
**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2026 COMMENCING AT 2:05 PM**

PRESENT

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

Dan Williams from Torrent Consulting via Zoom

Absent: Steve Mortlock (Community Representative), Ema Munro (Community Representative)

Quorum = 5

STAFF

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

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Laurie Testoni.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Joseph Dal Broi and John Kerrigan that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 December 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Business Arising – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held 9 October 2025 CL03 Questions Taken on Notice at Floodplain Committee Meeting held 12 June 2025

Mr Rossetto sought clarification regarding his request to amend the minutes to more accurately reflect Mr Dal Broi's question – namely, whether a second set of gates on the upstream side would prevent the need for emergency breaching. Mr Dal Broi suggested the amendment include that, if additional gates were installed on the upstream side, and they were opened early, would emergency breaching still be required.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Joseph Dal Broi that the previous Minutes be amended to reflect that Mr Dal Broi's question was as follows: "If additional gates

were installed on the upstream side, and they were opened early, would emergency breaching still be required.”

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.

Ian Parisotto
General declaration
Reason – Exit Ramp at EMR

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.

Paul Rossetto
CL04 – Correspondence from Committee Members
Reason – Representing 15 residents of Yenda and District severely impacted in 2012 floods. Personally, no pecuniary benefit from these representations. In fact during the 2012 flood none of our 2 farmhouses or sheds were impacted by flood waters.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 REVIEW OF LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY

Dan Williams from Torrent Consulting provided an update of the review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study including the following points:

- Hydraulic model has been completed.
- Climate change scenarios considered and agreed upon.
- Design flood simulations being finalised.
- Flood study report is in preparation for Council Meeting 24 March 2026.
- Flood depth mapping and flood hazard mapping at Smeeth Road.
- Flood depth mapping and flood hazard mapping at Nericon.
- Next steps – Report flood study to Council, place the study on public exhibition.
- Finalise flood study following consideration of submissions.
- Progress with the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

Mr Rossetto enquired about the percentage adopted for future climate scenarios. Mr Williams advised that discussions had taken place with Council staff and DCCEEW and that a number of options will be presented for consideration.

Councillor Groat enquired if the new subdivision at Lake Wyangan would be taken into account in the study? Mr Williams confirmed that the drainage channel augmentation and proposed construction in the immediate future would be considered in the Flood Study and that long-term developments would be considered when preparing the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

Mr Gordon advised that the Flood Study will soon be completed and presented to Council on 24 March 2026, as required under the funding conditions, before being placed on public exhibition. Mr Gordon encouraged Committee members to review the Flood Study and provide feedback during exhibition period.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Kerrigan and Paul Rossetto that the report be noted and the Flood Study be presented to the 24 March Council Meeting for endorsement to be placed on public exhibition.

Mr Williams left the meeting at 2.30 pm.

CL02 YOOGALI LEVEE STAGE 3

Mr Gordon provided an update on the Yoogali Levee Stage 3 grant application. He advised that Stage 1 and 2 works had been completed. Stage 3 mitigation works involve raising the Main Drain J embankment as a levee and raising sections of Burley Griffin Way and McCormack Road intersection, creating a levee between Main Drain J and the Yoogali village.

A cost estimate for works was provided as follows:

Grant funding \$1,200,000

Council contribution \$600,000

It is proposed that the grant application will be submitted in the 2026 funding round and if successful, works will commence in the following financial years.

The Committee discussed the Stage 1 and Stage 2 works already completed on the Yoogali Levee.

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

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

CL03 QUESTIONS FOR MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (MI)

The Committee discussed responses provided by Murrumbidgee Irrigation which were tabled at the meeting.

Mr Grant suggested that, to assist in progressing the matter, MI be invited to attend the next meeting to provide a presentation on the mitigation measures available during a flood event, as well as an overview of their network, strategy and planning. He noted that this would give Committee members a better understanding of the system and help determine whether any additional infrastructure or mitigation measures may be required.

Mr Grant stated that the MI network has changed significantly since the 2012 flood event, and that it is therefore important to understand what the system can provide to help alleviate the impacts of a flood.

Mr Grant also advised that any additional questions from Committee members could be forwarded to MI through Council to be addressed at the next meeting.

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

- (a) The report be noted.
- (b) Council invite Murrumbidgee Irrigation to attend the next Committee meeting to respond to questions on notice and provide the Committee with an overview of its flood emergency management system and network capabilities.

CL04 CORRESPONDENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Parisotto enquired about Council's responsibility under the breaching protocols to pay for and restore infrastructure. Mr Gordon responded that when major natural disasters occur, they are generally recognised by the State / Federal Government and funding is provided to assist with the cost of repairs. However, in minor flood events where an emergency is not declared, Council is required to meet the cost of any necessary repairs for actions undertaken as the flood authority.

Mr Gordon further noted that each flood event is different; however, Council is working with MI to ensure planned procedures are in place that can assist with cost effective quick repairs.

Mr Rossetto stated that in the Executive Summary document he previously provided to the Committee, he had referred to a drainage channel behind the southern bank which requires further consideration.

Councillor Groat suggested that the correspondence provided by Committee members be forwarded to MI for consideration.

Mr Parisotto referred to information presented by Consultants at the September 2017 Committee meeting and requested a copy of the presentation. Mr Gordon responded that it was unlikely Council had retained a copy of the presentation provided by the consultants; however, the data presented would be included in the Mirrool Creek Flood Study 2015.

Mr Parisotto also requested a copy of the 2004 Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey and enquired why an updated LiDAR survey was not undertaken in 2015. Mr Gordon advised that this matter had been addressed at the 6 March 2025 Committee meeting and explained that the LiDAR survey information consists of a dataset that forms the basis of information used for flood studies. When a further flood study is undertaken following the completion of flood mitigation measures, the latest LiDAR information will be considered when preparing the new flood study.

Discussion took place about the effect of works implemented by MI on the North Merribee Channel. Councillor Groat suggested that the realignment of the North Merribee Channel would actually improve the flow of floodwaters. Mr Gordon agreed, stating that allowing the water to move through more quickly would reduce the build-up and make it easier to manage. He added that the gauge at the EMR assists in monitoring water levels and determining appropriate actions in accordance with the breaching protocols.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Paul Rossetto and John Kerrigan that the information be received and forwarded to Murrumbidgee Irrigation for consideration in their presentation to the Committee.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

Mr Stanbury tabled a response from the Deputy Commission Operations and advised the

action item date 9 October 2025 could be closed. The Education Strategy and Display Board item, dated 5 August 2021, is to be removed.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 4 June 2026 at 2:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 3:22 pm.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Responses provided by Murrumbidgee Irrigation to questions raised by Committee members
- (b) Documentation provided by SES

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Responses on Questions on Notice - MI 5/3/2026

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.

MI undertakes regular maintenance/cleaning along sections of the Mirrool Creek. A more structured program is being developed.

If there are sections of particular concern please forward these to MI.

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.

Re-vegetation and tree planting was part of the Mirrool Creek PoM yet not in the bed and flow path. These works are not actively being undertaken at the moment.

Again if there are particular sections of concern please forward these to MI

East Mirrool Regulator (EMR)

1. Can Murrumbidgee Irrigation provide the structural report for the assessment of the syphons under the main canal?

This report is a planning document for MI and is not available to the general public.

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.

MI is prepared to collaborate with Griffith City Council on EMR – Emergency Breaching Protocols.


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.




MI undertakes regular maintenance/cleaning along sections of the Main Drain J. A more structured program is being developed.

If there are sections of particular concern please forward these to MI.

(b) Documentation provided by SES

 Outlook

Response to Correspondence | East Mirrool Regulator (EMR) Emergency Breaching Protocols

From Deputy Commissioner Operations 
Date Mon 10-Nov-25 13:36
To 
Cc Deputy Commissioner Operations 

Dear Mr Parisotto,

The Office of The Hon. Jihad Dib MP, Minister for Emergency Services, forwarded your correspondence of 10 July 2025 and 5 August 2025 to the NSW SES for response.

On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, thank you for your correspondence regarding the East Mirrool Regulator Emergency Breaching Protocols.

I can advise that the *East Mirrool Regulator Breaching Protocols and Decision Support Framework* was adopted by Griffith City Council (GCC) on 13 November 2018.

The framework outlines key aspects of monitoring and responding to Mirrool Creek flooding and the initiation of emergency breaching of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) Main Canal.

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and the *Local Government Act 1993*, as the consent authority, GCC has the authorisation to enact the framework; therefore, GCC can take reasonable action, in good faith, to undertake flood mitigation works to reduce the impact of flooding within the local government area (LGA).

The East Mirrool Regulator Breaching Protocols outline the conditions and subsequent actions that should be taken during a Mirrool Creek flood event, with consideration of the potential consequences and community impacts at various stream heights. These actions are included on a simplified flow chart on the **Breaching Protocols Action Card**, found on page vii of the [framework](#).

Residents can provide feedback on the development and implementation of the framework, in line with the NSW [Flood Risk Management Manual](#), to council's Flood Plain Risk Management Committee.

Additional flood information can be found on the GCC [website](#).

Should you require further information, the GCC can be contacted on 1300 176 077 or admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely,





A/Deputy Commissioner Operations