



## MINUTES

### FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 2:02 PM

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor Scott Groat (Chair), Councillor Doug Curran (Mayor), Laurie Testoni (Councillor - Alternate) (ZOOM), Steve Manwaring (DCCEEW), Josh Stanbury (NSW SES), Michael Borg (NSW SES), Shane Hargrave (NSW SES) (ZOOM), Dan Williams (Torrent Consulting) (ZOOM), Ian Parisotto (Community Representative), Paul Rossetto (Community Representative), John Kerrigan (Community Representative), Joseph Dal Broi (Community Representative)

Quorum = 5

#### **STAFF**

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

#### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Ema Munro (Community Representative) and Steve Mortlock (Community Representative).

#### **2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of John Kerrigan and Paul Rossetto that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 June 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

Community Representative Ian Parisotto suggested that an amendment to the minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held on 12 June 2025 may be required.

The General Manager, Scott Grant, recommended that the recording of the meeting be reviewed to identify the matters raised by Mr Parisotto. If relevant information is confirmed, it will be presented to the Committee for consideration of a potential amendment to the minutes.

#### **3 BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil

## **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr Parisotto sought clarification on options for managing conflicts of interest. Mr Grant responded that this information would have been provided during the induction process and noted that identifying a conflict of interest is the responsibility of each individual Committee Member, not the Council.

### **Pecuniary Interests**

*Members making a pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.*

Committee Member Ian Parisotto  
Reason – Exit ramp at EMR

### **Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests**

*Members making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.*

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  
New North Merribee Channel Floodway and EMR Upgrade Option  
Reason – Yenda Progress Association Mirrool Creek Flood spokesperson representing the interests of 1500 Yenda and district residents, including family and friends flooded in the March 2012 floods.

## **5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **CL01 RESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER**

A resignation was received from Committee Member, Wendy Quayle, after the last meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Joseph Dal Broi that the information be received.

### **CL02 TORRENT CONSULTING UPDATE - LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY AND FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY AND PLAN**

Daniel Williams from Torrent Consulting provided the Committee with an update and review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and Risk Management Study and Plan.

(Presentation included as Confidential Attachment).

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Joseph Dal Broi that the information be received.

*Councillor Doug Curran (Mayor) left the meeting, the time being 3:10pm.*

*Dan Williams left the meeting, the time being 3:28pm.*

## **CL03 QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT FLOODPLAIN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 12 JUNE 2025**

Responses were provided to Mr Parisotto's Questions Taken on Notice at Floodplain Management Committee meeting held on 12 June 2025.

Mr Parisotto expressed concerns regarding Griffith City Council's adoption of the Emergency Breaching Protocol (EBP) and questioned the effectiveness of breaching the main canal in a timely manner.

The Chair, Councillor Scott Groat, queried whether Council receives advance notice of potential flooding.

Director of Utilities, Graham Gordon, advised that the Bureau of Meteorology has early warning systems in place upstream in the Mirrool Creek, which provide automatic alerts to both the community and Council. These alerts are incorporated into the EBP and activate different response timeframes.

Mr Dal Broi queried whether breaching would still be necessary if the East Mirrool Regulator gates were opened early enough.

Mr Gordon advised that there are eight gates on the southern side and three on the northern side of the regulator. He noted that under the adopted EBP, the gated system is designed to accommodate a 1-in-50-year flood event.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of John Kerrigan and Ian Parisotto that the report be noted.

*Councillor Laurie Testoni left the meeting, the time being 3:47pm.*

## **CL04 AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr Rossetto submitted two Agenda items for the Committee to consider.

### **Item 1 – Upgrade Flood Gates Option**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and John Kerrigan that the Floodplain Management Committee recommend to Griffith City Council the completion of the reinstatement of EMR flood gates option presented by consultants BMT WBM Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study Plan August 2015 C.2 EMR Flood Escape Upgrade C.2.1 Description of Works.

- Construction of new flood relief structure at the East Mirrool Regulator as a replacement of the existing structure. The existing five bay and eight bay flood check in the northern and southern bank of the Main Canal is proposed to be replaced with a 9 bay 2.4 x 1.8m gated structure (or similar) on each bank.
- Scour protection works at the structure inlets and outlets are provided to protect the receiving channel and downstream floodplain from excessive erosion.
- Channel modification works are required both upstream and downstream of the structure to provide appropriate transition of flow to the existing channel/floodplain of Mirrool Creek.
- Raising of strengthening of the right Northern Branch Canal (completed by MI).

### **Item 2 – Reinstatement of Attenuating Levee**

Mr Gordon requested that the item be taken on notice to allow time to obtain further information. The Committee voted against this request.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and John Kerrigan that the Floodplain Management Committee recommends to Council that the reinstating of an attenuating levee at the flood design height of the North Merribee Channel banks recently levelled by Murrumbidgee Irrigation. Also, the reinstatement of a syphon through the attenuating levee as per 1978 Water Resources Commission Report 'Guidelines for Mirrool Creek Flood Plain Development Barellan to Yenda.'

*Page 7 "Where the floodway crosses the North Merribee Supply Channel a syphon will be required to ensure that flood flows are unobstructed."*

The installation of a syphon aims to slow flood flows of the upstream flood storage area immediately east and upstream of the North Merribee Channel realignment in accordance with the principles set forth in the NSW Floodplain Development Manual.

Mr Gordon explained that the 1978 Water Resources Commission Report 'Guidelines for Mirrool Creek Flood Plain Development Barellan to Yenda' report recommended to keep the floodway unobstructed and the motion contradicts this by reinstating an "attenuating levee" in which case, this would reduce the effect of the floodway.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, 28 October 2025 Council resolved the following:

25/297

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Mark Dal Bon that in relation to the Recommendations in CL04:

*Item 1:*

- (a) *Council obtains an estimation of costs for consultants to detail design the above 4 dots points in the Committee's recommendations*
- (b) *Council explores funding options for the detail design through the State Government Floodplain Management Program.*
- (c) *Once State Government flood funding sources are identified and applicable to the detailed design of the 4 dot points, Council consider, as part of future budget deliberations, the required matching funding.*

*Item 2:*

- (a) *Prior to reinstating an attenuating levee across the floodway, Council applies for funding from the State Government to conduct a review of the Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan once all stages of the Yoogali levee project are fully complete.*
- (b) *Council considers, as part of future budget deliberations, the required matching funding necessary to conduct a review of the Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.*

**SMT Comment:**

**The Terms of Reference of the Floodplain Management Committee do not permit the Committee to implement actions in areas over which Council has responsibility, or to commit or expend any Council funds that are not contained within an adopted budget or subsequent variation of a budget.**

**Should Council choose to adopt the above recommendations of the Committee, this matter will need to be deliberated as part of the budget process.**

*Shane Hargrave (NSW SES) left the meeting, the time being 4:07pm.*

## **6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT**

Ian Parisotto raised a question regarding the delegation of authority under the State Emergency Service Act to breach canal banks. The matter was taken on notice.

The Outstanding Action Report was noted.

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Terms of Reference**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Ian Parisotto that the Committee not advertise for a new member, the Community Representatives be 6 and the minimum number for quorum will be 3.

## **8 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee will be advised.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 4:49pm.