

Drop-in to learn critical flood lessons in South Murwillumbah

Raising awareness of risk to build community resilience

South Murwillumbah residents and businesses are urged to attend a Council drop-in session next month to learn some critically important lessons about flooding in the area.

Council staff and flood simulation experts will host the session to help the community unpack the **Draft South Murwillumbah Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan**, which is on exhibition for comment.

Manager Roads and Stormwater Danny Rose said the goal of the study was to fully define the existing flooding problem in South Murwillumbah and evaluate options that could be implemented to reduce the flood risk.

“The plan recommends various options that have been found to be effective in reducing the risk and impact of floods. The community now has the opportunity to make comment on the plan before it is finalised and submitted to Council for adoption.

“Once adopted, Council will work towards implementing the flood mitigation options recommended in the plan.”

At the drop-in session, consultant David Tetley from Catchment Simulations Solutions will present modelling of South Murwillumbah under flood conditions.

“This flood modelling graphically illustrates the risk of flooding in South Murwillumbah, which every resident and business located in that area needs to be aware of and prepared for,” Mr Rose said.

“We need to raise the awareness of this risk to build a more flood-resilient community.”

Catchment Simulation Solutions surveyed more than 700 residents and businesses in South Murwillumbah twice during the project to gauge their understanding and preparedness for floods. One of the key findings of that survey was that a large proportion of the community plan to remain in their homes in future floods, suggesting a lack of understanding of the full range of potential flooding which can reach over most rooftops in extreme events.

The drop-in session will be held at the Canvas and Kettle Meeting Room at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre on Thursday 12 September 2019 from 4.30-6.30pm.

Representatives from the State Emergency Service (SES) will attend to provide advice and information on how to prepare for a flood.

Feedback on the draft study can be made in writing to the General Manager, Tweed Shire Council, PO Box 816, Murwillumbah NSW 2484, online at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/FloodplainStudy or by email to tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au by 2 October 2019.

Anyone wanting to discuss the draft study can contact Council Flood Engineer Leon McLean by calling (02) 6670 2400 or by emailing lmclean@tweed.nsw.gov.au.

- ends -