

## Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday 8 December 2021

### Venue:

Council Chambers, Murwillumbah Civic Centre and Virtually

### Time:

9.00am

### Present:

Max Boyd, Steven Smith, Robert Quirk, Dion Andrews (virtual), Mike Allen, Felicia Cecil, Chad Ellis (virtual), Samuel Dawson, Martin Rose (DPIE) (virtual), Danny Rose (arrived at 11am), Leon McLean (TSC), Angie Cousens (TSC), Michelle BernabeSalazer (TSC), Stuart Russel (TSC), Doreen Harwood (TSC)

### Apologies:

David Oxenham (TSC), Lindsay McGavin (TSC), Jenny Kidd, Paul Copeland (SES)

### Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RQ noted that he made a conflict of interest declaration with respect to the discussion on relocating dwelling entitlements in item 11 of the minutes. This was not recorded.

**Moved:** Max Boyd  
**Seconded:** Robert Quirk

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the above note, the Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held Friday 14 June 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

### Business arising

Max Boyd asked for meetings to be closer together, preference for more regular shorter meetings. The majority of the committee agreed.

### Agenda Items:

#### 1. Murwillumbah CBD Levee Spillway and Rehabilitation

LM outlined lessons learned from the Cyclone Debbie flood of 2017 with respect to the Murwillumbah CBD Levee. Agenda attachment 1, the 'Murwillumbah CBD Levee Spillway Modelling' report, was tabled which outlines a plan to reconfigure the CBD Levee to formalise a spillway over the High School Sports fields and generally bring the levee up to contemporary design standards.

The committee generally agreed that returning the levee to its design capacity and making it safe in overtopping scenarios is desirable. LM suggested that the attachment be reported to Council with a recommendation that it be placed on public exhibition seeking community feedback. The design process for the levee spillway upgrade will continue.

# Minutes

**Moved:** Max Boyd  
**Seconded:** Chad Ellis

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the “Murwillumbah CBD Levee Spillway Modelling” document is reported to Council with a recommendation for it to be placed on public exhibition.

**FOR VOTE: Unanimous**

## **2. Mooball Designated Flood Level(s)**

LM explained how Council’s current Designated Flood Levels (DFL) and Flood Planning Levels (FPL) underestimate flood risk in Mooball and are inconsistent with Council’s approach to other ‘leveed’ areas

Agenda attachment 2, “Mooball Village Flood Risk Assessment” was tabled. This report summarises flood modelling undertaken in the Mooball Village areas to quantify the extent of flooding if the railway embankment did not exist or was breached. This is consistent with Council approach in other “behind levee’ areas and is proposed to be the basis of new flood planning levels in Mooball Village. The revised levels would be roughly 0.5m above the current levels.

CE asked for clarity on Section 3.5 of report (floodgate on only culvert). LM stated that the floodgate scenario did not show strong evidence to support the benefits of a floodgate. However, they also did not show any negative impact. It was noted that this body of work included only 1 x 1% AEP modelled scenario and a floodgate may be beneficial in other scenarios.

The Planning Proposal to the south of Mooball Village was noted. LM explained that the proposed changes would effect fill and floor levels of this (potential) future development.

CE queried what will happen to existing dwellings with renovations and new flood levels. LM advised DCP-A3 has provisions for minor additions and extensions at existing floor levels that are below contemporary flood planning level. New homes and larger renovations would be required to meet the new Flood Planning Level.

RQ noted the committee’s difficulty understanding the implications of what was proposed and suggested that, when recommended to Council, that an onsite workshop be offered.

**Moved:** Felicia Cecil  
**Seconded:** Samuel Dawson

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the “Mooball Village Flood Risk Assessment” document, and proposed changes to DCP-A3 in line with its recommendations, are reported to Council with a recommendation for it to be placed on public exhibition.

**FOR VOTE: Unanimous**

### **3. Murwillumbah Leagues Club Area Drainage Study**

LM outlined the ongoing drainage issues being experienced in the area and related public sewer, safety, amenity and health problems. Council resolved to engage an external consultant to conduct a drainage study for the area.

WMA Water, who are also undertaking the Tweed Valley Flood Study Update and Expansion, have been engaged to complete the drainage study. WMA Water recently submitted an interim report which included model development and options recommended for detailed analysis. The interim report has been shared with the Club executives and a meeting held to discuss.

Work is now being completed to further investigate and analyse the selected options, which include:

- Pipe the open drain
- Install a pump station
- Relocate the levee north to add storage
- Fill/bund the profiled area

MB advised that there could be complications if the water discharges to a Drainage Union drain. LM advised this hasn't been looked at to date but the drainage union would be consulted if any changes are recommended for implementation

MB gave a possible solution of a small pump to remove last of the water with a pipeline to the STP. LM advised this could be considered.

The committee will be updated on progress at future meetings.

### **4. Update on Current Flood Projects**

#### **a. Tweed Valley Flood Study**

LM gave a project update. Some delays were inflicted by the COVID-19 induced QLD border closure. WMA water is currently completing the model calibration and verification phase of the project. The next interim report is expected early in 2022 and a further update will be given at the next FMC meeting.

#### **b. Burringbar & Crabbes Creek Flash Flood Warning**

LM advised the system is now operational internally. The first minor flood warning was provided last week. The public release of the system is expected any day now. A public education and promotion campaign will accompany the release

#### **c. Flood Monitoring Cameras**

LM outlined that the cameras are now installed and media releases will be forthcoming.

#### **d. VHP & VHR**

LM advised that there is currently no VHP purchases in the pipeline due to a slowing in demand for the VHP scheme.

AC gave a run down on the VHR scheme advising 2 properties this year are in progress. 4 properties have been approved by DPIE to start this year and the home owners have been contacted.

## **e. Grant Applications – South Tweed Local Study**

LM informed the committee that an application has been made to the DPIE Flood Management grants program for a local levee overtopping and drainage study for the Tweed Heads South area.

Successful grants announcements are expected in December. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

## **5. Wardrop Valley Future Urban Land Release Area**

SR gave a brief outline of the Wardrop Valley Future Urban Land Release Area which was earmarked in the Tweed Urban and Employment Land Release Strategy 2009 (TUELRS).

Since 2009, many constraints to the area's future development have been come to light (e.g. agricultural land protections, infrastructure provision).

Council has resolved to complete a Growth Management and Housing Strategy which will review the housing and employment opportunities for the Tweed, which will essentially supersede the TEULRS. It is expected that, based on more contemporary planning practice, development of the land would be detrimental to the area and that the land's designation as a potential future release area will most likely be removed.

MB expressed the importance of supplying flood free land and housing to support the inevitable population growth in the Tweed. To which all agreed.

LM suggested that the committee's role in this context is to support planning policy and processes that result in good floodplain management outcomes and do not repeat the mistakes of the past. He suggested that the committee support the proposed Growth Management and Housing Strategy with a recommendation that new development areas identified are flood free or of suitable flood risk for residential development.

SR explained that flooding will be one of the primary constraints considered in the strategy.

**Moved: Max Boyd**  
**Seconded: Steven Smith**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the committee supports in principle the development of a contemporary Growth Management and Housing Strategy, and recommends that Council strongly considers options for alternate land release areas, if needed, to be flood free.

**FOR VOTE: Unanimous**

**General Business:**

## **A. Tidal Inundation and Sea Level Rise**

MA queried if sea level rise and tidal inundation is considered in the current Tweed Valley flood study. LM advised that climate change scenarios are included in the flood study. LM also noted some recent work by Council's Waterways Unit on tidal inundation under sea level rise scenarios and offered to invite Council's Waterway Co-Ordinator to the next FMC to present this work to the Committee.

**ACTION:** Council's Waterways Unit to provide briefing on tidal inundation under sea level rise scenarios to the next FMC

## **B. Bray Park Weir Overtopping Frequency**

MB asked if the wider committee were aware of the increasing frequency that the Bray Park Weir has been overtopped. LM noted that this was discussed at the last FMC and, if not already circulated, he would circulate copies of the graph MB showed. LM also noted that a project is currently underway to raise the level of the weir to stop overtopping as this is the intake for Tweed's potable water source.

**ACTION:** LM to circulate Bray Park Weir overtopping frequency graph from last FMC meeting.

## **C. Cudgera Creek Food Hub Proposal**

SD raised concerns from the Caldera Environment Centre about a proposed food hub development at Cudgera Creek. LM explained that the Flood Management Committee does not have a role in the DA assessment process and that the application will be assessed in accordance with council's planning controls.

## **D. Kingscliff/Chinderah Developments**

Committee members also raised concerns about numerous developments in Kingscliff and Chinderah. LM acknowledged a lot of development is happening, or in the proposal stage, however the FMC operates at a strategic level and does not have influence in individual DA processes. DR also confirmed the role of the FMC is to have input with strategic documents to assist with flood risk, such as Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans.

Committee members asked for guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the committee. LM offered the Floodplain Management Committee Terms of Reference and the NSW Floodplain Development Manual as the best sources for guidance

**ACTION:** LM to circulate the FMC Terms of Reference and NSW Floodplain Development Manual.

## **E. Floodplain Management Committee 2022 Onwards**

LM noted that, as there was a recent local council election, there will be a new FMC makeup in 2022. He encouraged all current member to nominate to continue their committee membership.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Floodplain Management Committee will be held in March/April 2022

The meeting closed at midday.

### **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:**

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS: