MINUTES

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2026 COMMENCING AT 2:00 PM

PRESENT

Councillor Scott Groat (Chair), Joseph Dal Broi (Community Representative), John Kerrigan (Community Representative), Steve Manwaring (DCCEEW), Ian Parisotto (Community Representative), Paul Rossetto (Community Representative), Daniel Williams (Torrent Consulting) and Gillian Webber (SES via Zoom)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

General Manager, Scott Grant, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Water and Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary and Graduate Stormwater & Flood Engineer, Anthony Portolesi and Minute Taker, Leanne Austin

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Michael Borg (NSW SES) and Ema Munro (Community Representative). The following members were absent: Councillor Laurie Testoni (Councillor - Alternate), Steve Mortlock (Community Representative), Craig Ronan (NSW SES), Josh Stanbury (NSW SES).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Joseph Dal Broi and John Kerrigan that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 June 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

Mr Rossetto raised a concern that the seconder recorded for the confirmation of the 5 March 2026 minutes, Mr Michael Borg, was not present at that meeting and therefore could not second the confirmation.

Note: The recording of the 11 June 2026 meeting was reviewed and confirmed that, during consideration of the confirmation of the 5 March 2026 minutes, the Mayor advised that a seconder was not required to have attended the previous meeting for the purpose of confirming the minutes. Accordingly, Mr Borg remained the seconder to the motion.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Mr Parisotto drew the Committee's attention to his correspondence on page 29 of the Agenda requesting that his proposed amendments be noted.

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
No clause number provided
Unprepared Emergency Breaching Protocol Exit Apron

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a less than significant non-pecuniary interest declaration may stay in the meeting and participate in the debate and vote on the matter.

Paul Rossetto
No clause number provided
Reason - As a Community Representative for Yenda, my primary objective is ensuring the protection of 450 Yenda families who lost everything in the March 5, 2012, Yenda flood event. Their homes, schools, churches and shops were damaged and unusable for six months or more, furniture, personal possessions, photo albums, wedding dresses, school projects, computers and laptops, and sadly pets were lost. I hold an active, public stance regarding the inadequacy of the East Mirrool Regulator (EMR) Main Canal North bank crossflow transference flood mitigation design. Because I believe the current 110year old under canal siphon is inadequate, and at risk of complete failure and that Council and Murrumbidgee Irrigation must work collaboratively to lobby Governments to 100% fund the re-installation of the 2nd set of Flood gates in the north bank back to their original 1:78 ARI flood design before decommissioning by DL & WC, a government agency pre–Murrumbidgee Irrigation. Furthermore, I believe the unprepared Emergency Breaching Protocol is an engineering "Red Herring" designed to cleverly and cheaply achieve the NSW Flood Manual standard 1% AEP flood mitigation design. There has been no planning for soil removal and storage when excavating, no stockpiling of 100mm aggregate fill and clay soils for efficient Main Canal repatriation and continuation of irrigation supply and no planned dry access for trucks to deliver materials to the breach site on the south bank. The EBP contains another engineering paradox, it contains a trigger at 1.8 metres gauge height to commence excavating and another 2.3 metre trigger to cease excavating because the flood levels are deemed too high for safe or uncontrollable breaching may take place. In essence the EBP is only a bureaucratic band aid for minor floods less than 100m3 per sec or 8600 megalitres per day or 1:50 ARI leaving the north bank 30% short of transference design risking another Yenda Flood. Back in 2018 the re-installed set of 8 flood gates cost a total of $1.2M dollars. Today even if that cost doubled to $2.5M dollars it still be economical relative to the $90M dollars damage to the Yenda Community and potential disastrous hundreds of Millions to dollars interruption to Irrigation supplies for the greater Griffith LGA economy if a serious uncontrollable breach occurred to the Main Canal due to Council's Emergency Breaching Protocol Initiative. Personally, In 2012 March Yenda flood I did not lose any houses or buildings due to flooding. Some corners of the orchard were inundated temporarily, for a few days. Similarly, my extended family did not lose any houses to flooding, only one brother's house suffered flooding in a low-lying laundry and approximately 100 tonnes of late

Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were not harvestable not having any direct financial consequences to myself.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 REVIEW OF LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY

Mr Williams provided a presentation to the Committee regarding the draft Lake Wyangan Flood Study review advising that the submissions received were taken into consideration when drafting the final document. The draft Lake Wyangan Flood Study will be presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Kerrigan and Paul Rossetto that the Committee endorse the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and recommend to Council for adoption.

CL02 CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Parisotto left the room 2:51 pm having declared a pecuniary conflict of interest while discussion took place regarding the EMR, breaching protocols and downstream impacts.

Mr Rossetto tabled a document for consideration by the General Manager.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Paul Rossetto and Joe Dal Broi that the Committee note the correspondence attached to the report.

Mr Parisotto returned to the meeting at 3:04 pm.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Committee requested Council ask Murrumbidgee Irrigation for a report on infrastructure condition at the EMR.

Mr Manwaring advised that DCCEEW are progressing the Murrumbidgee River/Mirror Creek flood modelling project using internal resources, with LiDAR data already collected and modelling underway. Future updates will be provided to the Committee when available.

Gillian Webber left the meeting at 3:09 pm.

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

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Yenda Progress Association regarding ongoing concerns about excessive flood insurance premiums in Yenda. Council confirmed it has provided endorsed flood mapping and mitigation information to the Insurance Council of Australia demonstrating that the village area is protected against a 1-in-100-year flood event.

The Committee also discussed advocacy opportunities for Council and Murrumbidgee Irrigation to jointly seek NSW Government funding for the reinstatement of flood mitigation infrastructure. In addition, concerns were raised regarding the capacity of drainage

infrastructure to accommodate future development in Hanwood, with suggestions for additional drainage connections to improve flood management outcomes.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 3 December 2026 at 2:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 3:23 pm.