

South Murwillumbah Flood Levee repairs begin

All flood recovery jobs bar one beat funding agreement deadline

Council contractors this week begin construction work on the final repair of the March 2017 flood damages in the Tweed - the \$3.75 million rebuild of the South Murwillumbah Flood Levee.

The levee is the only Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement (NDRRA) funded project not completed by the 30 June 2019 deadline set by the State Government under its funding agreements with Council. An extension of time has been granted for the project, which is expected to be complete by December 2019.

The other flood recovery project not yet complete is the build of the replacement bridge across the Tweed River at Byrrill Creek. This project was not funded via the NDRRA but instead via a 50:50 split between Council and the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program. The bridge build is practically complete with ancillary site works expected to continue until mid-August.

The rest of the Tweed's 1,529 road, bridge, stormwater and drainage damages on 195 roads across the shire were completed by February, five months ahead of the NDRRA deadline.

In the immediate aftermath of the flood, Council estimated its road and bridge damages bill at \$28.9 million. This was reduced as investigations continued and the final repair bill came in at \$21 million. NDRRA funding compensated for all but \$1 million of that final tally. Combined with the shortfall due to the Byrrill Creek Bridge build which attracted up to \$2.17 million in other government funds, Council was left with a final roads and bridges flood repair bill of about \$2.6 million.

"We are very pleased with both the speed of repairs to our roads and bridges and the fact that the shortfall from NDRRA funding has proved negligible, when you remove the cost of the new bridge at Byrrill Creek," Acting Manager Infrastructure Delivery Nigel Dobson said.

"We effectively completed all our road repairs five months ahead of the NDRRA deadline, which, when you consider it was the equivalent of an extra year's work on top of our normal roads program, is a big achievement."

Meanwhile, MGN Civil this week begins site set-up to repair the South Murwillumbah Flood Levee and restore the level of protection it affords the community.

The levee was structurally compromised by floodwaters undercutting the riverbank and breaking the levee crest in one section.

To repair the levee, the contractors will stabilise the riverbank using 25 thousand tonnes of rock before reinstating the earthen levee crest and reinforcing it using grass matting.

The repairs will take about five months, weather permitting.

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