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

PRESENT

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), John Kerrigan (Community Representative), Steve Mortlock (Community Representative), Joseph Dal Broi (Community Representative), Wendy Quayle (Community Representative)

Dan Williams (Torrent Consulting)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

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

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Laurie Testoni (Councillor – Alternate).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Steve Mortlock that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 March 2025, 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.

Community Representative, Ian Parisotto
EMR Breaching Protocol
Reason –

Community Representative, Paul Rossetto
CL5 & CL6
Reason – Have family and friends in the Yenda flood zone, also a Murrumbidgee Irrigation customer

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 TORRENT CONSULTING UPDATE

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

(Presentation included as Confidential Attachment).

CL02 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 following major works have been completed:

- Earthen levee along DC DA and DC HANDEPOT completed,
- Kidman Way raised levee as per TfNSW requirements,
- Drainage network along Kidman Way, Mallee Street and service land 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 project will provide the 1% flood immunity to Hanwood village.

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

CL03 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 1 – Upgrade of culverts at Bosanquet Road and Burley Griffith 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 options and/or seek alternative funding source.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steve Mortlock and John Kerrigan that the Committee note the report.

CL04 EAST MIRROOL REGULATOR (EMR) EMERGENCY BREACHING PROTOCOL

A request was received by Councillor 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”*.

Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, advised the Committee that Griffith City Council adopted the East Mirrool Regulator (EMR) Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework on 13 November 2018, recommending that the Main Canal may be breached during a major flood. He explained that the timing of such an event is unpredictable.

In the event of a predicted or ongoing major flood event, an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is activated. The EOC coordinates multi-agency support and would oversee any canal breaching. The costs and contractor involvement are uncertain and would depend on availability at the time.

Because the breaching is coordinated through the EOC, funding may be available to support recovery and the restoration of critical infrastructure, such as the Griffith LGA's water supply network.

A 2016 internal memo, tabled by Paul Rossetto, was also discussed. He criticised the lack of progress, stating that despite years of discussion, none of these works had been completed. He also expressed doubt about the usefulness of the emergency breaching protocol, arguing that without proper preparation, it would fail when needed and called the situation unacceptable. The memo had outlined several preparation tasks that have not yet been completed. Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, update the Committee on the progress of the priorities.

- Priority 1 – Mirrool Creek Flood Warning System. This has been completed and implemented.
- Priority 2 – Yoogali Levee. Nearing completion with the exception of Stage 3 being the raising of Burley Griffin Way.
- Priority 3 – Yenda EMR Lawson Siphon Project. Funding was applied for and further detailed information will be presented at the next Floodplain Committee meeting.
- Priority 4 – Hanwood Levee and Pump Project. This project has been completed.

Council staff advised that funding support may be available after a disaster, but if breaching is done to prevent a disaster, the cost may fall on Council. The Committee requested that the outstanding preparation works be reviewed and reported back to the Committee. The

2016 memo will be checked for public release and further discussed at the next meeting.

Mr Parisotto criticised the current Emergency Breaching Protocol at the EMR, arguing it is poorly prepared and unlikely to perform in a major flood. He expressed frustration that, despite a detailed breaching manual, no permanent infrastructure upgrades have been made in over a century.

He further pointed out issues with the floodgate design and claimed the system does not meet 1-in-50 or 1-in-100 year flood standards. Discussion took place that like the North Meribee Canal realignment, the EMR should be upgraded to allow for safe floodwater flow, referencing flood modelling showing 140 m³/s at the EMR and 25 m³/s from the Dalton Runner.

The General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, reminded Committee members that this is a formal Griffith City Council Committee and not a forum for personal attacks or inappropriate conduct. Members were reminded to declare any conflicts of interest before participating in discussion. Mr Stonestreet stated that Mr Gordon would not be answering further questions on the matter. Any additional questions should be submitted in writing for a formal response. The General Manager reiterated that all Committee members are bound by Council's Code of Conduct.

Mr Parisotto tabled questions that will be answered and included in the Agenda for the next meeting.

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

CL05 QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT FLOODPLAIN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 6 MARCH 2025

At the Committee meeting held a number of questions were Taken on Notice. A response was provided in the Agenda of this meeting.

Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, sought clarification from Mr Rossetto during the meeting regarding his use of the abbreviation "NBC." Mr Gordon asked Paul Rossetto to confirm that he was, in fact, referring to the North Meribee Channel when using the term, to ensure accuracy and avoid any misunderstanding when answering his questions.

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

CL06 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Discussion was held regarding the North Meribee Channel realignment and the correspondence received from Community members.

Mr Rossetto raised concerns regarding changes to the North Meribee Channel and showed a Google Earth image showing a long yellow section that is being decommissioned as part of the proposal. Mr Rossetto pointed out that after these changes, the water outlet seems to only benefit one of the Directors of Murrumbidgee Irrigation, which could be a serious issue as public and shareholder money might be involved unfairly. He believes that important information was left out of the original report and the Council may have been misled.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Ian Parisotto that the information be received.

Joe Dal Broi left the meeting, the time being 4:35pm.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

Item 20 June 2019 Farm Levees Mirrool Creek Floodplain – Illegal Levy Banks

Mr Parisotto raised concerns about changes to farm levees and how they affect flood planning, particularly the emergency breaching protocol, which is based on pre-2012 levee heights.

It was noted that current breaching protocols are based on post-2012 data and Council is seeking funding for a catchment-wide flood study to assess changes in terrain of Mirrool Creek. Steve Manwaring from DCCEEW advised that the completion of a future Mirrool Creek Rural Floodplain Management Plan is planned by the DCCEEW Water Group once funding is secured.

The General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, advised the Committee that this matter has been raised previously at various Committee meetings and at community meetings held at Yenda and Griffith. Council has responded previously on all occasions and the response remains the same.

Council intends to apply for funding to review the Flood Study for Mirrool Creek Catchment after current study infrastructure interventions have been completed. The new study will compare the landform levels against those documented in previous study. That comparison will identify what land forms have been altered during this time and who undertook those interventions. The study will then identify what change has occurred in terms of future flood flows and what properties will be adversely impacted by those flows. Council will then have objective information to consider what action (if any) will be taken as a consequence of these amended changes to floodwater flows.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Business for the next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee

Mr Rossetto advised he has numerous motions to put forward for the next Committee meeting. Mr Stonestreet requested that he submit these items, including any amendments, a few weeks in advance. It was noted that a formal call for agenda items will be made three weeks prior to the scheduled meeting.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 4 September 2025 at 2:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 5:09pm.