416, Parish Orara, County Fitzroy and **water use** for **Irrigation** at Lot 13 DP1161416, Parish Orara, County Fitzroy. The application relates to New England Fold Belt Coast Groundwater Source, subject to North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2016 Water Sharing Plan.

Paul Rossetto

8th May 2025

The General Manager  
Mr Brett Stonestreet  
Griffith City Council, NSW 2680

To be distributed to all Councillors & Floodplain Management Committee members and  
inclusion in the FMC meeting agenda 22/5/2025

Dear Brett,

Firstly, I wish to thank all Councillors who voted for the new FMC members, including myself. According to Council minutes 28/01/25 it was a close 5:4 vote. As an ex-councillor the process and responsibility that comes with serving on Council committees is not lost on me. In a sense committee members are the eyes and ears for Councillors ensuring the community is protected and their needs provided for.

I write this letter as a new member of the GCC FMC although I have some experience having served on the committee 2013 – 2016 when I was a GCC Councillor. I think the new committee has a lot of potential with several very experienced people in their own careers and or community service joining the committee.

However, following our last FMC meeting I believe Council can do a lot more to support the FMC members by

- starting meetings earlier, 1.00pm instead of 2.00pm allowing more time for questions before important people begin leaving.
- providing better meeting facilities: - public WiFi, and hard copies of meeting agenda, reports and more supporting detail in complicated reports eg maps & photographs, possibly even site visits.

As Council is already aware I have become extremely concerned with three aspects of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation earthworks – North Merribee Channel realignment.

1. The lack of due process which YPA has already written to the General Manager about.
2. The impacts of increased volume and speed of peak surge upon the restricted 5% AEP flood design under Main Canal siphon causing Murrumbidgee Irrigation to shut down the Main Canal, interrupting irrigation supply and open both sets of lay back doors for an additional 5% AEP Flood Design transfer across the Main Canal into Lower Mirrool Creek.



3. The unbudgeted financial impact upon Council cashflow as Halse Road is more frequently damaged and more frequent, in wet years maybe multiple EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols triggers will be enacted. How much will one Emergency Canal Breaching and Canal Re-instatement cost Council?

At the last Griffith City Council COG meeting held at Yenda Diggers Club last January 2025, several Yenda community members voiced their concerns about the Murrumbidgee Irrigation North Merribee Channel realignment and I as YPA Mirrool Creek Flooding spokesperson have written several letters to Council - dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 & 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Also asking and tabling questions at the last GCC Floodplain Management Committee 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

1. Could I respectfully ask for an update at our next FMC meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 on the MI earthworks at the North Merribee Channel realignment site, including recent photos and the most recent satellite imagery at the best magnification possible approximately one hectare grid should suffice, including the North Merribee Channel MI outlet, the new Merribee Channel MI Outlet site, the MI earthworks – new underground siphons, new rock wall embankments, the old soon to be decommissioned North Merribee Channel banks and Halse Farm Floodway exit.

The other week I was surprised by an MI Director whom “didn’t know anything about the North Merribee Channel Re-alignment earthworks.”

A Neighbouring landholder who said “I didn’t think it was going to be this big. Typical MI fashion when they do something its overkill.”

Three property owners on North Merribee Channel were not contacted by MI or Council. One said “its disappointing because we would have increased our outlet capacity”

Several Halse Road users and residents who were either flooded in or couldn’t access their properties for several months due to damaged infrastructure in 2021 & 2022 dozen or more minor floods. The last one in December 2024.

2. An explanation, with supporting satellite imagery of the sentence found in EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols document page 16, last sentence under the paragraph Daltons Runner “ A better long term solution for the management of flood waters in the Daltons Runner would be to improve connectivity through to Halse Road and divert water to the EMR siphons” Where exactly is this connectivity? What is the cumulative downstream impact on the EMR of the additional Dalton Runner flows and Halse Farm Floodway together.

Yours Faithfully

Paul Rossetto,

GCC Floodplain Management Committee new member

**Joanne Bollen**

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**From:** Graham Gordon  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 May 2025 8:23 PM  
**To:** Joanne Bollen  
**Subject:** FW: Final proposal - WCIC 1970s and drain maintenance  
**Attachments:** WRC Barellan flood documents.pdf

Hi Jo,

Sally's email and attachment for the Floodplain Committee.

Regards

**Graham Gordon**  
Director Utilities  
p 1300 176 077



Griffith City Council  
1 Derwentwood Street Griffith NSW 2680  
PO Box 485 Griffith NSW 2680  
griffith.nsw.gov.au

Griffith City Council acknowledges and respects the Wiradjuri people as the traditional custodians and ancestors of the land and waters where we work.

There is no expectation for you to read or respond to this email outside of your normal working hours

**OUR CORE VALUES**



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**From:** Sally Jones >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 May 2025 9:11 AM  
**To:** Brett Stonestreet < >  
**Cc:** Graham Gordon < >  
**Subject:** RE: Final proposal - WCIC 1970s and drain maintenance

Dear Mr Stonestreet

Last evening I found the correspondence from the Water Resources Commission accompanying the map referred to in my previous email, dated September 1979. The letter states that the Commission's original proposed scheme was rejected by landholders.

There is also correspondence from the WRC dated July 1979, and correspondence from the Mirrool Creek Flood Protection Association (signed Jim Dalton). The outcome of the process which included numerous public meetings



was the existing Gilbert's drain, which was built and paid for by contributions from various landholders. Gilbert's Drain is there for all to see.

Representations that the works upstream of the EMR are based on an approved plan and have been in place since the 1970s are not credible, except for Gilbert's Drain. There is not and has never been a floodway along Halse Road, and that proposal was specifically rejected for reasons of damage to the landholders there. The size of the works and the narrow channels formed with deep drains are at odds with flood planning guidelines. Water which once took 6 weeks to move from Barellan to the EMR now takes a few days.

The defacto licencing of unauthorised flood works by the Griffith City Council, should it stand, confers massive financial benefit on certain landholders upstream, including land owned by a NSW Member of Parliament, a past Director/Chairman of MI and a current Director of MI, plus family members of a former Councillor/Chairman of the GCC Floodplain Management committee. As such the actions by the Griffith City Council are controversial in the extreme.

Given the potential damage to downstream landholders and communities from Griffith City Council's defacto licencing of unauthorised works, and with the clear evidence of the status of 1978 proposals by the WRC, it may be prudent for both the Griffith City Council and Murrumbidgee Irrigation to cease any further works upstream of the EMR until such time as the WaterNSW licencing process currently underway is completed, along with NRAR's investigation of water harvesting.

The Griffith City Council and MI could take the time to consult the landholders affected by the proposed MI works on the North Merribee Channel, including flood impacts and how they can be mitigated, and the supply needs of the landholders on the North Merribee Channel. I have nearly 5000 Delivery Entitlements on the North Merribee Channel and have not been consulted by MI at all about the changes on the channel and my future supply needs. I understand that my neighbours the Conlans and Beresford Farms have not been consulted either. The lack of consultation with impacted parties casts a long shadow over the conduct of the Council and MI.

The outcomes to date in this matter are so far away from acceptable that there can be no doubt the processes in place have failed.

Yours sincerely  
Sally Jones

New South Wales Government

## Water Resources Commission



Ibis House  
201/211 Miller Street,  
Box 952, P.O.,  
North Sydney, N.S.W. 2060  
Telegrams: "Aquacomm"  
Telex: "Watcom" 21188

Contact Name Mr. J.F. Wood

Our reference 78/13174

Telephone 922 0121  
Extension 769

Dear Sir,

### Mirrool Creek - Flood Mitigation Proposals

In April this year, the Commission released a report entitled "Guidelines for Mirrool Creek Flood Plain Development", which detailed the locations of embankments that could be constructed on the flood plain to protect areas of development from inundation by floodwater. It provided for a network of floodways in which no development should be undertaken which would obstruct the free flow of flood waters.

Subsequent to the release of the report and the ensuing public meetings held in Griffith to discuss its implications, landholders put forward two alternative schemes for examination. These schemes have now been fully investigated and are as shown on the enclosed overlay plans. The black lines on each overlay, which is to be placed over Figure 3 in the initial report, represent the amended levee alignments requested by landholders.

Essentially, these two alternate schemes consist of:-

Proposal 1 - All floodwaters east of Merribee Hill-Round Hill are to be conveyed in a single floodway parallel and immediately adjacent to the existing drainage system on Mr. R. Gilbert's property.

Proposal 2 - Mirrool Creek floodwaters are to be collected immediately west of Hughenden Road and then conveyed north of Merribee Hill to Mirrool Creek. Colimroobie floodwaters will remain unobstructed and thus continue to flow due west between Merribee Hill and Round Hill to be collected by the existing drainage scheme on Mr. Gilbert's property.

A public meeting is to be held in the Mirrool Room of the Griffith Ex-Serv.Club on Monday 13th August, 1979, at 2.00 p.m. to discuss the foregoing schemes. In the meantime, it would be appreciated if landholders could carefully study both schemes and also the Commission's original proposal. Landholders could inform Mr. P. Combe, the Commission's Manager, Murrumbidgee Division located at Leeton, or Mr. H. Bond, the Commission's District Engineer located at Griffith if they have any comments or requests.

Encl.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

✓ 30/7/79



New South Wales Government



## Water Resources Commission



Ibis House  
201/211 Miller Street,  
Box 952, P.O.,  
North Sydney  
N.S.W. 2060  
Telegrams: "Aquacomm"  
Telex: "Watcom" 21188

Contact Name Mr. J.F. Wood

Our reference 78/13174

Telephone 922 0121  
Extension 769

Dear Sir,

### Mirrool Creek Flood Mitigation Scheme

As you probably know, the Commission held a public meeting in Griffith on Monday 13th August to discuss proposals for a flood mitigation scheme for Mirrool Creek, upstream of the M.I.A. Main Canal.

Essentially, the following three schemes were discussed:

- . The Commission's proposed scheme which was initially discussed at a public meeting held in Griffith in April this year;
- . "Landholder Scheme No. 1" - one of two proposals suggested by landholders at the April meeting. Basically, this proposal involves conveying all floodwaters west of Merribee Hill - Round Hill in a single floodway running parallel to the existing drainage system on Mr. R. Gilbert's property;
- . "Landholders Scheme No. 2" - the second of the proposals suggested at the April meeting. This involves the collection of Mirrool Creek floodwaters just west of Hughenden Road and their subsequent conveyance north of Merribee Hill to Mirrool Creek.

In this scheme, Colinroobie floodwaters would continue to flow westward between Merribee Hill and Round Hill, and they would be catered for by the existing drainage works on Mr. Giblest's property.

After considerable discussion, agreement was reached that the only scheme which was acceptable in some form to all landholders was "Landholder Scheme No. 1". This scheme, with modifications as requested and discussed with landholders, is shown on the enclosed plan.

You will notice that the floodways shown have been aligned in such a manner that, where two adjoining properties are being protected by a single floodway, the floodway is located equally on each property. This concept has been adopted in all other similar types of flood mitigation schemes throughout the State. However, should agreement be reached between the individual landholders concerned, the Commission would not object to a minor realignment of the floodway, such that it could be located entirely on one property.

East of Merribee Hill, the floodway has been shown as a dotted line. This is to indicate that this section of the scheme is not considered to be essential for the successful implementation of the scheme west of Merribee Hill. This section is solely the concern of those landholders in that area who would gain protection from these works.

2.

During the meeting, the Commission representative, Mr. G. Whitehouse, suggested that the most appropriate method for the implementation of the floodway scheme would be for all landholders concerned to form a landholder association. This association would be responsible not only for the implementation and further maintenance of the scheme, but also for determining cost sharing arrangements between individual landholders.

Costs involved, which would normally be shared by landholders on the basis of area protected from flooding, include both levee construction and land compensation costs. The areal extent of flooding which occurred during the October 1974 flood is shown at Figure 2 of the Commission's report, and it is suggested that consideration be given to using this information as the basis of determining the individual landholder costs of the adopted scheme. Should you require the assistance of a Commission representative to help form your association, this can be arranged.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

✓ 2/9/79



## PROGRESS REPORT

### MIRROOL CREEK FLOOD PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 719,  
GRIFFITH. 2680.

This is the second Report to bring flood affected landholders up to date with present progress of implementing the Water Resources Flood Plan.

The Water Resources were helpful in supplying modified plans and specifications of flood schemes.

The previous plans involved a large area of Miss Margaret Woods' irrigation country. We are grateful to Margaret for allowing approximately 70 acres of her country to be included in flood-way.

This now has all country in flood-way agreed to by landowners.

At a meeting held at St. Peters on the 14th March between a representative group of landowners and a Water Resources Officer, it was agreed to:

- 1) Firstly, arrive at an estimated cost of implementing the scheme
- 2) Secondly, organize a deputation to arrange a meeting with Mr Lin Gordon in asking help and advice in arranging necessary finance.

Mr Gordon met Messrs Gilbert, Jones and Dalton on the 7th April. He was most sympathetic to our case and stated that though he would like to help, there are no channels opened to him at the present moment. However, on our behalf he will take our case to the Treasury. He warned that there would be no quick way of receiving this help, but to leave it in his hands and he will do his utmost for us.

We will now wait to see what eventuates and all will be contacted if further progress occurs.

We are most grateful to Mr Gordon for his interest and help given throughout the flood scheme.

The Water Resources Commission have supplied further copies of maps and specifications of present plans. And landowners can collect some from myself.

Yours faithfully,



J. DALTON.

15.4.80

**TITLE** Outstanding Action Report

**TRIM REF** 25/49352

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**RECOMMENDATION**

The report be noted.

**ATTACHMENTS**

(a) Action Report - Floodplain Management Committee – 12 June 2025 [↓](#) 56



**ACTION REPORT****FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 1 MAY 2025**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
6 March 2025	<b>CL06 Project Update - McCormack Road Yoogali Levee - Stage 2 Project</b>	Mr Gordon advised the Committee that Council would investigate alternative construction methodologies for Stage 3 of the project and report back to the Committee in the future.	DU	
6 March 2025	<b>CL07 Response to Letter Received From Yenda Progress Association</b>	Paul Rossetto presented additional questions regarding the response to the Yenda Progress Association Inc. letter. These questions were taken on notice and a response will be drafted to present to the Committee for endorsement. <b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Stephen Mortlock and Paul Rossetto that the Floodplain Management Committee endorse the draft letter of response to Mr. Paul Rossetto of the Yenda Progress Association Inc. Mirrool Creek Flood spokesman.	DU	
6 March 2025	<b>7 GENERAL BUSINESS 7.1 Leaking Pipe – Corner Beelbangera Road and Myall Park Road</b>	Paul Rossetto raised the issue of a leaking irrigation pipe at the corner of Beelbangera Road and Myall Park Road near Yenda. <b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Paul Rossetto and John Kerrigan that:	DU	

		<p>(a) Council write to Murrumbidgee Irrigation to request they fix the leak on an underground irrigation pipe at the corner of Beelbanger Road and Myall Park Road near Yenda.</p> <p>(b) Once the leak is repaired, Murrumbidgee Irrigation level the surface to accommodate slashing of grass but also to lower the surface to below the Myall Park Road crest to allow future flood water easier access down between the Beelbanger Road and railway line. This will take some pressure off the rising height of flood water trapped in Yenda by the railway line and Murrumbidgee Irrigation unused earth banks remnant from when an open irrigation channel was there.</p>		
8 August 2024	<b>CL02 Griffith City Flood Emergency Sub Plan</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Joseph Dal Broi and Steve Manwaring that:</p> <p>(a) The Committee note the report.</p> <p>(b) The following wording be added to page 26 of the sub plan regarding responsibilities of Griffith</p>	SES	<b>06/03/2025:</b> Additions to document have been made and document has been endorsed.



		<p>City Council under the dot point "Operate flood mitigation works including critical structures such as detention basins and levees and advise NSW SES regarding their operation":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council will follow the EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework as adopted November 2018 and published on Council's website.</li> <li>• Council will determine, in consultation with Murrumbidgee Irrigation, when infrastructure intervention at Barren Box Swamp is required.</li> </ul>		
8 February 2024	<b>North Merribee Channel Realignment</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Steve Manwaring and Luigi Forner that Council:</p> <p><b>(a)</b> Endorse the report presented by Murrumbidgee Irrigation.</p> <p><b>(b)</b> Look for funding opportunities to implement a permanent solution on the bypass channel downstream of Barren Box Storage and Wetlands.</p>	Graham Gordon	<b>13/08/2024:</b> Council has given approval for the work. MI is to carry out the work.

		(c) Endorse the works proposed for the North Merribee Channel Realignment.		
8 February 2024	<b>CL02 Yoogali Levee Project</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Steve Mortlock and Joshua Stanbury that Council go out for tender and compare costings for:</p> <p>(a) Stage 2 only (McCormack Road Levee).</p> <p>(b) Stage 2 (McCormack Road Levee) &amp; Stage 3 (Raising of Burley Griffin Way as a levee).</p>	Durganda Chaudhary	<b>13/08/2024:</b> Council is in discussions with TfNSW and DCCEEW regarding utilisation of funding.
23 November 2023	<b>CL01 Community Opinion Group Meeting 1 November 2023</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Louie Forner and Steven Mortlock that:</p> <p>(a) Council request Murrumbidgee Irrigation to have trees removed from the Mirrool Creek riparian zone and the removal of trees in any identified drainage channels.</p> <p>(b) Council advocate to the NSW Government to undertake a Flood Study for the entire Mirrool Creek Catchment.</p> <p>(c) Council contact the Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR) in relation to retrospectively unapproved earth works in Mirrool Creek, requesting that they support a study of the entire Mirrool Creek rural</p>	Graham Gordon	<b>13/08/2024:</b> Council has asked MI to remove trees from drainage channels. Funding is not currently available for a flood study for the Mirrool Creek Catchment. Council will continue to liaise with DCCEEW regarding this request.



		catchment area, so they can base their assessments on an actual model and facts.		
20 July 2023	<b>General Business</b>	Council to discuss the obstruction of willow trees at the inflow channel of Barren Box Swamp.	Graham Gordon	<b>13/08/2024:</b> Council to raise with MI.
20 July 2023	<b>General Business</b>	Council discuss ownership and maintenance of the drainage channel on Crook Road, Hanwood with Murrumbidgee Irrigation, accounting for the 86ML/day of water that the new Hanwood pump station has the potential to pump.	Graham Gordon	<b>13/08/2024:</b> This issue has been resolved.
4 May 2023	<b>EMR Regulator and Barellan water level sensors</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Joe Dal Broi and Steve Manwaring that Council write to Water NSW for justification of services rendered for the fee in the vicinity of \$17,000 that Council currently pay for the monitoring of water level sensors at the East Mirrool Regulator and in Barellan.	GM	<b>20/07/2023:</b> Report to Committee on 20/07/2023. Council to pursue potential to transfer ownership of devices due to funding through BoM, or Council negotiate the frequency of device monitoring.
17 November 2022	<b>Lake Wyangan Flood Mitigation Action Update</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Councillor Glen Andreazza and Steven Mortlock that Council apply for funding to review the Lake Wyangan Flood Study (2012) and Lake Wyangan Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2013).	Graham Gordon	<b>13/08/2024:</b> Council has received funding from DCCEEW and engaged Torren Consulting to review the flood study and plan.

5 August 2021	<b>Education Strategy and Display Board</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Councillor Dino Zappacosta and Sally Jones that Council investigate the feasibility of establishing an education program highlighting the history of the Mirrool Creek catchment area.	Durgananda Chaudhary	<b>13/08/2024:</b> This will be done once flood mitigation works are completed.
27 February 2020	<b>Hanwood Stormwater Pump and Levee</b>	Mr Mortlock enquired if Council had adequate generators available? Mr Gordon advised this should be investigated further in relation to emergency management.	Graham Gordon / Durgananda Chaudhary	<b>13/08/2024:</b> Under investigation.
20 June 2019	<b>Farm Levees Mirrool Creek Floodplain – Illegal Levy Banks</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Peter Budd and Joe Dal Broi that the Committee endorse the Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan be reviewed and that investigations are carried out to identify any illegal works taken out such as levy banks and appropriate action taken. The review is to take into consideration flows from adjoining Council areas and consultation to occur with those Councils in relation to what action Griffith City Council will be undertaking.	Graham Gordon	Ongoing.