
**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 2:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Dino Zappacosta (Chair), Joseph Dal Broi (Community Representative), Luigi Forner (Community Representative), Joshua Stanbury (NSW SES), Susanne Skof (NSW SES), Steve Mortlock (Community Representative), Steve Manwaring (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Water and Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary, and Minute Secretary, Hannah Hall

BY INVITATION

Alan Shea and Sam Yemenandra, Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Michella Clark, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and Berdine Oxley-Boyd, NSW SES.

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Luigi Forner and Joseph Dal Broi that apologies be received from Councillor Glen Andreazza and Graham Gordon.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Joseph Dal Broi and Luigi Forner that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 November 2023, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

SES Request for Data

Ms Skof advised that the SES has not received a flood mapping and property data base as outlined in the Main Drain J/Mirrool Creek Flood Risk Management Plan and Risk Study, identifying properties and their floor levels which have been affected by flood events in the past. She asked when the SES can expect to receive this information?

Mr Chaudhary responded saying that Council doesn't have the information that has been requested by the SES regarding floor levels. Mr Manwaring suggested that SES use information on the Flood Data Portal and GIS to calculate the floor levels themselves.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Committee 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.

Councillor Dino Zappacosta

CL02 & CL04 – Hanwood Stormwater Pump And Levee Project & Hanwood Drainage Images 2022/23

Reason – I own several businesses in Hanwood

Luigi Forner

CL03 – Yoogali Levee Project

Reason – I have family members living in McCormack Road.

Joseph Dal Broi

CL03 – Yoogali Levee Project

Reason – I have close friends living in the area.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL04 was brought forward.

CL04 HANWOOD DRAINAGE IMAGES 2022/23

Images provided by Councillor Zappacosta were displayed.

Councillor Zappacosta thanked Mr Shea and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) team for their support in clearing the drainage channels in Hanwood.

Mr Shea expressed MI's willingness to ensure that their drainage infrastructure is maintained in Hanwood, however, explained that MI infrastructure is maintained to service irrigation activities. If they require a different level of maintenance to what MI's current maintenance schedule outlines, Mr Shea would like an agreement formalised between Council and MI.

Councillor Zappacosta asked Council and the Committee to investigate what would happen to the two houses on Crook Road once pumping commenced at the Hanwood pump station.

Mr Shea advised that once the system gets full, the water will back up and impact certain areas. Further works are needed past Barren Box Storage and Wetlands into Carrathool Shire Council, where water backs up. Mr Shea acknowledged that Griffith City Council and MI have been actively working with Carrathool Shire to find a solution, but to date haven't had any success.

Update regarding Mirrool Creek Study being undertaken by Murrumbidgee Irrigation

Mr Shea gave the Committee an update on a study they are undertaking on the Mirrool Creek. The purpose of the study to update their understanding of how flood water moves through the Mirrool Creek after each flood event. MI currently has no further information to share with this Committee, and will share relevant data with Council once they have finished their report.

CL01 LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY REVIEW PROJECT

Mr Chaudhary advised the Committee that Council has secured \$136,001 in funding from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the 2023/24 NSW Floodplain Management Program for the review of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan. Council are currently preparing a project brief and will soon be tendering for an external consultant to undertake the review. A work plan needs to be submitted by 12 April 2024.

Mr Manwaring suggested including a representative from the Lake Wyangan Flood affected area to join the Floodplain Committee to represent the community on the Lake Wyangan Flood Study and Floodplain risk Management Study and Plan.

The Committee asked to view the draft project brief. Mr Chaudhary agreed to send to the Committee for comment.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steve Mortlock and Luigi Forner that the information be received.

CL02 HANWOOD STORMWATER PUMP AND LEVEE PROJECT

Mr Chaudhary advised the Committee that Stage 1a (stormwater pump and associated drainage work) of the Hanwood Stormwater Pump and Levee Project work progress is critical. The drainage works have been completed, however, works on the pump itself have been slow due to a hold up with works to be completed by Essential Energy. Council is hoping that this work will commence next week, however, have not had confirmation from Essential Energy at this stage. The funding term completion date for Stage 1a is 31 March 2024.

Stage 1b (drainage work along Kidman Way from Leonard Road to Wilga Street) is progressing well and is estimated to be completed within the next two weeks. The funding term completion date for stage 1b is 29 February 2024.

Stage 2 (Levee along DC DA and DC HANDEPOT, and raising of Kidman Way). Council will be working with Transport for NSW to accomplish the raising of Kidman Way. The funding term completion date for stage 2 is 30 April 2025, however, Council are hoping to close out this project within this financial year.

Mr Shea acknowledged the extensive work that has been put into this project to protect the Hanwood community. He said it would be helpful for Council to provide MI with a list of channels which provide the flood relief so they can prioritise maintenance of these channels to ensure that the system works efficiently given the investment into this project.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steve Mortlock and Joseph Dal Broi that the information be received.

CL03 YOOGALI LEVEE PROJECT

Mr Chaudhary advised the Committee that Council has received \$1,040,000 under the 2021

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (NFMIP) for Yoogali McCormack Road Levee and Culvert Upgrades for Stage 2 (McCormack Road levee) & Stage 3 (raising Burley Griffin Way as a levee). Stage 1 works were completed in April 2022.

Mr Chaudhary advised that in 2018, TfNSW had agreed to contribute funds towards to this project, which is no longer available. Council has approached TfNSW regarding its ability to contribute to the project now, but is yet to receive a response.

Also, due to the position of Essential Energy infrastructure there is not enough space for a levee, therefore Council is proposing to raise McCormack Road instead to form a levee. By raising the road level, the power lines will also need to be raised. Council has engaged Essential Energy Contractors to carry out the work and are hoping that Essential Energy will have works completed next month.

Council will go out for tender for the levee work soon, however due to limited funds completion of both Stage 2 and Stage 3 may not be possible. Council will have the opportunity to apply for further funding in February/March 2024 which will enable them to complete Stage 3. Mr Manwaring agreed that Stage 2 should be completed at a minimum.

Mr Manwaring informed that although the funding is for \$1,040,000, it is a 2:1 funding ratio, where Council need to contribute one part. Therefore, Council's contribution is approximately \$500,000 giving a project total of approximately \$1.56M.

Mr Manwaring suggested that Council enter into split contracts for each stage, giving them more flexibility when it comes to cost and duration of projects.

Mr Mortlock asked about the Yoogali pump works. Mr Chaudhary advised that there the pumps experienced operational issues during the October 2022 flood. Council has allocated funds to investigate the issue.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steve Mortlock and Joshua Stanbury that Council go out for tender and compare costings for:

- (a) Stage 2 only (McCormack Road Levee)
- (b) Stage 2 (McCormack Road Levee) & Stage 3 (Raising of Burley Griffin Way as a levee).

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Committee noted the report.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Floodplain Management Funding

Mr Manwaring advised that the next round of funding for Floodplain Management will open next month, date to be confirmed. He asked that Council investigate if any recommendations made in existing plans need to be implemented and apply for funding to complete these. Mr Shea mentioned that works to secure the supplementary bypass channel downstream of Barren Box Storage and Wetlands which will provide an additional relief point during a flood event and minimise uncontrolled breaches, is yet to be funded. MI has already invested significant funds into temporary fixes to allow landholders to return to cropping, however need a more permanent solution in preparation for future flood events to protect the community. Mr Shea advised that the temporary solutions have been funded by MI in the past, but warned that that as these works have been for Flood Management, the appetite for cost recovery from the Flood Authority, that being Council, may change in the future. He

urged Council and the Committee to consider these particular works when applying for the Floodplain Management funding.

Mr Dal Broi asked if the works that MI have completed connect to the outfall channel? Mr Shea advised that it flows into the Northern part of Wyvern and into Carrathool Shire which has been a point of contention. Discussions are ongoing with Carrathool Shire Council around this topic to ensure the continuity of the Mirrool Creek.

North Merribee Channel Realignment

Mr Shea advised that MI has had preliminary conversations with Council and landholders to address flood control measures at North Merribee. Under the direction of Council as the Flood Authority, MI currently breach the channel at North Merribee during a flood event to allow water to flow into the East Mirrool Regulator, reducing supply ability and damage to surrounding land. MI then repair the channel, recovering costs from Council. MI are proposing to fund works to implement a permanent solution to ensure the seamless flow of water during a flood event. MI will then retain their ability to deliver water past the breach, as well as savings costs to Council. MI is hoping to complete these works during the winter shutdown period, and is seeking Council support and approval to do so.

Mr Manwaring suggested that the proposed changes should be modelled to understand the flow on effects.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steve Manwaring and Luigi Forner that Council:

- (a) Endorse the report presented by Murrumbidgee Irrigation
- (b) Look for funding opportunities to implement a permanent solution on the bypass channel downstream of Barren Box Storage and Wetlands
- (c) Endorse the works proposed for the North Merribee Channel Realignment.

Councillor Zappacosta thanked Mr Shea for his contribution to the Floodplain Management Committee and wished him all the best for future endeavours.

SMT Comment: Councillors are encouraged to note recommendations (a) & (b) above as the report from Murrumbidgee Irrigation foreshadows in future Griffith City Council may be approached to meet the costs of a bypass solution from Barren Box Storage and Wetlands.

"MI has already invested significant funds into temporary fixes to allow landholders to return to cropping, however need a more permanent solution in preparation for future flood events to protect the community. Mr Shea advised that the temporary solutions have been funded by MI in the past, but warned that as these works have been for Flood Management, the appetite for cost recovery from the Flood Authority, that being Council, may change in the future".

Council has a very positive working relationship with Murrumbidgee Irrigation but Council is very conscious of any future possible additional costs to ratepayers.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steve Manwaring and Josh Stanbury that Council write to Mr Shea and thank him for his contributions.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 2 May 2024 at 2:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 2:29pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON