
**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2026 AT 2:00 PM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
 - CL01 p7 Review of Lake Wyangan Flood Study
 - CL02 p8 Yoogali Levee Stage 3
 - CL03 p9 Questions for Murrumbidgee Irrigation
 - CL04 p11 Correspondence from Committee Members
- 6 p22 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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

General Manager, Scott Grant; Director Utilities, Graham Gordon; Water & Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary and Minute Secretary, Leanne Austin

Quorum = 5

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.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 2:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Scott Groat (Chair), Laurie Testoni (Councillor - Alternate), Steve Manwaring (DCCEEW), Josh Stanbury (NSW SES), Ian Parisotto (Community Representative), Paul Rossetto (Community Representative), John Kerrigan (Community Representative), Steve Mortlock (Community Representative), Joseph Dal Broi (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

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 Michael Borg (NSW SES) and Ema Munro (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 9 October 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee 09 October 2025

CL03 Questions Taken on Notice at Floodplain Committee Meeting held 12 June 2025

Mr Rossetto requested an amendment to the minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held 09 October 2025. Mr Dal Broi asked if a second set of floodgates were required at the East Mirrool Regulator. This question was covered in the below extract from the Committee meeting of 09 October 2025.

“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 Emergency Breaching Protocol (EBP), the gated system is designed to accommodate a 1-in-50-year flood event”.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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
Floodplain Management Committee
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
Floodplain Management Committee
Reason – Yenda Progress Association Mirrool Creek spokesman representing 1500 Yenda & District residents

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2026

The proposed meeting dates for 2026 are as follows:

- 5 March 2026;
- 4 June 2026;
- 3 September 2026; and
- 3 December 2026.

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

CL02 AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The below items were received from Mr Rossetto.

- **Below Kooba regulator Main Canal north bank flood access**
This was noted by the Committee.
- **TOR review of EMR Breaching Protocol and 2015 Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Flood Study**
Mr Rossetto would like these added to section 3.6 (Review of plans) of the Floodplain Management Committee ToR .
- **Progress on letter to Murrumbidgee Irrigation re leaking pipe at Yenda corner of Myall Park road and Beelbanger Road**
An update was provided to the Committee.

- **Invitation to meet new Murrumbidgee Irrigation CEO to attend Floodplain Management Committee meeting – assisting Council locate funding for EMR flood gates upgrade**

A representative from Murrumbidgee Irrigation is happy to attend a meeting with “Questions on Notice” provided to them prior to the meeting. Council staff will compile an internal list of items and then distribute to the Committee for any comments or items they wish to add.

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

CL03 YOOGALI FLOOD MITIGATION WORK

Director Utilities, Mr Graham Gordon, updated the Committee on the Yoogali Flood Mitigation Works.

He advised that Stage 1 and Stage 2 are complete.

It is proposed that the Floodplain Management Committee support:

- (a) Construction of an earthen levee along the bank of Main Drain J from McCormack Road to the railway line;
- (b) Funding application in the next round of NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) funding which will also require a 1/3 contribution from Council;
- (c) Council will prepare design and cost estimation by February 2026.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steve Mortlock and John Kerrigan that the information be received.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Outstanding Action Report was noted.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Lake Wyangan Flood Study

Councillor Scott Groat sought clarification on who is funding the Lake Wyangan Flood Study being undertaken by Torrent Consulting. It was explained that the funding is two thirds DCCEEW grant funding and one third Council contribution, they are engaged under a contract with a defined scope of works and once the agreed work is completed and approved the contract ends.

7.2 Mirrool Creek Maintenance Concerns

Mr Dal Broi advised that there is significant sediment build-up near the railway at Widgelli. He also raised his concerns that the road approach to the Mirrool Creek bridge on Brogden Road is breaking up and creating safety issues particularly for heavy vehicles. Mr Dal Broi offered to show Councillor Groat the areas.

8 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 5 March 2026 at 2:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 3:25pm.

CLAUSE **CL01**

TITLE **Review of Lake Wyangan Flood Study**

TRIM REF **26/23050**

CLAUSE	CL02
TITLE	Yoogali Levee Stage 3
FROM	Durgananda Chaudhary, Water & Wastewater Manager
TRIM REF	26/22822

SUMMARY

The concept design for the Yoogali Stage 3 Levee is attached to this report.

Design and costings will be presented to the Committee for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Council endorse the concept design for Yoogali Stage 3 Levee.**
- (b) Council apply for funding in the 2026-27 funding round.**
- (c) Council allocate one third of the cost of the project in the 2026/27 budget.**

REPORT

Presentation to be made at the Committee meeting.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 7.4 Reduce the risk and impacts of natural disasters on our community.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Concept design Yoogali Levee (under separate cover) **

CLAUSE **CL03**

TITLE **Questions for Murrumbidgee Irrigation**

FROM **Graham Gordon, Director Utilities**

TRIM REF **26/22726**

SUMMARY

At the Floodplain Management Meeting held on the 4 December 2025, the Committee discussed that Council staff would compile a list of questions for Murrumbidgee Irrigation to answer.

Please find attached questions.

RECOMMENDATION

For the Committee to discuss.

REPORT

As above.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) [Questions for Murrumbidgee Irrigation from Floodplain Committee - Feb 2026](#) 10
 

Questions for Murrumbidgee Irrigation from Floodplain Committee – Feb 2026

Mirrool Creek

1. Can Murrumbidgee Irrigation provide a maintenance / cleaning schedule for Mirrool Creek from the East Mirrool Regulator through to Barren Box Swamp? There is concern that weed growth, particularly the large areas of cumbungi growth around Widgelli and other bridge / road crossing points will create blockages and cause out of bank flow during periods of flood.
2. There are trees within the bed and flow path along Mirrool Creek. Is re-vegetation and tree planting a part of the Mirrool Creek Plan of Management or can these trees be removed? The Floodplain Committee is concerned that the trees will create blockage of debris during flooding.

East Mirrool Regulator (EMR)

1. Can Murrumbidgee Irrigation provide the structural report for the assessment of the syphons under the main canal?
2. Can a Plan of Action be created in conjunction with Griffith City Council in relation to any breaching requirements at the EMR due to flooding and actions triggered via the EMR – Emergency Breaching Protocols adopted November 2018.

Main Drain J

- 1 Can Murrumbidgee Irrigation provide a maintenance / cleaning schedule for Main Drain J from the Crook Road Bridge through to Barren Box Swamp? There is concern that weed growth, particularly the large areas of cumbungi growth create blockages, reduce conveyance, and cause out of bank flow during periods of flood.

Other

1. Is it possible for Griffith City Council and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd to work together to rectify the flood mitigation issues at the Yenda EMR by jointly sourcing funding for design, viability study and installation of new flood mitigation infrastructure?
2. What are the risks to Griffith Local Government Area economy of enacting the Emergency Breaching Protocols during the Summer months?

CLAUSE **CL04**

TITLE **Correspondence from Committee Members**

FROM **Leanne Austin, Governance Manager**

TRIM REF **26/12833**

SUMMARY

Please find attached correspondence received from Committee Members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Historical Flood Events - Ian Parisotto ↓  | 12 |
| (b) | Ian Parisotto - Amendment to Question For Murrumbidgee Irrigation ↓  | 13 |
| (c) | Paul Rossetto - Question For Murrumbidgee Irrigation ↓  | 14 |
| (d) | Ian Parisotto - Agenda Items - 11 Feb 2026 ↓  | 21 |

Historical Flood Event to be taken on notice and included in the minutes.

Overview

Historical records from the Mirrool Creek Catchment show a consistent pattern of major rainfall events, with the January 1984 rain event remaining the highest on record. As noted by Mr Williams at the FMC meeting April 2017, "March 2012 was less than half the flow rate that correlated with the Barellan bridge homestead gauge that recorded a higher level in 1984 than it did in 2012." Yet despite this lower flow rate, the 2012 flood event was the worst flooding event at the EMR. Indicating that lower flows can now produce higher impacts.

It is also important to note that the timing of the 1984 flood event, occurred in January, the peak reliability of our water supply. It is also deeply concerning that Council has no data on the January 1984 flood event.

So what has changed?

We are ignoring the warning signs of another disaster and have not translated this into any meaningful action and are ill prepared to cope with a repeat of the major rainfall events recorded in April 1974, January 1984, March 1989, and March 2012 which had recorded similar rainfall amounts over Mirrool Creek Catchment, effectively increasing the frequency of what should be considered a 1: 100 ARI event.

Accountability?

Council's failure to acknowledge this pattern-and to plan accordingly-has left the EMR increasingly vulnerable. The risks are known, documented and repeatedly demonstrated. The lack of preparation is therefore not a matter of uncertainty, but a matter of governance.

The community deserves modern, reliable and proactive flood-mitigation infrastructure and not a reliance on an emergency breaching protocol, when the standard for a 1:100 ARI event is permanent flood mitigation infrastructure. Council must take ownership of the risk, acknowledge the historical records and commit to bringing the EMR flood-mitigation infrastructure into the 21'st century.

Failure to act now will not be a matter of unforeseen circumstances-it will be a matter of accountability.

Ian Parisotto

Question For Murrumbidgee Irrigation

East Mirrool Regulator (EMR)

2. Can a Plan of Action be created in conjunction with Griffith City Council in relation to any breaching requirements at the EMR due to flooding and actions triggered via the EMR – Emergency Breaching Protocols adopted November 2018.

- To ensure water supply downstream of the EMR especially during peak agricultural periods.
- Safety for excavator from surrounding itself in uncontrolled flood water.
- Infrastructure to divert flood water away from breach site for a safer working environment.

Paul Rossetto

GCC FloodPlain Management Committee

24th February 2026

The Chairman
Cr Scott Groat
GCC Floodplain Management Committee
Meeting 5th March 2026

Dear Scott,

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Re: **Questions for Murrumbidgee Irrigation from the Floodplain Committee**

Is it possible for Griffith City Council and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd to work together to rectify the flood mitigation issues at the Yenda EMR by jointly sourcing funding for design, viability study and installation of new flood mitigation infrastructure?

THE PROBLEM

1. The primary flood mitigation problem at the Yenda East Mirrool Regulator (EMR) is the inadequate capacity to transfer floodwaters from Mirrool Creek across the Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) Main Canal northern bank and the fact that capacity has been reduced since the last flood (1989), leading to overtopping and severe breaching of both canals in March 2012.
2. Recent major upper Mirrool Creek catchment earthworks, unauthorised levees & drains, the Main Canal outer eastern & northern bank structural improvements, Murrumbidgee Irrigation North Merribee Channel re-alignment will all ensure greater flood flows & faster arrival of Mirrool Creek flood waters at the north bank of the inadequate Yenda EMR under canal siphon and MI lay flat irrigation doors than in the March 2012 flood.
3. Current flood mitigation infrastructure at the EMR requires the closing down of the Main Canal irrigation supply for even a small to moderate flood greater than the under canal siphon capacity 1:20 ARI but less than 1:50 ARI requiring Emergency Breaching protocol activation.
4. The Emergency Breaching Protocol and Support Framework Document is also inadequate and very narrow in its application from 78m³/s (1:50 ARI) to 95m³/s (1:67 ARI) Any flood event great than 1:67 ARI could potentially cause an uncontrollable breach. 2018 Emergency Breaching Protocol and Decision Making Document

THE HISTORY

The March 5 2012 Mirrool Creek flood

- The Northern Branch Canal (NBC 133.5 AHD) was overtopped for several kilometres combining with Binya Creek flood flows leading to the devastating flooding of Yenda
- Twenty-four hours later the Main Canal (134 AHD) overtopped at several locations. Firstly, flood waters entered the Main Canal at several locations: Little Mirrool Creek, upstream of Daltons Runner, Daltons Runner and Halse Farm and then exited the Main Canal above Kooba Regulator, Parisotto Farm breach and several more locations closer to the EMR. The Parisotto Farm Breach became a large pothole requiring 70 truckloads (1000 cubic metres of fill) and 3 weeks to restore the Main Canal irrigation supplies. Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Flood Study February 2015.
- The Mirrool Creek across Main Canal flow of 1:50 ARI had been reduced to 1:20 ARI because of de-commissioning of both sets of six-inch drop board flood checks. A set of five 2.1 metre x 1.8 metre six-inch drop boards check in the northern bank, and a set of eight 2.1 metre x 1.8 metre six-inch drop boards check in the southern bank. Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Flood Study February 2015.
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation installed a set of 2 larger & 2 smaller lay flat irrigation doors 9m² width, with a sill level of 132.6 AHD capacity of 1088 ML per day in the north bank for irrigation water transfer downstream into Mirrool Creek utilising the under-canal siphon. (1990's) However, in 2012 flood event the use of the doors added more flood water to the already inadequate under canal siphon which saw Murrumbidgee Irrigation lift the doors which meant they became inoperable for flood cross flow purposes once the flood waters built up behind them.
- A Funding opportunity was lost during the Council term of 2016 – 2021 when Mayor John DalBroi and Cr Zappacosta, Chairman of Floodplain Management Committee (2016-2021) returned four hundred thousand dollars of funding to The Office of Environment & Heritage (OE & H) designated for the Yenda EMR flood mitigation works viability study and design. Ten years and two and a half million dollars later the Hanwood local rainfall nuisance flooding Pumping project has been completed to a 1% AEP design. Meanwhile Yenda EMR Mirrool Creek / Main Canal cross flow flood mitigation capacity in the northern main canal bank is less than it was during the 1989 flood.

Why were the two sets of drop board checks de-commissioned after the 1989 flood?

March 1989 was the highest recorded rainfall month 216.6 mm recorded BOM 1958-2026

“The March 1989 event caused localised flooding throughout the catchment, resulting from local runoff. There was no flow contribution from Mirrool Creek.

There are four BOM stations in the area recording rainfall depths of 103mm, 103mm, 93mm and 71mm respectfully for the day period 14th – 15th March 1989.

(draining rice bays) The stream flow gauge records at Yoogali and Warburn were found to be 170 ML/day and 430 ML/day respectively”.

Barren Box Swamp (BBS) sitting at 80% full had only 20% airspace. The ensuing severe Barren Box Swamp flooding inundated many properties activating many expensive lawsuits for the NSW Government.

Self-serving public officials in Murrumbidgee Irrigation; two ex-chairman & two directors took the opportunity to protect their properties on Mirrool Creek from future inundation by over-seeing the decommissioning of two sets of Yenda East Mirrool Regulator (EMR) drop board flood checks as they became the scapegoat even though *“there was no flow from Mirrool Creek”*

” Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Flood Study February 2015

EMR Core Inadequate Flood Mitigation issues compounded by

1. Unauthorised earthworks (16) upstream of the East Mirrool Regulator by private property owners. Mirrool Creek flood waters that used to take 6 weeks to traverse the Barellan Flood plain have been channelised by levees and drains leading to increased flood surge flows of a few days before flood waters arrive at the East Mirrool Regulator. 1978 Barellan to Yenda Mirrool Creek Flood Report
2. Murrumbidgee Irrigation rebuilding and lifting the height of the Main Canal banks downstream of Colinroobie Ranges, upstream of Daltons Runner and adjacent to Halse farm where vast volumes of water entered the Main Canal in 2012 flood. The impact of these works will be to send all flood waters north around the outside of the Main Canal bank until it reaches the inadequate East Mirrool Regulator (EMR) under canal siphon and Murrumbidgee Irrigation 9 metre wide 2+2 lay flat doors.
3. Griffith City Council endorsement of a Murrumbidgee Irrigation proposed North Merribee Channel re-alignment which involved levelling the attenuating North Merribee Channel banks and installing a pair of inverted irrigation siphons to *“allow uninterrupted flood flows of 5000 ML per day towards the inadequate under canal*

siphon at the East Mirrool regulator.”. Has intensified the inadequacy of the under-canal siphon flooding problem. Griffith City Council letter to Yenda progress Association dated 12/12/24

4. Apathy & ignorance by the general public, and Council & Murrumbidgee Irrigation stemming from obfuscated public official statements about the EMR flood mitigation capacity.

Current efforts at Flood Mitigation Strategies

1. *The re-installment of a set of eight lay flat doors in the southern bank of the Main Canal at a sill level of 132.6AHD albeit 0.9m higher than the previous drop board check added approximately 26m³/s (2264 ML per day) to the discharge of the Canal.* EMR Emergency Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework November 2018
2. Removal of the bank of soil blocking the set of eight gates during the 2012 flood. However, there is a silting issue with still water in front of the recently installed set of eight lay flat doors dropping silt in front of them. Murrumbidgee Irrigation attempted to remove the silt last winter during the winter maintenance program but could only reach half of the silt because of excavator was not able to access the canal bank between the new gates and the under-canal siphon. Maybe opening the lay flat doors behind the silt bank will enact soil erosion principles to remove the silt. Worth a try!
3. An early warning system comprising creek water level gauges was installed at a bridge on Mirrool Creek at Barellan and another gauge at the Yenda EMR.
4. Emergency Breaching Protocols (EBP) have been developed to mitigate the lack of Mirrool Creek cross flow capacity at the EMR by breaching the Main Canal banks in the event of another large flood event.

As the EBP was only ever intended to be *“an interim measure”*

BMT WBM August 2015 Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Flood Study and Risk Management Plan

It's imperative that future 1% AEP (14000ML per day) flood design mitigation infrastructure is installed at the Yenda EMR before another large flood event occurs.

What are the risks to Griffith Local Government Area economy of enacting the Emergency Breaching Protocols during the Summer months?

Enacting the Emergency Breaching Protocols which involves breaching the Main Canal banks during a greater than 2% AEP flood event and less than a 1% AEP flood event presents significant, albeit managed, risks to the Griffith Local Government Area Economy. These protocols are designed as a last resort to mitigate severe flooding in Yenda by allowing flood water to pass through the Main Canal.

It's very important to note *“that a flood event greater than 95m³/s (8208 ML) could potentially cause uncontrollable breaching of the Main Canal banks”*.

“There remains a risk that breach capacity may be further exceeded additional uncontrolled breaching may occur”.

Figure 3-3 shows flood cross flow design requirement at 140m³/s

BMT EMR Emergency Breaching Protocol and Decision-Making Support Framework November 2018.

Table 8.8 Proposed Design Peak Flood Flows for Mirrool Creek at the Main Canal

Design event magnitude	Peak Flow U/S of the Main Canal
1% AEP	160m ³ /s

BMT WBM Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Flood Study February 2015

The Primary economic risks include:

- **Non enactment of the Emergency Breaching Protocols** leading to the overtopping of Northern Branch Canal and flooding of Yenda again. The Emergency Breaching Protocols are already a last resort interim measure plan and to not activate them for whatever reason would prove disastrous to Yenda.
- **BoM’s disclaimer:** *The BoM states that you cannot assume that using the 2013 IFD design rainfalls with AR&R87 techniques and design parameters will deliver a more reliable estimate of the flood.* (BoM 2013). Up until 3rd March 2012 BoM was forecasting 100mm of rainfall for the Riverina. When that forecast was surpassed threefold ie 300mm BoM belatedly raised the forecast prediction to 300 mm and deleted the previous 100 mm prediction from their records.
- **Interruption to Griffith town water supply:** Depending on the severity of the uncontrolled breach, the time taken to repair the Main Canal infrastructure, the water level of Hayes reservoir and town water usage there is a risk town water supplies may be indefinitely interrupted.
- **Infrastructure Damage and Repair costs:** Council will have to pay the costs of and Emergency Breaching Protocol (EBP) activation if an emergency is not declared by Government.
- **Agricultural Production Loss:** If the Emergency Breaching Protocol (EBP) is enacted during Summer months irrigators will incur significant crop losses as daily irrigation needs can not be met until the Main Canal infrastructure is re-instated. In 2012 repairs took 3 weeks. Some drip irrigated crops on soil embankments still require drip irrigating after a significant rain event that runs off the soil very quickly.
- **The loss of confidence and Trust in Public Organisational Management:** The risks of significant economic losses mentioned above far outweigh the cost of critical flood infrastructure installation at the Yenda EMR. In 2012 it was approximately 50:1. \$100M dollar losses in Yenda compared to \$2M dollars for a second set of gates in the northern Main Canal bank. Management of both organisations, Murrumbidgee Irrigation and Griffith City Council will be thrust under the spotlight with the question why wasn’t critical flood mitigation infrastructure installed in time for the next major flood event?

Future Planning EMR flood design planning and installation of infrastructure

This is a huge opportunity presenting itself to new management, both in Council, Floodplain Management Committee & Murrumbidgee Irrigation to rectify a neglected flood mitigation problem at the Yenda EMR that can have catastrophic emotional and financial impacts if not effectively resolved.

Recommendation:

- a) The Floodplain Management Committee recommend to Council this report be noted.
- b) The limitations of the Emergency Breaching Protocol and Decision Support Framework be noted.
 - The EBP is only an interim measure until an upgrade of critical flood mitigation infrastructure is installed. BMT WBM
 - The EBP has a limited range of Mirrool Creek cross flow capacity from 78m³/s to 95m³/s. Greater than that flow an uncontrollable breach may occur.
- c) The Floodplain Management Committee recommend that Griffith City Council invite Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd (MI) to have input and jointly seek funding for the design, viability study and installation of the critical flood mitigation infrastructure necessary to achieve a 1% AEP Mirrool Creek / Main Canal cross flow design capacity.

NB Murrumbidgee Irrigation may prefer a Lawson Siphon mitigation measure which doesn't impact irrigation supply during a flood event. There are new installation techniques that don't necessarily impact irrigation supply for long periods of time except at the last headwall connection phase which could be done during the winter.

Failure to achieve point (c) above is not an option as it will include a triple catastrophe. Yenda homes and businesses damaged & Griffith Local Government Area Economy impacted involving the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars of crops and Council footing the bill for repairing the Main Canal.

Below are some examples of sources of funding presently available:

DEECCW is the primary funder for flood mitigation works.

Floodplain Management Grants

Who can apply

Local Councils, county councils and other government bodies with risk management responsibilities equivalent to those of local councils.

*possibly Murrumbidgee Irrigation under its NSW Water Management Act 2000 responsibilities. *"Their responsibilities generally stem from the need to manage infrastructure that interacts with floodplains and to ensure their operations do not worsen flood risks for others."* NSW Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR)

Stage 1: Flood Study completed Griffith Main Drain J Mirrool Creek Flood Study April 2015

Stage 2: Flood Risk Management Study completed – Griffith Main Drain J & Mirrool Creek Flood Risk Management and Plan August 2015.

Stage 3: Investigation and design / feasibility study

Investigation, design and /or feasibility study (where required) for works and new flood warning systems identified in a flood risk management plan. This stage must be undertaken for all new flood warning systems and for works projects that are likely to exceed a total of implementation cost of \$500,000 ex GST.

NB (\$400k granted in 2016 but returned by DalBroi / Stonestreet Council in favour of Hanwood local flooding pumping station. \$2.5M) Griffith City Council meeting minutes

Stage 4: Implementation

Implementing actions identified in a flood risk management plan (noting projects must have completed the requirements of Stage 3 where applicable), including but not limited to:

- Structural works, such as levees, detention basins, flood gates and improved flow conveyance
- Flood warning systems
- Evacuation management
- Voluntary purchase or house raising

Consultants BMT WBM recommended as Option 2A – “retain the existing subway and eight bay flood check in the southern bank. The flood check in the Northern bank is extended from five to eight bays.

Option 2 provides for an upgrade of the existing northern bank structure. The Northern bank structure is the key limiting control for passing Mirrool Creek flood flows being of a lesser width/flow capacity in comparison to the southern bank structure”.

Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Management Study and Plan August 2015

Yours Faithfully

Paul Rossetto,

Yenda Progress Association Mirrool Creek spokesman

Griffith City Council Floodplain Management Committee

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Agenda Items

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 February 2026 10:02 AM
To: Joanne Boller [REDACTED]
Subject: Agenda Items

Hi Joanne
Agenda items for March 5 FMC meeting

1. Update ministerial consent
2. Historical Flood Events
3. Review Mirrool Creek Floodway – 2004 Lidar Survey
4. Questions for Murrumbidgee Irrigation

Thanks
Ian Parisotto

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 25/148583

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Action Report - Floodplain Management Committee - 5 Mar 2026 [!\[\]\(1cc6b6b27654a411b0e71d314f64dde2_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(cda42ce0875e70014bccf0a69e1c86f1_img.jpg\)](#) 23

ACTION REPORT**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 5 MARCH 2026**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comments
4 December 2025	<p>CL02 AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS</p> <p>Invitation to meet new Murrumbidgee Irrigation CEO to attend Floodplain Management Committee meeting – assisting Council locate funding for EMR flood gates upgrade</p>	Council staff will compile an internal list of items and then distribute to the Committee for any comments or items they wish to add.	Graham Gordon/ Durgananda Chaudhary	20/01/2026: Request sent to MI.
4 December 2025	<p>CL03 YOOGALI FLOOD MITIGATION WORK</p>	<p>It is proposed that the Floodplain Management Committee support:</p> <p>(a) Construction of an earthen levee along the bank of Main Drain J from McCormack Road to the railway line;</p> <p>(b) Funding application in the next round of NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) funding which will also require a 1/3 contribution from Council;</p>	Graham Gordon/ Durgananda Chaudhary	05/02/2026: Design and estimates to be presented to 5 March meeting for endorsement.

		<p>(c) Council will prepare design and cost estimation by February 2026.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steve Mortlock and John Kerrigan that the information be received.</p>		
9 October 2025	CL04 AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS	<p>Item 1:</p> <p>(a) Council obtains an estimation of costs for consultants to detail design the above 4 dots points in the Committee's recommendations.</p> <p>(b) Council explores funding options for the detail design through the State Government Floodplain Management Program.</p> <p>(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.</p>	Graham Gordon	<p>27/11/2025: Resolved at the Council Meeting held 28 October 2025.</p> <p>RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Mark Dal Bon that in relation to the Recommendations in CL04:</p> <p>Item 1:</p> <p>(a) Council obtains an estimation of costs for consultants to detail design the above 4 dots points in the Committee's recommendations. To be submitted to March 2026 FMC meeting.</p> <p>(b) Council explores funding options for the detail design through the State Government Floodplain Management Program. To be considered after costs presented to FMC meeting.</p> <p>(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</p>

				future budget deliberations, the required matching funding. To be considered after costs presented to FMC meeting.
9 October 2025	CL04 AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS	<p>Item 2:</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p>	Graham Gordon	<p>27/11/2025: Resolved at the Council Meeting held 28 October 2025.</p> <p>RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Mark Dal Bon that in relation to the Recommendations in CL04:</p> <p>Item 2:</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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. To be considered once Yoogali Levee project fully complete.</p>

9 October 2025	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.	SES	
17 November 2022	Lake Wyangan Flood Mitigation Action Update	RECOMMENDED 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	13/08/2024: Council has received funding from DCCEEW and engaged Torren Consulting to review the flood study and plan. 27/11/2025: Torren Consulting has updated the Floodplain Management Committee at 2025 meetings.
5 August 2021	Education Strategy and Display Board	RECOMMENDED 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	13/08/2024: This will be done once flood mitigation works are completed. 27/11/2025: Has not progressed given the location options are very overgrown with cumbungi or the alternative site is on private MI land.