
**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2026 AT 2:00 PM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
 - CL01 p9 Presentation by Murrumbidgee Irrigation
 - CL02 p10 Lake Wyangan Flood Study - Response to Submissions
 - CL03 p36 Correspondence from Committee Members
- 6 p48 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)

General Manager, Scott Grant; Director Utilities, Graham Gordon; Water & Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary; Graduate Stormwater & Flood Engineer, Anthony Portolesi 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 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

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

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

CLAUSE **CL01**

TITLE **Presentation by Murrumbidgee Irrigation**

TRIM REF **26/59251**

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Representatives to present to the Committee.

CLAUSE **CL02**

TITLE **Lake Wyangan Flood Study - Response to Submissions**

FROM **Graham Gordon, Director Utilities**

TRIM REF **26/59259**








SUMMARY

The draft Lake Wyangan Flood Study was placed on public exhibition for 42 days. The six submission received are attached to this report, along with the reponses from Torrent Consulting, for the information of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Submission 1 - Stephen Moore ↓  | 11 |
| (b) | Submission 2 - Jade Salvestro ↓  | 12 |
| (c) | Submission 3 - DCCEEW ↓  | 13 |
| (d) | Submission 4 - Paul Rossetto ↓  | 18 |
| (e) | Submission 5 - Sally Jones ↓  | 21 |
| (f) | Submission 6 - Hicksons Hunt & Hunt on behalf of Rombola Family Farms ↓  | 24 |
| (g) | Response to Submissions ↓  | 33 |

From: [Connect @ Griffith City Council](#)
To: [Communications](#); [GCC Admin Mailbox](#)
Subject: Anonymous User completed Provide Feedback on the Lake Wyangan Flood Study
Date: Monday, 30 March 2026 1:18:19 PM

Anonymous User just submitted the survey Provide Feedback on the Lake Wyangan Flood Study with the responses below.

Name

Stephen Moore

Residential Address

[REDACTED]

Email address

[REDACTED]

Withhold the following personal information from the Business Paper

Email Address

Please provide your feedback

Of greatest concern is the degree of accuracy of the mapped "flood fringe". Significant rasterisation is clearly evident, indicating the hydraulic model is struggling to reflect local topography. If Council does not confidently understand which data layers might be used by insurers, then I suggest a more conservative digital filtering of data on the flood fringe. This rasterization seems to be mostly associated with modelling of sheet flooding at less than 10cm depth and does not reflect observed topographic variation. Table 7.4...incorrect units, should be m AHD

From: [Connect @ Griffith City Council](#)
To: [Communications](#); [GCC Admin Mailbox](#)
Subject: Anonymous User completed Provide Feedback on the Lake Wyangan Flood Study
Date: Saturday, 4 April 2026 2:31:31 PM

Anonymous User just submitted the survey Provide Feedback on the Lake Wyangan Flood Study with the responses below.

Name

Jade Salvestro

Residential Address

[REDACTED]

Email address

[REDACTED]

Please provide your feedback

As a member of the Lake wyangan catchment committee I would like to see a couple of improvements around the lake storage facilities. Firstly the road between the north and south lakes needs the dip taken out of it which will increase storage capacity of both lakes and this will also assist in better management of the salt and algae issues as the deeper the water the less effect they will have. There is also 2 pumps that need upgrading to newer and bigger capacity units to assist in moving the water of the 2 lakes.

DCCEEW comments on the Review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and FRMS&P Update – Flood Study – Draft for Public Exhibition – Ainslie F & Steve M.

Section	Paragraph/Sentence	Comments
Generally		<p>Comparisons between the previous flood study and this new modelling has not been completed. Suggest that at least the flood extents are compared for the major 1% AEP event.</p> <p>There seems to be several key deliverables missing from this flood study phase report required by the Project Brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model parameter sensitivity assessments • Flood Emergency Response Classification of Communities <p>These deliverables need to be included in the revised flood study within the overarching FRMS&P report.</p>
General		<p>Rainstorm is a term I haven't seen used before – assume this means there were high winds etc at the time of the rainfall event?</p> <p>Be consistent with captilisation i.e. north/North Lake Wyangan.</p>
General – figures		Ensure consistent naming and symbology of key features (ie Lake View Branch Canal – Figure 1.1. vs Figure 4-4).
S1.3		Include words about the FRM framework supporting implementation of the FRMPs.
S2.2.2		This section could benefit from sub-headings for each event.
S2.2.2	Figures 2-2 and 2-3	Label exactly what is being presented here also where is the rainfall and soil conditions recorded from. Suggest including lake level where available.
S2.2.2	Figures 2-6 and 2-7	Use figures such as these in validation of model extents in later sections.
S2.2.3	Figure 2-8	Note in the figure that rainfall is derived from 2 BOM gauges (use IDs). Also that storage volume increase is for Lake Wyangan and Tharbogang Swamp in title.
S2.2.4	4 th para	Reference the NSW Government gridded dataset.
S2.2.5	1 st Para	How did the DEM's line up vertically at the boundary? Any step? Was any validation of the LiDAR's accuracy using surveyed ground levels completed?
S2.2.5	4 th Para	How is the MI DEM data going to be used once it is provided? Too late to update this flood study before public exhibition.
S2.2.5	Figure 2-10	Include source of data.
S3.1	2 nd Para	Suggest you include the Griffith FRM Committee in this list of groups that were consulted with.
S3.2	2 nd para	Comment about if this has been included in the model.
S3.2	4 th para	Would be good to show these suggestions on a figure.
S.4.1	1 st para, first sentence	Suggest explaining that in this particular case the catchment is better suited to rain on grid modelling.

S4.1	3 rd para	Is this developed by Torrent or utilised by Torrent? Also include reference to paper in reference list and include reference for NSW Government gridded dataset.
S4.1	5 th para	Here be clear about what these models are named and the intent of each model – suggest sub headings. Also suggest not referring to TUFLOW as a hydrologic model (especially when you are showing hydraulic results of this model later on) as technically it is not a hydrologic model in the sense that that is understood by industry. Suggest firstly explain what TUFLOW is (2D hydrodynamic model, etc) then that it is being used to determine flow hydrographs using the rainfall on grid functionality. It would be great to have a figure showing how these 3 models fit together.
4.2		As per previous comment, suggest not referring to the TUFLOW model as ‘principally a hydrological model’ – TUFLOW is a fully 2D hydrodynamic model that is being used in this case for hydrological inputs (it also seems to be being used to understand the catchment hydraulics?)
4.2.1	5 th -7 th para	A lot of this detail is or should be in s2.2.5 – and no need to repeat. Also why is photogrammetric data now dated 2016-17? Include all topographic data on Figure 2-11.
4.2.2.	Figure 4-3	The primary almond drain isn’t shown here – how is this modelled?
4.2.3		Include a figure of how you have represented roughness spatially (catchment wide and locally).
4.2.3	1 st para	At what depth was standard roughness then being applied? What was the ‘very high roughness’ used for shallow depths? Is this assumption accurate for all landuse types (bare earth, roads?) more information required.
4.2.4		Show how the soil types and therefore losses are represented spatially in the model in a figure. Include a table of the Green-ampt parameters used for different landuses (also include % impervious).
4.3		Same comments here with regard to referring to TUFLOW as a hydrologic model as for the LW/TS catchment modelling section. Include more information on model boundaries.
4.3.1	1 st para	Typo –‘Figure Figure’
4.3.1	Figure 4-4	Sub-catchment outlet makes it sound like there is some kind of outlet structure here – suggest renaming.
4.4		In intro include information as to how this modelling is different to the hydrological modelling described earlier. Also how were buildings represented in this model. Include a section on inflow and ‘downstream’ boundaries.

S4.4.1	3 rd Para	Figure 4-5 shows that not all roads have been enforced in the hydraulic model. Suggest a including a comment to explain why.
S4.4.1	Last para, last sentence	<i>Will be</i> addressed in the FRMS?
S4.4.2		Include details of any significant infrastructure/culverts (along Druitt Rd?).
S4.4.3		Show this representation on a figure- so no value for roads?
S5.1	5 th para	Couldn't the catchment/soil be prewetted? i.e. effectively assume zero losses to replicate this?
S5.2	2 nd para	Daily read gauges still give temporal data– just at a daily scale. 'Griffith Airport gauge is the only sub-daily read gauge,...'
S5.2	3 rd para	This paragraph contradicts your later assertion in the design estimates, that the rainfall is higher in the upper catchment than the lower catchment?
S5.2	Sensitivity testing	Show the results for the soil infiltration rates too. What are the implications of this for the design runs?
S.5.3	1 st para	Comparison to 2016 event here is not necessary/confuses the actual validation.
	Figure 5-4	Title 'Water Balance Spreadsheet Results for Lake Wyangan 2022 Event'
S5.4	Figure 5-6	Include what the modelled flood event is in title.
S5.5	8 th para and Figure 5-7	What is the modelled flood event in this figure?
S5.5	9 th para and Figure 5-8	As for previous comment – what modelled flood event is being shown?
S5.5	10 th para -Figure 5-9	Label or circle the areas you are talking about here in the figure.
S5.5	Last para	How and why is this being estimated? Is it being used?
S6.1.1	1 st para, 2 nd sentence	Show data to back up this claim – although this seems plausible, data shown in earlier sections seems to contradict this? Also likely not enough information to determine scaling factors? What are the zone areas based on?
S6.1.2		What was the base ARF factor the adjustments were based on (what duration was used)? And what was the basis for the variation in Table 6-1? ARF is to account for rainfall variation not catchment characteristics (accounted for in other modelling factors).
S6.1.2	Table 6-1	Include area of zone.
S6.1.3	3 rd sentence	Typo "patter" should be changed to 'pattern'.
S6.3		When you say the PMF results are "excessive" what does this mean? Too much flow, volume or levels? Given these are terminal lakes systems I would expect that the PMF would result in very full lakes inundating wide areas. Also given the low relief in the lower catchment I would expect the PMF to cover wide areas upstream from the lakes as well.

		Include details as to what method was used to derive the PMF.
S7.1		Describe flood behaviour in the catchment – not just for PMF – flow paths, roads that are cut off, etc.
S7.1	1 st Para	What were the starting lake levels for these design simulations?
S7.1	Tables 7-1 and 7-2	Comparisons of these design lake levels with the actual lake levels reached in the past floods would be useful and provide some context. Also assume there should be a footnote inserted that explains the derivation of the PMF* Is there a reason why the level in Tharbogang Swamp is higher than Lake Wyangan in the 0.2% event for near term design levels and 0.5 and 0.2% in the long term ?(otherwise levels are lower).
S7.1	Last Para	Trimming the extent/depth maps by 50mm seems excessive. Why was this depth chosen? It would be good to see the results for the whole catchment to understand the flooding mechanisms across the catchment.
S7.2		Update formatting to be consistent with rest of report.
S7.2	2nd sentence	Figure 7-2 should be moved up to be located within this Section. Formatting error.
S7.2.1		Formatting error. Consider moving Tables 7-3 & 7-4 to immediately below text in this section.
	Last sentence	Again not sure trimming by 50mm is appropriate. Need to justify.
S7.2.2	1 st Para – last sentence	Move Figure 7-3 up to be within this section.
S7.2.2.	Table 7-4	Depth of flooding is typically more useful for road crossings. Site 5- typo (also Table 7-3).
S7.2.2	Table 7-5	This table is not referred to in the text.
S7.2.3	Generally	Looking at the flood function mapping for the 1% AEP event (Figure A-18 and Figure B-18) most of the main flow paths leading towards the lakes are not shown as floodways. Suggest the floodway definition criteria needs re-examining. Floodways are not to be determined just by velocity and depth criteria but need to define areas that convey flow. Natural drainage paths should be flagged.
	3 rd Para-1 st sentence	Needs rewording.
	3 rd Para – 2 nd dot point	0.5m.
S8	1 st Para-1 st sentence	Suggest insert 'area' after "rural".

	Last Para	The correct term is 'Flood Risk Management' stage of this study.
All Flood Function Figures in Appendix A		Floodways are noncontinuous and do not seem extensive enough.
Figures In Appendix A		Make it clear in figure title that these figures relate to the Lake Wyangan/Tharbogang Swamp Catchment. Also would be good to see whole catchment figures.
Figures in Appendix B		Make it clear these figures relate to the local catchment.

REVIEW OF LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY

RESOLVED ON THE MOTION OF Councillors Tony O’Grady and Laurie Testoni that:

- a) Council endorse the Lake Wyangan Flood Study to go on public exhibition for a period of 42 days.
- b) Should no submissions be received, the Lake Wyangan Flood Study be considered adopted as at the completion of the exhibition period.
- c) If submissions received, a further report to be provided to Council

The General Manager

Mr Scott Grant

Griffith City Council 1 Benerambah St GRIFFITH NSW 2680

RE: Lake Wyangan Flood Study

Dear Scott,

I have read the Lake Wyangan Flood Study several times.

The paragraph on Climate Change is alarming and if adhered to, its recommendations will require a significant change in the management of Lake Wyangan water levels towards a flood mitigation mechanism requiring greater allowance for air space.

I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of understanding the details provided but developed several general questions which I searched for but couldn’t find answers.

- Topography’ - the extent of the catchment. Why the Liday survey area was smaller than the catchment map?
- Does the Airport property drain into the lower catchment?

Observations while reading the Introduction of the Study

- Interestingly, there is no definition of ‘air space’ in Glossary and Abbreviations list
- Are housing blocks too close to the lake flood fringe?
- Has the Oct/Nov 2022 Lake Wyangan flood set a new DFE (Defined Flood Event) level?
- If a new DFE is required, at what level should the new FPL (Flood Planning Level) be set?
- The letter ‘v’ missing in the word imperious dot point 3-page s3 probably should say ‘impervious’.

Section 2.2.7 Data Gaps and Recommendations

On page 21 “Lake level records at a daily or sub daily (rather than weekly) interval would be beneficial if improved model input data become available.”

- Are the In-lake buoys operational again?

Section 3.3 Site Inspection

With a new Council term and new Floodplain Management Committee members endorsed halfway through this Lake Wyangan Flood Study they missed the site inspection. Another site inspection visit would enhance new FMC members understanding of the site.

Section 4.4.2 Drainage Infrastructure Dot point 4-page s3 mentions Drainage infrastructure key drainage channels and structures but not individual Murrumbidgee Irrigation drainage inlets and more importantly whether additional unauthorised drainage points have been added?

Section 5.5 Satellite Imagery Observations

Page 48 “The extensive implementation of almond agriculture and realignment of the Lake View Branch Canal following the 2016 flood event has altered the extent of flooding, as evidenced in the Sentinel 2022 imagery”.

- In what way has almond agriculture and realignment of the Lake View Canal altered the extent of flooding? The differing scale from Figure 1-1 which outlines the Lake View Branch canal (red) the Lake View Drain (light blue) and Natural Drainage (dark blue) is difficult to discern in the Figure 5-9. Figure 5-8 is much better.
- What is apparent are the Natural Drainage floodway from the central catchment finding their way around the west of almond orchards, through the almond orchards and the eastern side of the Lake View Branch Canal.
- Apart from the flood paths mentioned above and all the almond storage dams full of water there doesn't appear to be a lot of water in the orchards.

Appendix B Modelled Flood Function

Looking at the 2040 Modelled 1% AEP map around half of the new almond orchards are inundated and being very susceptible to flooding, the trees will probably not survive in the first instance and will probably succumb to phytophthora root diseases by the second year.

Section 7 Design Flood Results

Page 57 "The storage level in Lake Wyangan was very low prior to the March 2012 event but was above normal operating level prior to the Oct-Nov 2022 event."

- Why was the Lake Wyangan storage level above normal operating level prior to the Oct-Nov 2022 event?

The Flood Study goes on to say that

"The extensive increase in almond farming in the Dickie Road area will also have directed a greater proportion of catchment runoff into Lake Wyangan rather than Tharbogang Swamp during the more recent of the two events".

The Flood Study does not discuss: -

- Figure 1-1 provides a very interesting observation according to Strahler stream ordering system in that if it were not for agricultural irrigation development in the Dickie Road location and the attenuation the irrigation infrastructure provides Lake Wyangan, an endorheic basin, would be a recipient to a Level 3 (Third Order) Creek albeit still ephemeral. The historical and natural layout of the land needs consideration & understanding.
- The flood design of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Drainage Network and any mention of Murrumbidgee Irrigation's Drainage network rules?
- if any of the MI drainage network services the new agricultural developments?
- if any attenuation, by bundy banks or levees, drains & in recycling dams, of excessive rainfall on new developed properties exists?
- the ability of new large scale agricultural developments to recycle and store rainfall runoff and to what extent?
- What level of attenuation is provided by horticultural developments with rows running across gradients? As in a couple of the photos provided.

8. Conclusions

The Conclusion omits

- 3 Natural floodways from the Central Catchment
- Accurate Lake Wyangan water levels prior to excessive rainfall events.
- Recognition of the role 'air space' plays especially in an endorheic system.

Therefore, it goes without saying "if not all the facts are present in the initial flood study any risk management plan later will not be as effective as possible or cost Council a lot more money in alternate flood mitigation measures.

Thank You for this opportunity to contribute to the Lake Wyangan Flood Study.

Yours Faithfully

Paul Rossetto

Our reference:
Your reference: Draft Lake Wyangan Flood Study

SP JONES
PO Box 1123 Griffith NSW 2680
CONTACT

8 May 2026

M [REDACTED] E [REDACTED]

Mr Scott Grant
Griffith City Council
PO Box 485
Griffith NSW 2680

Dear Mr Grant

DRAFT LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY

What is the document that has been put on public exhibition?

To a member of the community, the documentation provided by the GCC is confusing. On the Griffith City Council (GCC) cover sheet authored by Graham Gordon, Director Utilities, the document put on public exhibition is described as "Review of Lake Wyangan Flood Study". A further description is "Draft Lake Wyangan Flood Study". Another description is "Review of Lake Wyangan Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Plan". The header on the GCC document is 'CL04 Attachement (a) Rivew of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and FRMS&P update'.

I have been through the material on the GCC website and cannot find a Floodplain Risk Management Plan or an FRMS&P update. I am therefore providing a submission in relation what I believe is the Draft Lake Wyangan Flood Study. Greater clarity and consistency by the Council and its consultants would be helpful.

The study amounts to a visual and verbal fog

The Draft Study is presented in tiny font that is not black but grey. It is extremely difficult to read. The so called Executive Summary is verbose, extending over 5 pages. It does not contain a summary that succinctly addresses the nature of the catchment under review and how it has changed. All I took from this summary is that the authors want to distance themselves from its findings, stating on p. 22 that modelling the catchment flood hydrology was 'extremely challenging' and listing numerous aspects including a paucity of data. I am none the wiser having read the Executive Summary.

Like the Executive Summary, the Conclusions section on p. 93 does not contain any conclusions. Like the Executive Summary, it is more of a description of the investigative process than the substance of what has been discovered. Again, I am none the wiser having read the Conclusions section.

The presentation of the document is inadequate, and invites the question of whether this is a box ticking exercise to tap into funding rather than an exercise of due diligence by the GCC, in turn enabling due diligence in the assessment of funding applications by GCC.

Sally P Jones ABN 28 334 035 985

Important references and information have been excluded

I was unable to derive a clear picture of the status of the catchment from the Draft Report. I undertook a simple online search for relevant information. I discovered a comprehensive study of the catchment undertaken in 2003 by Charles Sturt University entitled "Lake Wyangan Catchment Environmental Status Report [Lake Wyangan Environmental Status Report](#)". I also found a 2019 Murrumbidgee Irrigation report entitled "Lake Wyangan Modernisation Final Project Report" [lake-wyangan-final-project-report.pdf](#). The CSU report refers to detailed soil information developed by an organisation called ERIC and held by MI. Why hasn't this information been built on?

The CSU report provides information relevant to flood risk assessment such as how much irrigation water is applied in the area and how. I cannot find the equivalent information in the Draft Report. Nor can I find a simple diagram of channels as was included in the CSU report. The Draft Report focusses on rainfall when a major hydrological input into the catchment is irrigation water.

The CSU report also provides an estimate of the capacity of Lake Wyangan (split between north and south). I have been unable to find such a figure in the Draft Report.

The Draft Report includes a vast amount of detail about aspects of modelling, however basic data enabling decision makers to get a perspective on the catchment is missing.

Furthermore, there is massive intervention in the catchment going on at present, including the construction of large drains, and this information does not appear to be incorporated into the study. Nor is detailed information about changing landuse. A LiDAR survey several years old will necessarily be incomplete to a material extent. Section 2.2.5 on Topographic and Land Use Data refers to detailed information held by MI which has not been included. These information exclusions beg the question of why GCC has released an incomplete study, especially given the significance of flooding in this catchment.

Lake Wyangan Catchment management is funding driven not sustainability driven

The Lake Wyangan Catchment has been documented as being a closed catchment in numerous studies including the Draft Report. Extremely salty and contaminated water drains off the catchment already, producing diabolical and unacceptable outcomes in Lake Wyangan which have been well documented. The outcomes include extremely high pH and salinity and the proliferation of harmful bacteria.

Under these circumstances, the further development of the Catchment was and is not sustainable. The practice of GCC exporting its pollution and flood water is not in line with ecological sustainability (an object of the NSW Water Management Act 2000) and it is anticompetitive, damaging the viability of downstream landholders whilst conferring an advantage on landholders in the catchment. It is questionable as to whether GCC and its catchment development partner MI have exercised a duty of care in relation to the management of the Lake Wyangan catchment.

Suggestions to improve the Draft Report and catchment outcomes

The Griffith community is suffering as a result of buybacks, including both the rural and urban communities. The rapidly increasing costs of living and costs of irrigation farming are having a major detrimental impact.

GCC appears to be funding driven rather than focussing on what is in the best interests of the community it serves. The Draft Lake Wyangan Flood Study requires a different mindset and much more work to get the detail right and complete, and to communicate the substance of the findings to the Councillors, Council staff and the community.

It is unacceptable for GCC to impose further costs on the community, including individual landholders and businesses, as a result of flooding brought about by poor planning. The costs of mitigating floods should fall upon the beneficiaries of development in the catchment, and can include retention basins and the like.

The conclusion I have drawn from reading the Draft Report and other material is that Lake Wyangan should be returned to an ephemeral wetland, thereby enabling the retention of flood water in the catchment as is natural. To the extent that water from the lakes is reused, it could be assessed and treated to remove specific ions and other contaminants, and used as raw water to irrigate sporting fields and other urban infrastructure.

Yours sincerely



Sally Jones

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GPO Box 4132, Sydney NSW 2001
T +61 2 9391 3000 | F +61 2 9391 3099



HICKSONS
HUNT & HUNT
HOLMAN WEBB

12 May 2026

Mr Scott Grant
General Manager
Griffith City Council
PO BOX 485
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

Our ref: HAK
Matter no: 9652221

By email: admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Grant

Submission on Draft Review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study
Our client: Rombola Family Farms Pty Ltd

We act for Rombola Family Farms Pty Ltd (ABN 94 605 093 294), the occupier of the land described as Lot 23 DP 756052, Lots 3, 15, 112, 113 and 114 DP 756060, Lot 1 DP 1200180, Lots 1-2 DP 1258394 and Lot 159 DP 751730 (**Client's Property**).

Our Client's Property lies within the model extent of the Draft Review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study dated 17 March 2026 prepared by Torrent Consulting Pty Ltd (**Draft Flood Study**) for Griffith City Council (**Council**).

Summary of submission

We are instructed to put forward a submission to Council regarding the Draft Flood Study summarised as follows:

- (a) The Draft Flood Study should clearly and consistently distinguish privately owned drainage infrastructure and avoid any implication that such infrastructure forms part of a public or shared flood mitigation system.
- (b) The Draft Flood Study should more clearly and consistently articulate the hydraulic and functional role of the east-west drainage channel (see **Annexure B** – circled in green) (**East-West Drain**) located on the Client's Property and its interaction with the broader drainage network and catchments.
- (c) The Draft Flood Study should identify limitations in the underlying terrain data and modelling, and caution against reliance on outputs in affected areas unless and until the model is updated using current surface data.
- (d) The Draft Flood Study should reconcile material inconsistencies between observed flood behaviour and modelled results, particularly in the Kubank Estate locality.
- (e) The Draft Flood Study should reconsider or appropriately qualify any conclusions attributing changes in flood behaviour to the East-West Drain.
- (f) The Draft Flood Study should clearly state the basis for conclusions drawn in the Kubank Estate locality and appropriately qualify reliance on mapping outputs for planning or regulatory purposes pending validation.

The above matters are elaborated in detail below.

v_ '

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 **INTERLAW.**

Page 2
General Manager
Griffith City Council

1. Background

Our Client's Property is located within the Lake View Drain catchment and is wholly captured by the model extent of the Draft Flood Study. An approximate plan showing the location of our Client's Property within the Draft Flood Study area, highlighted in yellow, is shown at **Annexure A**.

Our Client's Property has been progressively developed and operated by our client as an almond farming enterprise since approximately 2014. As part of those operations, in or around 2017-2018, our client has constructed and continues to maintain internal drainage infrastructure, including an East–West Drain, to manage irrigation and on-farm water movement.

Recent flood events have had a material impact on our Client's Property, including the loss and subsequent replanting of a substantial number of trees. The interaction between local drainage infrastructure, catchment behaviour and flood modelling is therefore of direct importance to our client.

2. SUBMISSION

2.1 Identification and description of drainage infrastructure

The Draft Flood Study does not consistently identify or describe drainage infrastructure within the catchment and does not clearly distinguish between public and private drainage assets.

In particular, the East–West Drain (see **Annexure B** – circled in green) located on our Client's Property is inconsistently described throughout the Draft Flood Study. For example:

- Figure 4-1 (page 54) identifies this channel as the "Primary almond drain";
- Section 4.2.2 (Drainage Infrastructure) refers to a "primary drainage channel servicing the extensive almond growing area"; and
- Other parts of the Draft Flood Study refer more broadly to "Lake View Drain," at times in a manner that appears to encompass both the public drainage system and the East–West Drain on the client's land.

Further inconsistency is apparent when comparing Figure 1-1 (page 30), which depicts the Lake View Drain extending north from Lake Wyangan, without including the East–West Drain, with subsequent figures and narrative that appear to treat the systems collectively.

This inconsistency in terminology and mapping creates ambiguity as to the status, ownership and function of the East–West Drain.

The Draft Flood Study should therefore be updated to adopt a consistent naming convention for the East–West Drain and explicitly distinguish private drainage infrastructure from public assets in both text and mapping.

2.2 Representation of Catchment interaction and flow behaviour

The Draft Flood Study indicates that the East–West Drain influences catchment behaviour, including the redistribution of flows between the Tharbogang Swamp catchment and the Lake Wyangan catchment.

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General Manager
Griffith City Council

Figure 4-1 (page 54) shows the boundary between these catchments, with the East–West Drain (shown in pink) forming part of that dividing line. The same figure identifies the East–West Drain as the “Primary almond drain,” indicating a role in intercepting and conveying flows.

This behaviour is also reflected in the model outputs. For example:

- Figure A-18 (page 113) illustrates flows being conveyed eastward along the East–West Drain, with localised overtopping where capacity is exceeded, resulting in redistribution of water to the south;
- Areas of reduced flood affectation immediately south of the East–West Drain suggest that overland flows are being intercepted and redirected along the channel; and
- localised overtopping is observed where flow capacity is exceeded, resulting in redistribution of water to the south.

However, while these interactions appear to be captured in the modelling, they are not clearly or consistently articulated in the text of the Draft Flood Study. The use of differing descriptors for the same drainage features including “Lake View Drain”, “primary drainage channel” and “primary almond drain”, obscures the relationship between these systems and the role of the East–West drain within the broader catchment and may lead to misinterpretation of the Study’s findings.

Given the importance of these interactions to flood behaviour, the Draft Flood Study should more clearly and consistently describe the role of the East–West Drain and its interaction with the surrounding drainage network and catchments.

2.3 Reliability of modelling and terrain data inputs

A significant limitation of the Draft Flood Study arises from the underlying terrain data used in the hydraulic modelling.

Section 2.2.5 and Figure 4-2 (page 55) indicate that the model is based on a combination of data sources, including:

- 2021 LiDAR data for the southern portion of the catchment; and
- photogrammetry dating from approximately 2016 for other areas, including the locality of the Kubank Estate.

The use of 2016 terrain data is material because it predates the:

- construction of The East–West Drain on our Client’s Property (circa 2017–2018);
- the construction of the rectangular dam near the junction with the Lake View Drain (circa 2020–2022) – see **Annexure C**; and
- apparent reshaping of surrounding land within the catchment between 2016 and 2022.

While the model appears to have been modified to include the East–West Drain, the Draft Flood Study does not explain how other features (including the rectangular dam and subsequent landform changes) have been incorporated into the terrain model.

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General Manager
Griffith City Council

This creates a material risk that the model outputs are driven by outdated surface conditions and do not reflect current topography in key areas of the catchment.

The Draft Flood Study should therefore clearly identify these limitations, caution against reliance on modelling outputs in affected areas, and be updated using current terrain data across the relevant parts of the catchment.

2.4 Consistency with observed 2022 flood behaviour

There are material discrepancies between the modelled flood extents presented in the Draft Flood Study and observed flood behaviour during the October 2022 event.

Figures 2-6 (page 39) and 5-9 (page 78) indicate that in the vicinity of the Lake View Drain near the intersection of West Road and Kubank Road floodwaters were largely contained within the Lake View Drain and limited sheet flow was observed in adjacent paddocks.

By contrast, the model results shown in Figure A-4 depict:

- significant depths of water escaping from the East–West Drain to the west of its junction with the Lake View Drain; and
- substantial overland flow paths extending westward and crossing West Road south of the Kubank Road intersection.

These features are not reflected in the observed flood imagery and represent a material divergence between the modelled and observed flood behaviour.

Although the Draft Flood Study recognises limitations in reproducing the October 2022 event and notes the influence of antecedent rainfall conditions, it does not reconcile or explain these inconsistencies in the Kubank Estate locality.

In those circumstances, Council should require the Draft Flood Study to reconcile the inconsistencies between observed flood behaviour and the modelled results in this locality and to appropriately qualify reliance on the Figure A-4 mapping pending further validation.

2.5 Attribution of Flood Behaviour

Section 5.5 of the Draft Flood Study attributes changes in flood behaviour in the vicinity of the Kubank Estate, including differences observed between the 2012 and 2022 flood events, in part to the construction of the East–West Drain.

However, the modelling and comparative analysis presented in the Draft Flood Study do not conclusively support that attribution. A comparison of Figure A-4 (modelled flood extents), Figure 5-9 (2012 flood imagery); and Figures 2-6 and 5-9 (2022 imagery), indicates that the modelled flood extents are more closely aligned with the 2012 event than with the observed 2022 flood behaviour.

In particular, the spatial extent and distribution of flows in Figure A-4 closely resemble those shown in the 2012 imagery, whereas the observed 2022 behaviour differs materially, including flows associated with the rectangular dam and apparent downstream landform changes.

This raises questions as to whether the model is driven by underlying terrain data reflecting earlier conditions, rather than current landform and surface conditions.

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General Manager
Griffith City Council

In our view, the available information suggests that changes in flood behaviour are more likely attributable to alterations in landform or surface conditions within the catchment, which are not captured in the terrain model.

In those circumstances, the conclusions in Section 5.5 attributing changes in flooding to the East–West Drain are not supported by the modelling presented and should be reconsidered or qualified.

2.6 Reliability of Modelling outcomes

More broadly, the issues identified above give rise to concerns regarding the reliability of the Draft Flood Study in the vicinity of the Kubank Estate and surrounding areas.

In particular, the model appears to rely on terrain data that does not reflect current surface conditions, there are material inconsistencies between modelled results and observed flood behaviour and key conclusions regarding causation are drawn notwithstanding acknowledged limitations in the modelling.

In the absence of an updated terrain model reflecting current conditions and validation against observed flood events, the Draft Flood Study does not provide a reliable basis for assessing flood behaviour or attributing causation in these areas.

Accordingly, the Draft Flood Study should:

- clearly identify and disclose these limitations;
- caution against reliance on mapping outputs for planning or regulatory purposes in affected areas; and
- be updated using current terrain data before any conclusions as to flood behaviour or causation are relied upon.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, the Draft Flood Study requires further review and amendment to:

- (a) clarify the status and role of drainage infrastructure;
- (b) ensure consistency in terminology and mapping;
- (c) address limitations in the underlying terrain data; and
- (d) reconsider conclusions regarding flood behaviour and causation, particularly in the Kubank Estate locality.

Until such matters are addressed, the mapping and conclusions of the Draft Flood Study should not be finalised and more importantly should not be relied upon for planning or decision making in the affected areas.

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Page 6
General Manager
Griffith City Council

We trust that our client's concerns will be adequately considered as part of Council's assessment of the Draft Flood Study and to undertake a global review of this study prior to finalisation.

Yours faithfully

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Hasti Kalarostaghi
Partner
Sydney

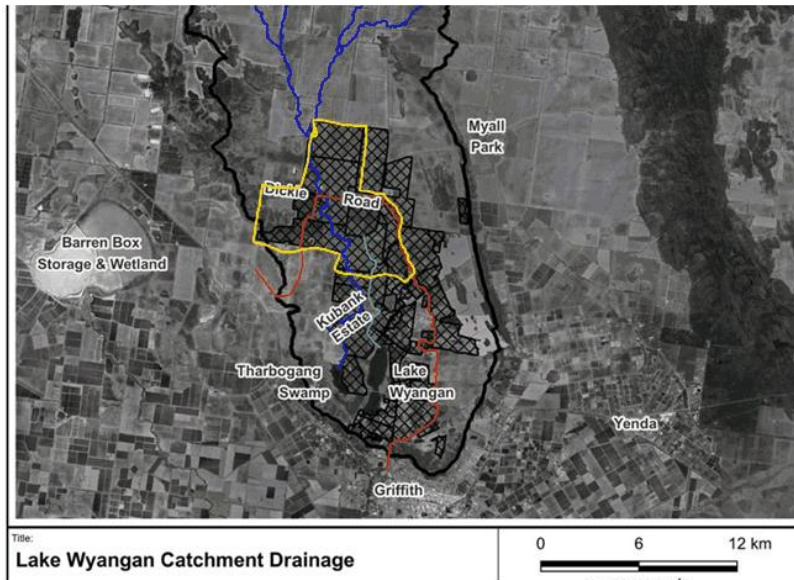
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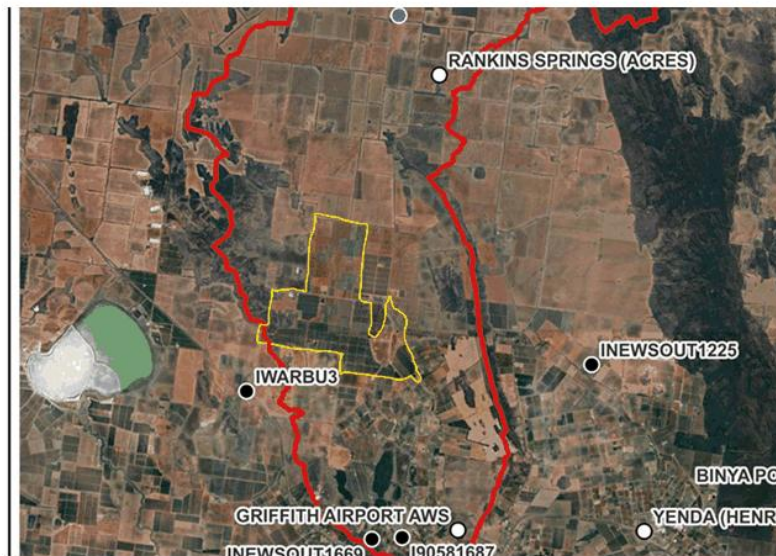
Page 7
General Manager
Griffith City Council

Annexure A

Approximate location and size of our Client's Property (outlined in yellow below)



Source: Figure 1-1 of Draft Flood Study



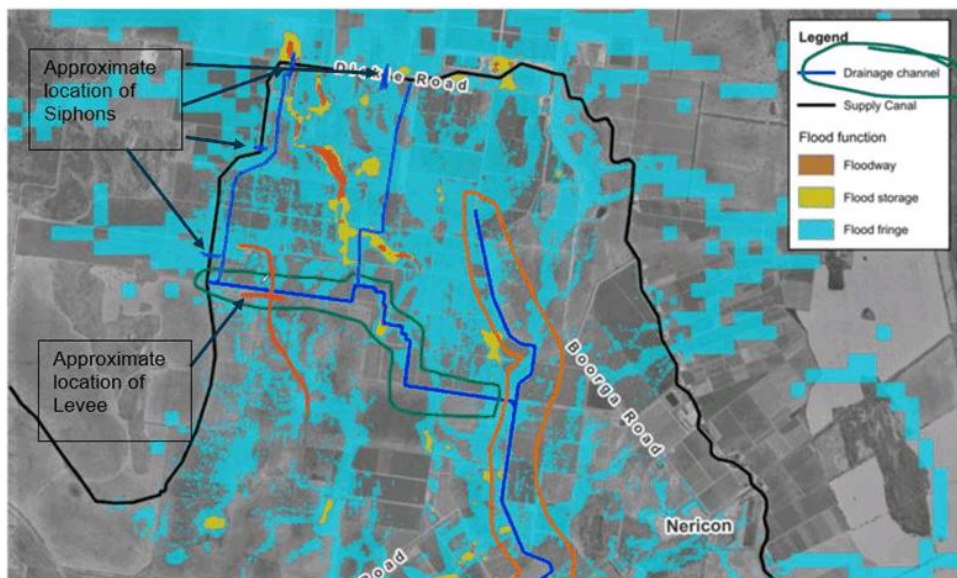
Source: Figure 2-9 of Draft Flood Study

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General Manager
Griffith City Council

Annexure B

Client's Private East-West Drainage Infrastructure (circled in green below)



Source: Figure A-26 of Draft Flood Study

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General Manager
Griffith City Council

Annexure C

Location of Rectangular Dam



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Lake Wyangan Flood Study Review and Update – Response to Submissions

DCCEEW

We will go through the individual comments from DCCEEW, update the report where required, or otherwise respond accordingly.

Sally Jones

We will review the report to ensure consistency in the title of the study, ensuring that it is referenced as being the Review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and Flood Risk Management Study and Plan Update, that this document forms the Review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and the Flood Risk Management Study and Plan Update is forthcoming.

The report font (Arial 10 pt) is a standard and acceptable option for modern corporate report formats. The use of grey over black text is to reduce eye fatigue. However, it is a shade on the light side of an ideal contrast ratio, so we will alter it to a darker shade of grey.

The reference to the data paucity and challenges associated with modelling the catchment flood hydrology is not to distance ourselves from the findings, it is to acknowledge the inherent uncertainty and associated limitations, which it is important to be clear about.

The Flood Study report is typically a technical document that describes the methodologies and results of the modelling process. This is reflected in both the Executive Summary and Conclusions. The subsequent Flood Risk Management Study and Plan documents will provide the content that is perceived as being absent.

The report will be updated to expand upon the historic, current and potential future hydrological function of the catchment. However, environmental and water quality issues are beyond the scope of works covered in the food study. Additional context related to the water balance will be provided as appropriate.

The detailed photogrammetric dataset was not forthcoming from MI and it is probably not a dataset which the contacts we liaised with are familiar. However, this dataset pre-dates 2015 and whilst it could provide improved data resolution in some parts of the catchment, it is still not contemporary with regards to recent catchment modifications.

Jade Salvestro

The raising of Jones Road and additional pump capacity will be assessed within the subsequent Floodplain Risk Management Study.

Paul Rosetto

The climate change implications are indeed significant. There have been recent updated guidelines released (ARR 4.2), which recommends increased rainfall intensities above and beyond those that have previously been assumed. DCCEEW is yet to adopt a formal position on these guidelines, so the situation is still in a state of flux. The treatment of climate change in this study is currently aligned with ARR 4.2 under the expectation that they will ultimately be formally adopted by DCCEEW.

The LiDAR survey area does not cover the entire catchment area because it was not flown specifically for this study and is a pre-existing dataset.

The airport does drain into Lake Wyangan.

The term 'air space' is not included in the Glossary, as it is not used within the document. The operational levels, storage capacity and freeboard will be assessed in further detail within the subsequent Flood Risk Management Study.

An appropriate DFE and FPL will be a key focus of the subsequent Flood Risk Management Study. This will then identify any housing blocks that are at too low an elevation (a better indicator of risk than proximity), with localised raising of ground surface levels being a potential mitigation option.

The report will be updated to better describe and identify key Murrumbidgee Irrigation drainage assets.

Options to improve the clarity of the satellite imagery figures will be considered, such as including some of the key features shown in Figure 1-1. However, this may obscure some of the important detail visible in the figures, but it is agreed that some additional spatial context of infrastructure would be helpful in interpretation. The extent of water in the satellite imagery can be more difficult to discern within the broader orchard extents than the cleared earth sections. Also, the dates of the satellite imagery do not capture the maximum extent of flooding experienced during the events.

The water level in North Lake Wyangan was only a little higher than the target operating level (~106.3 m AHD as opposed to 106.2 m AHD). This can still be considered as being within the typical range of storage levels. The report text will be amended to clarify this.

The report will be updated to expand upon the historic, current and potential future hydrological function of the catchment. Additional context related to the water balance will be provided as appropriate. Whilst infrastructure does provide a degree of attenuation of the flood waters, this only delays the water entering the terminal storage areas. There might be some additional evaporation loss because of this though.

The data paucity is a significant factor in the ability to estimate accurate runoff volumes and resultant flood levels in Lake Wyangan. This will be a key consideration when considering and assessing potential mitigation options in the subsequent Flood Risk Management Study. Sensitivity tests will be undertaken and the implications of the inherent uncertainty on the performance of any mitigation options will be included in the assessment. The identification of robust mitigation measures that will perform well over a full range of potential flood conditions is the intended outcome of the next stage of the study.

Stephen Moore

The flood function mapping will be reviewed and updated prior to finalisation in the subsequent Floodplain Risk Management Study. However, we will consider updating the mapping provided in this report. It would be prudent to remove the mapping from the coarse area of the modelling (i.e. the hydrological modelling of surface runoff). The adoption of an alternative depth cutoff for mapping will also be considered.

Hicksons | Hunt & Hunt

The report will be updated to clearly and consistently distinguish privately owned drainage infrastructure.

The report will be updated to more clearly and consistently articulate the hydraulic and functional role of the east-west drainage channel and its interaction with the broader drainage network and catchments.

The report will be updated to better identify the limitations in the modelling and the use of the available terrain data.

The report will be updated to reconcile any material inconsistencies between observed flood behaviour and the modelled results.

The report will be updated to appropriately qualify any conclusions attributing changes in flood behaviour to the East-West Drain.

The ongoing changes in the catchment that modify the terrain and potentially impact the flood flow patterns is a challenge that needs to be addressed. The acquisition of current terrain data throughout the catchment is not feasible within the scope and timeframe of this study. This principal area for which the modelled flood behaviour will be used for flood planning purposes is within the local catchment areas draining directly to Lake Wyangan.

The Dickie Road, Lake View Drain, Kubank Estate and Tharbogang Swamp flood flow path is less of a focus for flood planning but needs to be considered in the subsequent Flood Risk Management Study stage in terms of potential flood mitigation options. This is expected to look at opportunities to better drain catchment runoff via Lake View Drain and into Lake Wyangan, to alleviate flooding in locations such as the Kubank Estate. This will then need to be countered by diverting flows heading to Lake Wyangan into Tharbogang Swamp in flood rare enough to threaten existing and future development around Lake Wyangan.

The data paucity is a significant factor in the ability to estimate accurate runoff volumes and resultant flood levels in Lake Wyangan. This will be a key consideration when considering and assessing potential mitigation options in the subsequent Flood Risk Management Study. Sensitivity tests will be undertaken and the implications of the inherent uncertainty on the performance of any mitigation options will be included in the assessment. The identification of robust mitigation measures that will perform well over a full range of potential flood conditions is the intended outcome of the next stage of the study.

The flood mitigation options that are ultimately recommended in the subsequent Flood Risk Management Study stage are expected to be of a nature that their function is not reliant upon the exact results being produced by the modelling. They will be tested to ensure that they perform adequately despite any assumptions or limitations. Beyond the subsequent Flood Risk Management Study, any recommended physical works would need to go through a feasibility study process prior to design and construction. This feasibility study is an appropriate stage at which to acquire any additional terrain data that is pertinent to the subsequent development of a design solution.

CLAUSE **CL03**
TITLE **Correspondence from Committee Members**
FROM **Leanne Austin, Governance Manager**
TRIM REF **26/31038**

SUMMARY

The attached correspondence has been received from Committee members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Email from Ian Parisotto 15 Mar 2026 ↓  | 37 |
| (b) | Email from Ian Parisotto 11 May 2026 ↓  | 40 |
| (c) | Email from Paul Rossetto 18 Mar 2026 ↓  | 41 |
| (d) | Email from Paul Rossetto 14 May 2026 ↓  | 42 |

Leanne Austin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 15 March 2026 7:21 AM
To: GCC Admin Mailbox
Subject: Negative Impacts - Flood Mitigation Works
Attachments: Negative Impacts - Flood Mitigation Works.docx

15-03-2026
Scott Grant
General Manager
Griffith City Council

Dear Scott

Pls find attached response to Deputy Commissioner Operation, SES letter.

It is also worthwhile sending to MI CEO Philip Holliday.

Both the letter from the SES and my response letter needs to be in the minutes of next flood meeting.

Thanks

Ian Parisotto

GCC Floodplain Management Committee

15-03-2026

Negative Impacts – Flood Mitigation Works

In response to Deputy Commissioner Operations SES, and quote “that under the Local Government Act 1993, as the consent authority, GCC has the authorisation to enact the framework (Emergency Breaching Protocol), therefore GCC can take reasonable action, **in good faith**, to undertake flood mitigation works.”

“Residents can provide feedback on the development and implementation of the framework, in line with the NSW Flood Risk Management Manual (FRM), to council’s Flood Plain Risk Management Committee.”

Quote Flood Risk Management Manual

“1.5 Limited legal indemnity”

“Section 733 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides local councils and statutory bodies representing the Crown, **and their employees**, with limited legal indemnity for certain advice given, or things done or not done, relating to the likelihood of flooding or the extent of flooding (see extract from s 733 of the Act in box below).

The Act also provides that a council that acts in accordance with the manual relating to the management of flood liable land (this manual) is taken **to have acted in good faith** in relation to advice given, or things done or not done, relating to the likelihood of flooding or extent of flooding.

It should be noted that the indemnity offered by s 733 is limited. A council or statutory body may not be indemnified in respect of advice, or a thing done or not done, despite being in accordance with this manual, **if it is not done in good faith.**”

The FRM Manual states that councils receive indemnity only when acting **in good faith** and **in accordance with the Manual**.

“Extract from s 733 of the Local Government Act 1993”

1. “A council does not incur any liability in respect of –
 - a. any advice furnished **in good faith** by the council relating to the likelihood of any land being flooded or the nature or extent of any such flooding, or
 - b. anything done or omitted to be done **in good faith** by the council insofar as it relates to the likelihood of land being flooded or the nature or extent of any such flooding.”

As Council is the land manager and has the authority to manage community land and decides how it manages flood risks, it is **not acting in good faith** in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Manual (FRM) where it states and quote “A FRM study provides the basis for examining and recommending management measures. It aims to identify, quantify and weigh the relevant risks to the community and the potential options to manage these risks, **considering any negative impacts they may create.**”

The FRM Manual Requirement is that Council is to have acted in good faith and Consider any Negative Impacts they may create with any Flood Mitigation Works

Council’s position as the consenting flood authority under the Local Government Act, is not enough. Authority does not replace due diligence. Compliance with the manual is required. The indemnity offered by s 733 is limited and does not apply if Council has not done its due diligence **in good faith**.

The EMR Main Canal northern bank flood mitigation design infrastructure presently does not mitigate a 1: 50 ARI cross flow flood event and Council's adoption of the Emergency Breaching Protocols do not align with the Flood Risk Management Manual in mitigating **any negative impacts they have created,**

- To ensure water supply downstream of the EMR especially during peak agricultural periods
- By ensuring that any potential breaching of the Main Canal is controllable
- Flood mitigation design if Mirrool Creek flood event is greater than Emergency Breaching Protocol consultants BMT stated maximum of 95m³/s (8200 ML per day or 1:58 ARI) before uncontrollable breaching occurs.
- Safety for excavator driver from surrounding himself in uncontrolled flood water
- Infrastructure (apron) to divert flood water safely away from breach site preventing uncontrolled breaching for a safer working environment.
- Stock piling of clay and soil for quick canal banks repatriation

By failing **to assess negative impacts,** Council has not complied with the FRM Manual and therefore cannot rely on s 733 indemnity. These omissions are fundamental failures and contradict the Manual's explicit requirement of **acting in good faith** and **to consider negative impacts.**

Ian Parisotto

Leanne Austin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 11 May 2026 3:24 PM
To: Governance Workgroup
Subject: Flood Management Committee meeting 4-6-26 - Agenda Item

Hi Melanie
Agenda item for Flood Management Committee meeting 4th June 2026

- Response letters to Deputy Commissioner Operations

Thanks Ian Parisotto

Leanne Austin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 12:55 PM
To: Governance Mailbox
Subject: Re: Draft Minutes - Floodplain Management Committee - 5 March 2026

Att: The General Manager
Mr Scott Grant.
FMC meeting amendments

1. Could you please amend my Conflicts of Interest form to read 1500 Yenda residents not 15.
2. Please include my reply to Cr Scott's Groats suggestion 'that the North Merribee Channel re-alignment would actually improve the flow of floodwaters.' Because the way it reads is that by I moving the recommendation I agree with his statement which I did not!
3. Community members - My letter, Ian Parissotto's letter & statements read out and John Kerrigan's letters containing questions for MI are not included in the minutes as attachments for Councillors to read.
4. The Lake Wyangan Flood Study is not included as an attachment either. Where do we find it?

Thanks
Cheers Paul

From: Governance Mailbox <govmail@griffith.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2026 9:56 AM
Subject: Draft Minutes - Floodplain Management Committee - 5 March 2026

Good morning,

Please find attached the draft minutes from the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held 5 March 2026. These will be presented to Council for adoption at the next Ordinary Meeting on 24 March 2026.

Kind regards,

Melanie Hebrok

Melanie Hebrok

From: Paul Rossetto [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 May 2026 12:55 PM
To: GCC Admin Mailbox; Scott Grant; Cr Scott Groat
Subject: Notice of Recommendations to FMC meeting 5062026
Attachments: Recommendations on Notice to FMC 05062026.docx

Dear Admin,
Please find attached my Notice of Recommendations to our next Flood plain Management Committee meeting 5/6/2026.
Thanks
Cheers Paul R.

Paul Rossetto

Yenda Progress Association

14th May 2026

The Chairman
Griffith City Council Floodplain Management Committee
Griffith City Council
1 Benerembah St GRIFFITH NSW 2680

Re: 2 recommendations

Dear Cr Groat,

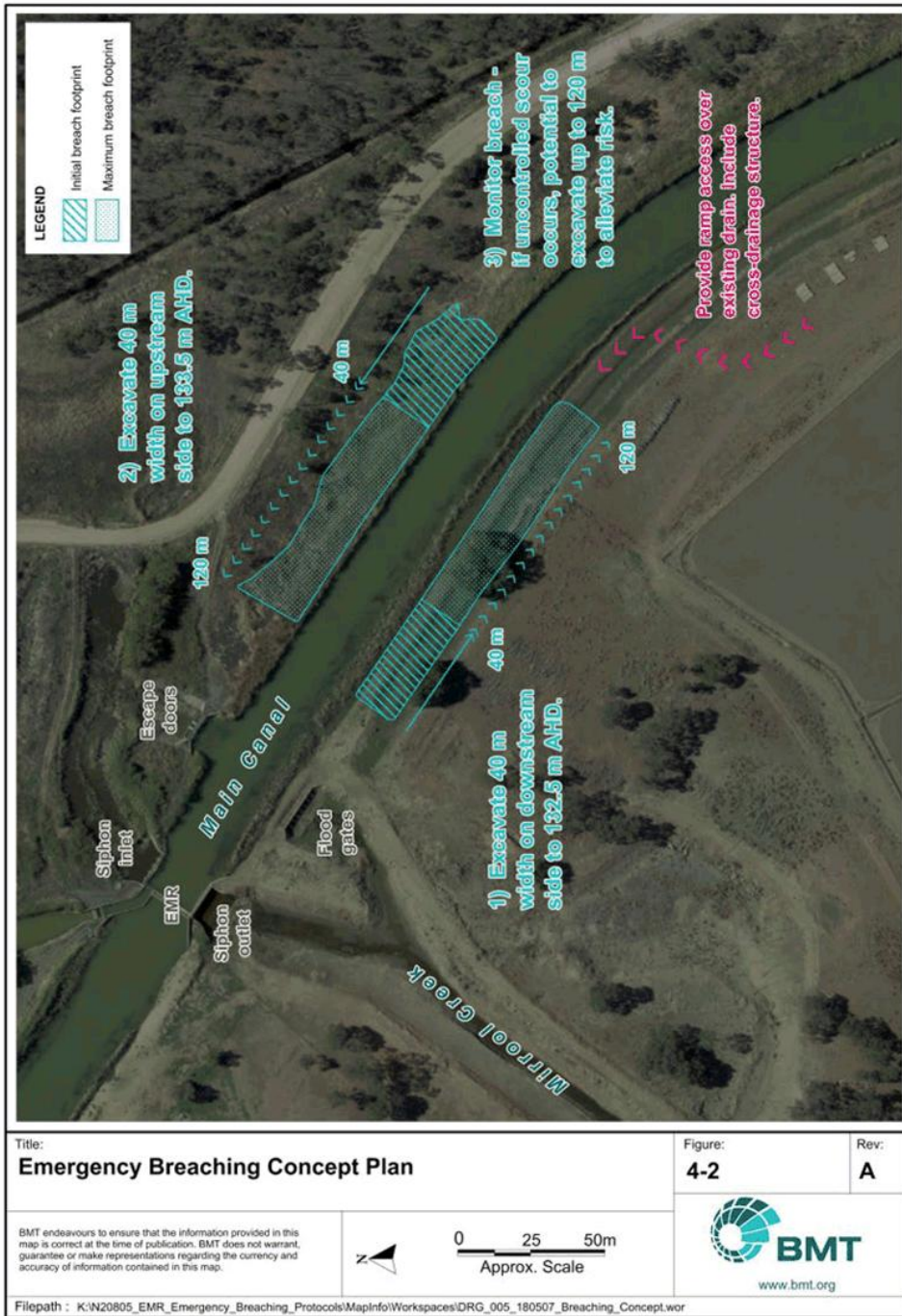
Keeping with good faith and allowing Council staff time to consider and enter into the Floodplain Management Committee agenda I am submitting the following two recommendations: -

1. The Floodplain Management Committee recommend to Council

“That Council commission a Geo-Technical soil survey of the entire proposed site of Council’s endorsed Emergency Breaching Protocol (EBP) “

The history of building the Main Canal by horse and drag scoop we are all familiar with. The problem arises when the Main Canal crosses the centuries old Mirrool Creek bed made up of alluvial silts and sands. Not the stable material an engineer worth his salt would design a water overflow across and expect it to withstand the erosive forces of thousands of megalitres of water rushing over it. Therefore, it is imperative Council conduct a Geo - Technical soil survey of the entire Main Canal banks (120 metres in length) where Council’s Emergency Breaching Protocol will be enacted. If the Geo - Technical soil survey supports a EBP event well & good. If on the other hand the Geo- Technical soil Survey fails to support an EBP event Council is better informed as to the possible impacts downstream of unplanned uncontrollable breach may cause and a potential disaster is averted. Consultants BMT stated in their EBP report “that a flood event greater than 100M³per sec (8640 ML per day) would result in uncontrollable breaching.”

Figure 1-1 Shows the extent of planned breaching by Council



2. The Flood Management Committee recommends to Council

“That Council allocates to the Budget papers sufficient funds to enact its own Resolution Council Meeting Minutes 28th October 2025.”

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Scott Groat and Mark DalBon 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 dot points in the Committee’s recommendations.
- (b) Council explores funding options for the detailed 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 funding budget deliberations, the required matching funding.

The four dot points referred to above are contained in the following Floodplain Management Committee recommendation to Council 9th October 2025

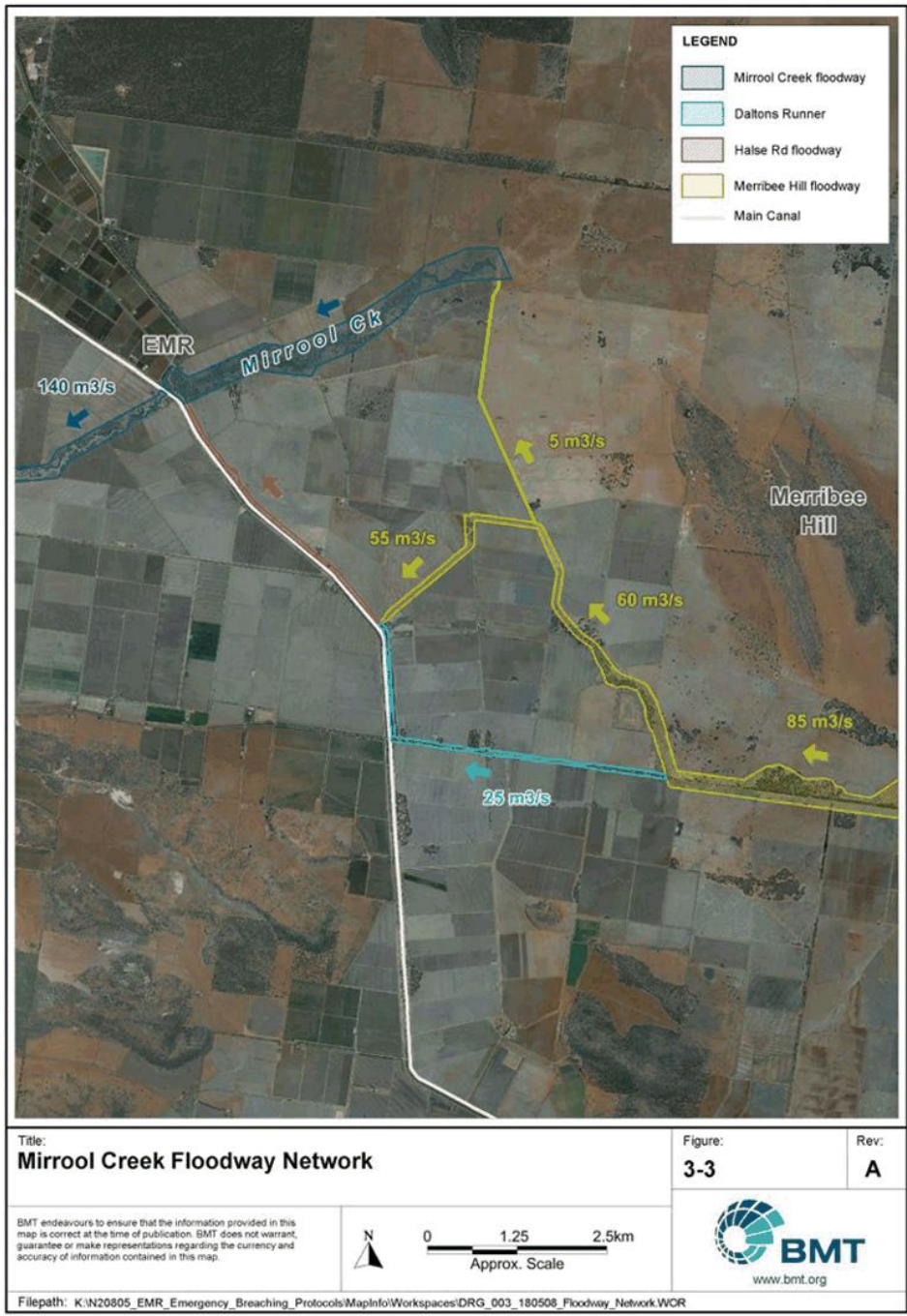
Item 1 – Upgrade Flood Gates Option

RECOMMENDED ON THE MOTION OF Paul Rossetto & John Kerrigan that the Floodplain Management Committee recommend to Council the completion of the Reinstatement of EMR floodgates option presented by consultants BMT WBM Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Management Study Plan August 2015. C.2 EMR Flood Escape Upgrade. C.2.1 Description of Works.

- Construction of new flood relief structures 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 1.8 m 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 and strengthening of the righthand bank of the Northern Branch Canal

Figure 3-3

The 2012 Flood event saw 140m³/sec cross the Main Canal in several breaches including the under-canal siphon (3700ML per day)



Conclusion

I have raised two very important issues for Floodplain Management Committee members consideration and recommendation to Council.

My hope is that Councillors at the next Council meeting, in their wisdom will see the merits in budgeting for good flood mitigation planning and not let the 'lack of funds'¹ become an excuse for ineffective Flood Mitigation Planning.

It's been 14 years since the devastating Yenda Floods. Only one set of flood gates installed in the Main Canal south bank and an Emergency Breaching Protocol document written. No infrastructure has been installed in the north bank. In fact, Mirrool Creek cross flow design is less now than in the preceding 1989, 1984, 1974, 1956 & 1955 floods. Due to Murrumbidgee irrigation installing 2 large & 2 smaller irrigation style lay flat doors that open in the wrong direction for Mirrool Creek cross flow transference. In 2012 the lay flat doors were adding more flood water to the inadequate under canal siphon as the Main Canal was overflowing in both directions, north & south. Murrumbidgee Irrigation then decide to lift the doors preventing any Mirrool Creek cross flow transference.

Since the Main Canal has been built across the path of Mirrool Creek there have been 7 notable floods. 1931, 1939, 1955, 1956, 1974, 1984, 1989 & 2012. That's an average of 12 years per flood. At 16 years since the last large flood event the clock is ticking, and probability is shifting towards another large event sooner rather than later. BOM offers guidance on estimating Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) for large catchments that shows a 10% increase in probability of large event occurring for every year after the first decade.

Smaller floods that have occurred in Upper Mirrool Creek catchment in the last decade since the construction of earthworks, levees, drains & storage dams for flood harvesting is the flooding of Halse Road. In 5 times in 2016 and 9 times in 2022. Costing Council approximately \$100,000 to repair property culverts and Halse Road, not included recent asphaltting near the bridge over Mirrool Creek.

In 2026 we have new Councillors promising greater service and transparency to the public, a new General Manager, a new Floodplain Management Committee and a new Managing Director at Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd all keen to do the right thing by the community. Let's hope the majority of Councillors do too. It's in their (show of) hands now.

Yours Faithfully

Paul Rossetto

Griffith City Council meeting 28th October 2025 Director of Utilities Mr Gordon reply to a question from

Cr Stead "why was not the second set of flood gates installed at the time"

Mr Gordon "The focus was on the decommissioned flood checks in the south bank because of a lack of funding."

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 26/59260

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Outstanding Action Report [↓](#) 

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ACTION REPORT**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 11 JUNE 2026**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comments
5 March 2026	CL04 CORRESPONDENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Paul Rossetto and John Kerrigan that the information be received and forwarded to MI for consideration in their presentation to the Committee.	Director Utilities	20/05/2026: Information forwarded to MI.
5 March 2026	CL03 QUESTIONS FOR MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION	RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Kerrigan and Paul Rossetto that: (a) The report be noted. (b) Council invite MI 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.	Director Utilities	20/05/2026: MI invited to June 2026 meeting.
5 March 2026	CL02 YOOGALI LEVEE STAGE 3	RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Kerrigan and Paul Rossetto that: (a) Council endorse the concept design for Yoogali Stage 3 Levee.	Director Utilities	20/05/2026: Following Council's endorsement on 24 March 2026, an application seeking funding for two-thirds of the total project cost was formally submitted on 31 March 2026 under the DCCEEW 2026–27 funding round.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. 		Council will fund the remaining one-third of the project cost through allocation from the Drainage Reserve in the 2026-27 financial year.
5 March 2026	CL01 REVIEW OF LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY	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.	Director Utilities	24/03/2026: Council endorsed the Flood Study. On public exhibition to 8 May 2026.
9 October 2025	CL04 AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS	<p>Item 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 	Director Utilities	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. To be considered

		budget deliberations, the required matching funding.		<p>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 future budget deliberations, the required matching funding. To be considered after costs presented to FMC meeting.</p>
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>	Director Utilities	<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</p>

				of the Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan. To be considered once Yoogali Levee project fully complete.
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