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### FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2024 AT 2:00PM

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- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
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#### DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Dino Zappacosta (Chair), Glen Andreazza (Councillor - Alternate), Joseph Dal Broi (Community Representative), Luigi Forner (Community Representative), Joshua Stanbury (SES), Susanne Skof (SES), Steve Mortlock (Community Representative), Steve Manwaring (Department Planning, Industry & Environment)

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet; Director Utilities, Graham Gordon; Water & Wastewater Manager, Durgananda Chaudhary; Engineering and Design Approvals Manager, Joe Rizzo and Minute Secretary, Leanne Austin

Quorum = 3

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.

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

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**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



**TITLE** Outstanding Action Report

**TRIM REF** 24/49281

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**RECOMMENDATION**

The report be noted.

**ATTACHMENTS**

(a) Outstanding Action Report [↓](#)

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**ACTION REPORT****FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2 MAY 2024**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
8 February 2024	<b>General Business</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Steve Manwaring and Josh Stanbury that Council write to Mr Shea and thank him for his contributions.	Hannah Hall	
8 February 2024	<b>North Merribee Channel Realignment</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> 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.	Graham Gordon	
8 February 2024	<b>CL02 YOOGALI LEVEE PROJECT</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> 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)	Durganda Chaudhary	

		(b) Stage 2 (McCormack Road Levee) & Stage 3 (Raising of Burley Griffin Way as a levee).		
23 November 2023	<b>CL01 COMMUNITY OPINION GROUP MEETING 1 NOVEMBER 2023</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Louie Forner and Steven Mortlock that:</p> <p>(a) Council request Murrumbidgee Irrigation to have trees removed from the Mirrool Creek riparian zone and the removal of trees in any identified drainage channels.</p> <p>(b) Council advocate to the NSW Government to undertake a Flood Study for the entire Mirrool Creek Catchment.</p> <p>(c) Council contact the Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR) in relation to retrospectively unapproved earth works in Mirrool Creek, requesting that they support a study of the entire Mirrool Creek rural catchment area, so they can base their assessments on an actual model and facts.</p>	Graham Gordon	
20 July 2023	<b>General Business</b>	Council to discuss the obstruction of willow trees at the inflow channel of Barren Box Swamp.	Graham Gordon	

20 July 2023	<b>General Business</b>	Council discuss ownership and maintenance of the drainage channel on Crook Road, Hanwood with Murrumbidgee Irrigation, accounting for the 86ML/day of water that the new Hanwood pump station has the potential to pump.	Graham Gordon	
4 May 2023	<b>EMR Regulator and Barellan water level sensors</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Joe Dal Broi and Steve Manwaring that Council write to Water NSW for justification of services rendered for the fee in the vicinity of \$17,000 that Council currently pay for the monitoring of water level sensors at the East Mirrool Regulator and in Barellan.	GM	<b>20/07/2023:</b> Report to Committee on 20/07/2023. Council to pursue potential to transfer ownership of devices due to funding through BoM, or Council negotiate the frequency of device monitoring.
17 November 2022	<b>Lake Wyangan Flood Mitigation Action Update</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Councillor Glen Andreazza and Steven Mortlock that Council apply for funding to review the Lake Wyangan Flood Study (2012) and Lake Wyangan Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2013).	Graham Gordon	
17 November 2022	<b>Lake Wyangan Flood Mitigation Action Update</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Joe Dal Broi and Councillor Glen Andreazza that Council write to relevant Ministers and authorities advising of issues relating to failure of organisations such as SES to	Brett Stonestreet	Letter drafted to Minister Emergency Services. Hon. Steph Cooke MP.

		take responsibility and issue required directives.		
17 November 2022	<b>Lake Wyangan Flood Mitigation Action Update</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Councillor Glen Andreazza and Steven Mortlock that Council endorse the actions taken in the emergency flood situation at Lake Wyangan to implement the Lake Wyangan Flood Pumping Project.	Graham Gordon	
5 August 2021	<b>Education Strategy and Display Board</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Councillor Dino Zappacosta and Sally Jones that Council investigate the feasibility of establishing an education program highlighting the history of the Mirrool Creek catchment area.	Durgananda Chaudhary	
10 December 2020	<b>Flood Maps Revision</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Peter Budd and Sally Jones that:</p> <p>(a) Once finalised, the revised Yenda flood maps are to be emailed to Committee members for approval to present to Council.</p> <p>(b) The recommendation to Council is to place the revised maps on public exhibition to be adopted as Revised Flood Maps for Yenda, appended to the existing 'Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain</p>	Durgananda Chaudhary	<p>Revised Yenda flood maps were emailed to the committee members on 21/01/21.</p> <p>Council meeting on 23/02/21 has endorsed to place the revised Yenda maps on public exhibition.</p> <p>5/8/2021: Letters to be written to key community groups such as the Progress Association and people who made submissions to advise them of the outcome of the revised mapping.</p>

		Risk Management Study and Plan 2015' by March 2021.		
10 December 2020	<b>Yoogali McCormack Road Levee and DC605J Culvert Upgrade</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Peter Budd and Luigi Forner that Council apply for funding for Stage 2 Yoogali (Levee along McCormack Road.) through the DPIE grant fund opening in January 2021.	Durgananda Chaudhary	The 2021/22 funding round is now open and closes on 18/03/21.  Council will apply for funding for Stage 2 Yoogali work i.e. Levee along McCormack Road.
27 February 2020	<b>Murrumbidgee Irrigation Maintenance Program</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Councillor Andreazza and Joe Dal Broi that MI report back to the Committee regarding protocols for cleaning vegetative growth in Mirrool Creek and Main Drain J.	MI	
27 February 2020	<b>Funding Application Options for 2020/21</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Steve Mortlock and Councillor Glen Andreazza that:  (a) Council apply for funding for the Hanwood Stormwater Pump and Levee Stage 1 (pump and pipe works). (b) Funding application for the Yoogali McCormack Road Levee and DC605J Culvert Upgrade State 2 (levee along McCormack Road) to be determined by Council after consideration of tenders.	Graham Gordon	Council has applied for funding for the Hanwood Stormwater Pump and Levee Stage 1 construction.  Council did not apply for funding for Yoogali McCormack Road Levee Stage 2 construction.
27 February 2020	<b>Hanwood Stormwater Pump and Levee</b>	Mr Mortlock enquired if Council had adequate generators	Graham Gordon /	

		available? Mr Gordon advised this should be investigated further in relation to emergency management.	Durgananda Chaudhary	
27 February 2020	<b>Recommendations from Floodplain Risk Management Review May 2018 – Internal Audit Report</b>	<p>Council should consider the implementation of the following education strategies in due course:</p> <p>(a) Advice about flooding to residents from time to time.</p> <p>(b) Articles in local papers containing certain advice or where to find it about. Information provided in social media and the GCC website. The information could include: An indication of the range of flood risks in different areas.</p> <p>(c) The need to be flood ready, including an explanation or overview on flood warning processes within the LGA. The location of evacuation centres (in the event of the emergency evacuation process being activated). Contact details for additional information.</p>	Graham Gordon	<p>(a) Generic information sheet to be created that can be loaded on Council's website.</p> <p>(b) Same as (a) above.</p> <p>(c) This is part of the Griffith Emergency Plan.</p>
31 October 2019	<b>Flows to Barrenbox Swamp</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Peter Budd and Sally Jones that:</p> <p>(a) A report be prepared for the next Committee meeting in relation to Main Drain J advising of flow</p>	<p>Graham Gordon</p> <p>Durgananda Chaudhary</p>	<p>Report included in Agenda for 27 February 2020 meeting.</p> <p>Email sent to Carrathool Shire Council inviting the GM and Director Infrastructure to the next meeting 27 Feb 2020.</p>

		<p>rates at various points, structures, recent upgrades.</p> <p>(b) Options to be presented regarding implementing protocols for Barrenbox Swamp during flooding situations.</p> <p>(c) Carrathool Shire to be represented at the next meeting.</p>		
31 October 2019	<b>Farm Levees Mirrool Creek Floodplain – Rural Floodplain Management Plan</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Sally Jones and Peter Budd that Council engage with DoPIE Water and the State Government to initiate a new rural Floodplain Management Plan for the Mirrool Creek catchment.	Graham Gordon	27/02/2020: <b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Councillor Andreazza and Joe Dal Broi that Council lobby for funding for the preparation of a rural Floodplain Management Plan for the Mirrool Creek catchment.
20 June 2019	<b>Farm Levees Mirrool Creek Floodplain – Illegal Levy Banks</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Peter Budd and Joe Dal Broi that the Committee endorse the Griffith Main Drain J and Mirrool Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan be reviewed and that investigations are carried out to identify any illegal works taken out such as levy banks and appropriate action taken. The review is to take into consideration flows from adjoining Council areas and consultation to occur with those Councils in relation to	Graham Gordon	Ongoing.

		what action Griffith City Council will be undertaking.		
27/02/2018	<b>Yoogali McCormack Road Levee &amp; DC605J Culvert Upgrade - Cardno</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> on the motion of Councillor Dino Zappacosta and Sally Jones that:</p> <p>(a) The Committee accept the Design Report and the Design Drawings in current format and recommend for public exhibition.</p> <p>(b) The Committee recommend a separate investigation of raising Burley Griffin Way as another levee location option.</p>	Graham Gordon	<p>The design report and the drawings were exhibited for public comments. Only one submission was received. The submission was supportive of the levee but against the upgrade of the culverts.</p> <p>The concept design of raising Burley Griffin Way as levee has been prepared and submitted to OEH for approval of additional funding to carry out the detailed design.</p> <p>13/08/2018: OEH has approved additional funding to carry out the detailed design of raising Burley Griffin Way as levee. Cardno is progressing to finalise the detailed design of raising Burley Griffin Way as levee.</p> <p>22/02/2019: Design prepared and sent to RMS for approval.</p>