

AGENDA

Floodplain Risk Management Committee

Tuesday, 01 July 2025

2:00 PM

Dragon Room

Georges River Council Civic Centre



FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

ORDER OF BUSINESS

OPENING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

REQUEST TO JOIN VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

FRMCC001-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2024 (Report by Senior Assets Engineer - Stormwater)	4
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRMCC002-25 Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards Overland Flow Flood Study - Draft Flood Study Report (Report by Senior Assets Engineer - Stormwater)	10
FRMCC003-25 Grant update for Floodplain Risk Management for Hurstville, Mortdale and Peakhurst Wards (Report by Senior Assets Engineer - Stormwater)	16

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item: FRMCC001-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2024

Author: Senior Assets Engineer - Stormwater

Directorate: Assets and Infrastructure

Matter Type: Previous Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2024, be confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2024



MINUTES

Floodplain Risk Management Committee

Tuesday, 10 December 2024

2:00 PM

Dragon Room
Georges River Council Civic Centre
Hurstville

UNCONFIRMED



Present

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Christina Jamieson (Chairperson)
Mr David Grasby (Sydney Water, Senior Planner) - Online
Ms Angela Halcrow (DCCEEW), Senior Natural Resource Officer)
Mr Sadeq Zaman (DCCEEW), Floodplain Engineer) - Online
Ms Shelly Stingmore (SES, Coordinator Planning Strategic Risk Metro Zone) - Online
Mr Nicholas Sharpe (SES, Planning and Research Officer) - Online
Ms Feiya He (Canterbury Bankstown Council, Catchment Management Planner) - Online
Mr Aaron Biffin (Stormwater and Floodplain Engineer, Bayside Council) - Online
Mr Andrew Latta (GRC, Director Assets and Infrastructure)
Ms Hayley Barnes (GRC, Manager Strategic Placemaking)
Ms Catherine McMahon (GRC, Manager Strategic Planning) - Online
Mr Pulak Saha (GRC, Senior Assets Engineer - Stormwater)
Mr Rabi Pokharel (GRC, Stormwater Assets Officer)
Mr Firoz Ahmed (GRC, Senior Development Engineer) - Online

Not Present

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP –

Mr Erin Sellers (Community Representative)
Mr Peter Cinque (SES, Senior Manager Emergency Risk Management)
Ms Priyani Jayaweera (GRC, Principal Development Engineer)
Mr Hooman Khakzad (Canterbury Bankstown Council, Team Leader Asset Planning-Stormwater)

NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Seenithamby Paramanandarajah (GRC, Asset Coordinator) - Online
Mr Hans Kluadass (Manager City Operational Services)
Ms Carine Elias (Manager Development and Building) - Online
Mr Isac Kim Consultant KBR
Mr Josh Edgerton Consultant KBR

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF

Ms Nickie Paras (Executive Services Officer)
Ms Rachelle McGrath (Executive Assistant to Director Assets and Infrastructure – Minutes)
Ms Katerina Popovska (PA to Manager Strategic Placemaking)
Mr Chris Stojanovski (IMT Services – Technical)

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Quorum for this meeting requires three voting members to be present.

OPENING

The Chair, Councillor Jamieson, opened the meeting at 2.05pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair, Councillor Jamieson acknowledged the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

VOTING MEMBERS

Voting members of the Committee will comprise of the following:

- One nominated Councillor to act as Chairperson, or their alternative
- One nominated NSW State Emergency Services Representative – Shelly Stingmore, Nicholas Sharpe (only 1 can vote)
- One nominated Community Representative – Erin Sellers
- One nominated Representative Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – Angela Halcrow, Sadeq Zaman (only 1 can vote)
- One nominated member per neighbouring Council (voting is only applicable in relation to matters impacting their Council) – will be advised on the day

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

I have an apology from Mr Erin Sellers (Community Representative).

MOTION: Member Angela Halcrow - DCCEEW, Senior Natural Resource Officer, Member Shelly Stingmore - SES, Coordinator Planning Strategic Risk Metro Zone

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Representative SES, Representative DCCEEW, Representative Canterbury Bankstown, Representative Bayside

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NOTICE OF RECORDING OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members are reminded that this meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes only.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

The order of business is as shown in the agenda which has been made available.

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

Mobile phones must be turned to silent during the meeting.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Jamieson disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in all items **FRMCC007-24 to FRMCC009-24**, for the reason that she lives in the Mortdale area. Councillor Jamieson will remain in the meeting and take part in the considerations on these items.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

FRMCC007-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting held on 1 August 2024
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Sharp - SES Planning and Research Officer, Member Zaman - DCCEEW Floodplain Engineer

That the Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting held on 1 August 2024, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Representative SES, Representative DCCEEW, Representative Canterbury Bankstown, Representative Bayside

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRMCC008-24 Update on Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards Overland Flow Flood Study
(Report by Senior Assets Engineer - Stormwater)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Zaman - DCCEEW Floodplain Engineer, Member Sharp - SES Planning and Research Officer

(a) That the Floodplain Risk Management Committee receive and note the verbal presentation from Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd on the progress of the Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Ward Flood Study.

(b) That the Floodplain Risk Management Committee receive and note the attached revised Stage 2 Report for the Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Ward Flood Study.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Representative SES, Representative DCCEEW

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FRMCC009-24 Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for Hurstville, Mortdale and Peakhurst Wards - Grant Update
(Report by Senior Assets Engineer - Stormwater)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Sharp - SES Planning and Research Officer, Member Halcrow - DCCEEW Senior Natural Resource Officer

That the Floodplain Risk Management Committee receive and note the update on recent flood risk management grants awarded to the Georges River Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Representative SES, Representative DCCEEW

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

GENERAL BUSINESS

NIL

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 2.45pm

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item: FRMCC002-25 Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards Overland Flow Flood Study - Draft Flood Study Report

Author: Senior Assets Engineer - Stormwater

Directorate: Assets and Infrastructure

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That the Floodplain Risk Management Committee receive and note the verbal presentation from Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR) on the progress of the Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Ward Overland Flow Flood Study.
- (b) That the Floodplain Risk Management Committee (The Committee) receive and note the attached Draft Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Ward Overland Flow Flood Study.
- (c) That the Committee provide recommendation to Council to undertake community consultation for the purpose of gathering community feedback on the attached Draft Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Ward Overland Flow Flood Study.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Under the NSW State Government's Flood Prone Land Policy, all local councils are required to undertake a periodic review of Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies. Georges River Council (GRC), with financial and technical support from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, are developing the Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards Overland Flow Flood Study.
2. Council engaged KBR, a consultant specialising in floodplain management and flood studies to deliver this work.
3. The Committee last met in December 2024. Since that time, KBR and key subject matter experts including Council Engineers have been working to complete the Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Ward Overland Flow Flood Study (Draft Study). Although originally due in February 2025, the report was delayed due to the release of updated Australian Rainfall and Runoff guidelines (ARR V4.2). The availability of new data required re-simulation of the design flood model for full range of flood events.
4. ARR V4.2 is a national guideline, utilised by all NSW Councils, used for the estimation of design flood characteristics in Australia. Design floods are defined based on their probability of occurrence, typically expressed as a flood with a specific Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP). In line with the ARR V 4.2 guidelines, design events are essential for evaluating the frequency and severity of flooding and can be used to inform flood management and mitigation strategies. The combined hydrologic and hydraulic model developed as part of the calibration process has been relied upon for the simulation of the design events. Design event modelling for the purpose of this Study been undertaken for the 20%, 10%, 5%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, and 0.2% AEP events as well as the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) event.
5. The design flood event simulation has been completed including climate change and sensitivity assessment to other parameters such as hydraulic roughness, structural blockage and rainfall losses.

6. The flood tagging derived from this Study has been completed based on the 1% AEP Flood considering climate change and PMF event. The methodology adopted in deriving the Flood Planning Area and subsequent lot tagging has been included within this stage of the Study. A full day site inspection was carried out on 28th of March 2025 to ground truth the flood tagging data. The inspection was attended by Council staff, DCCEEW and KBR personnel. At this inspection flood tagging data was reviewed against the modelled results, site topography, drainage infrastructure, overland flow path, sag point in the road. This supported in further refinement of the tagging database.
7. Analysis of flood hotspots, stormwater infrastructure capacity assessment, impact of flooding on key roads is also included in the Draft Study. This will inform a future Floodplain Risk Management Study which looks at different strategies to reduce the flood risk, including key capital works.
8. The next step for this Study is community consultation. Detailed community consultation information including methodology is included in the community consultation section of this report.

BACKGROUND

9. The NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy makes Council responsible for managing flood-prone lands in its area. Under this policy, Council must develop Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans to manage flood risks. The main aim is to lessen flooding's impact on property owners and occupants. The Draft Study forms part of the NSW Floodplain Management Process. Figure 1 shows the Flood Risk Management Process.

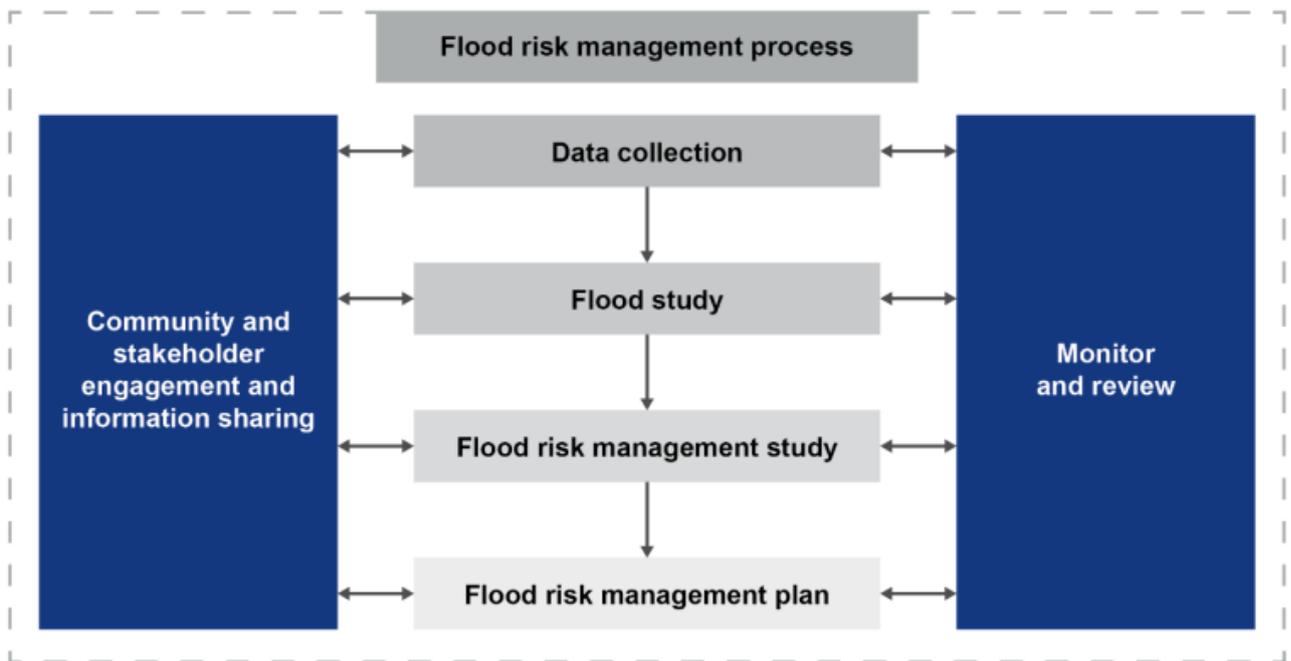


Figure 1: Flood risk management process

10. In September 2023, Georges River Council engaged KBR to undertake the Flood Study for the Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Ward Flood Study in accordance with the NSW Government's Flood Risk Management Manual.
11. The Study is being delivered with both financial and technical support from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water (DCCEEW) and is being undertaken in accordance with the principles of the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy and the Australian Rainfall and Runoff (ARR) 2019 guidelines, inclusive of the recently published Version 4.2 climate change update (2024).

12. The Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards have undergone several floodplain management studies over the past 20 years by the former Kogarah City Council. These, along with past flood events, confirm the area's susceptibility to overland and riverine flooding from the Georges River. However, the earlier studies did not cover the whole former Kogarah LGA and are outdated under current rainfall data and flood modelling guidelines.
13. This Study aims to define the nature of flooding across the whole study area to provide an improved understanding of flood behaviour and associated flood risk under historical and existing floodplain conditions, while addressing possible future variations in flood behaviour due to climate change. An improved understanding of flood behaviour then enables effective management of flood risk in the study area.
14. The following table gives a breakdown of each stage of the Study, including the associated deliverables and the status of them.

FRMCC002-25

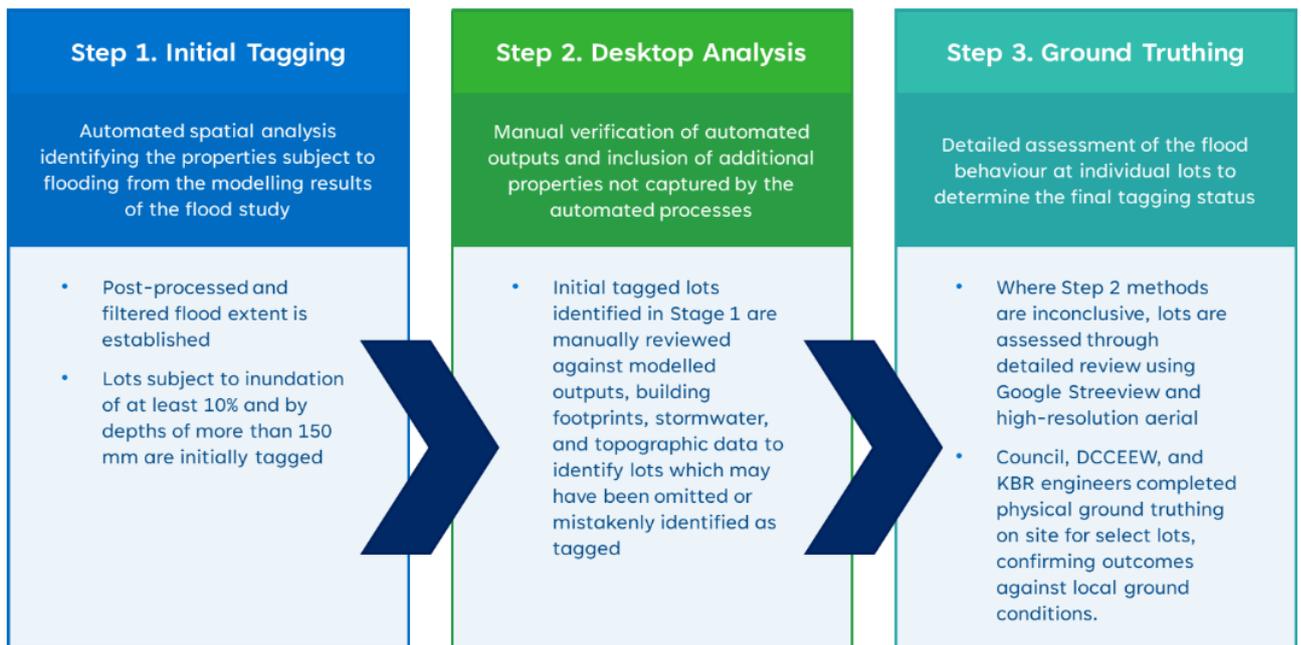
Stage	Description	Deliverables	Status
1	Data Collection and Community Consultation	Data provision and review, site inspection, and Stage 1 of Community Consultation	Completed
2	Hydrological and Hydraulic Model Development and Validation	Development and validation of hydrologic/hydraulic model(s), preparation of draft Flood Study Report (Hydraulic and Hydrologic Model Development and Validation section)	Completed
3	Design event modelling, model simulations and mapping	Simulation of design events, preparation of draft Flood Study Report (Design Event Modelling section)	Completed
4	Draft Flood Study Report	Draft Flood Study Report	Completed
4.1	Community Consultation	Community Consultation	Expected Aug to mid Sep 2025
5	Final Flood Study Report	Final Flood Study Report	Expected in Oct 2025
6	Handover of relevant materials	Handover of relevant materials	Expected in Dec 2025

Current Updates:

15. Since the last meeting in December 2024, KBR undertook the re-simulation of design event modelling, sensitivity analyses, mapping, and floodplain management activities based on Australian Rainfall and Runoff (ARR) 2019 guidelines Version 4.2. This required amendment to the project scope and additional time to complete the Draft Study.
16. KBR in consultation with the technical working group, consisting of staff from GRC, the department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and water (DCCEE) and SES, has identified flood control lots in 1% AEP Flood and PMF Event via a rigorous process of flood tagging.

17. Flood tagging is a way to ensure new developments are adequately protected and do not make flooding worse for people and property. It is noted that the development-related planning controls are applicable for new developments or addition/alterations to an existing building. The intent of flood control lot tagging is not to sterilise the developable land.
18. Flood related development controls can be found in Georges River Development Control Plan (DCP). It is noted that the PMF related development controls are only applicable for critical and sensitive facilities such as childcare, hospital, seniors housing etc.
19. A comprehensive three-step process was employed to determine the final flood control lots tagged. The process involves a combination of GIS processing, desktop review, and physical ground truthing. A full day site inspection was completed to validate the flood tagging database.

Flood Control Lot Tagging Process is shown in the Figure below:



20. The outcome of the flood control lot tagging process is presented in the table below:

Scenario	# of Existing Tagged Lots	Current Study - # of Flood Tagged Lots		
		Step 1 (initial tagging)	Step 2 (Desktop Analysis)	Step 3 (Ground Truthing)
1% AEP Event (including future climate change)	3,577	1,971	2,889	<u>2,931</u>
PMF Event	4,422	4,683	4,928	<u>4,554</u>

21. Current Draft Study has identified 2,931 properties are in risk of 1% AEP Flooding and 4,554 properties are in risk of PMF Flooding.

22. It should be noted that the existing number of Flood Tagged Lots does not cover the entire Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards and does not provide a like for like assessment. The existing tagging numbers have been included only for the sake of comparison.
23. A reduction in Flood Tagged Lots in 1% AEP Flood Event has generally occurred due to refined modelling methodologies and improved topographic and drainage information for the areas of overlap between the previous and new tagging.

Community Consultation

24. Community consultation is expected to occur between 30 July 2025 and 10 September 2025.
25. All affected property owners will be notified via mail to inform that the draft Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards Flood Study has identified the property as potentially flood affected lot.
26. Flood Study Report and maps will be made available via following platforms:
 - Your Say Webpage
 - Hardcopies in the libraries
27. Property owners/residents can:
 - Complete an online submission form (your say webpage)
 - book an appointment to speak to the project manager and the consultant during the consultation period.
 - Email staff: mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au
 - Write to staff via: PO Box 205, Hurstville BC NSW 1481
 - View the flood maps online via Your Say
28. Following the community consultation and final endorsement from Council for this Study, Council officers plan to undertake the Floodplain Risk Management Plan, which will use the Flood Study as the foundations for developing flood risk mitigation options. It is noted that this is subject to the availability of funding, successful grant application and internal resources to manage the study.

High Level Flood Mitigation Option Assessment for Moore Reserve Catchment

29. Between 2020 and 2025, Council received numerous complaints from the community regarding flooding and property damage in Moore Reserve Catchment.
30. In 2025, Council officers received approval from the grant body to undertake High Level Flood Mitigation Option Assessment for Moore Reserve Catchment. This will be completed by the current consultant by Dec 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

31. Council has allocated the budget to complete the current stages of the Flood Study in the 2024/25 financial year, with budget to finalise the Study in the 25/26 financial year.
32. It is noted that cost of the project has increased due to the following variations:
 - Updates to flood modelling to include the latest Australian Rainfall & Runoff (ARR) 4.2 guidance - \$17,184
 - Preliminary flood risk mitigation options for Moore Reserve Catchment - \$35,402
33. The Flood Study is partially grant funded by the DCCEEW (2:1) the total cost of the Study to date is \$151,537.41.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

34. Stage 1 of community consultation was undertaken between 18 January 2024 and 7 March 2024. Council has sent approximately 9,500 letters to all landowners, residents and business within the study area to gather relevant historical flood information.
35. Stage 2 of community consultation will be exhibition of the Draft Study, including all associated mapping of flood affected properties. This is expected to commence on 30th of July subject to Council approval.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/197431

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 Draft Flood Study Report for Community Consultation - Rev F - *published in separate document* (Confidential)

Item: FRMCC003-25 Grant update for Floodplain Risk Management for Hurstville, Mortdale and Peakhurst Wards

Author: Senior Assets Engineer - Stormwater

Directorate: Assets and Infrastructure

Matter Type: Committee Reports

FRMCC003-25

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Floodplain Risk Management Committee receive and note the update on flood risk management grants for Hurstville, Mortdale and Peakhurst Wards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In 2024, Council received two flood risk management grants to carry out the following projects:

Type of Study	Name	Grant Program	Status
Feasibility Study	Detailed feasibility study of a flood risk mitigation option at Gloucester Road, Stoney Creek Road, and Morgan Street	NSW Flood Recovery and Resilience Grant	Commencing In July 2025
Floodplain Risk management Study	Review of the floodplain risk management study and plan for Hurstville, Mortdale and Peakhurst wards	NSW Floodplain Management Program	Withdrawn

2. This report outlines next steps and reprioritisation of work as related to each Study.

BACKGROUND

3. The NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy makes Council responsible for managing flood-prone lands in its area. Under this policy, Council must develop Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans to manage flood risks. The main aim is to lessen flooding's impact on property owners and occupants. Flood Risk Management Process is attached to this report. For a flood mitigation option over \$500,000 a feasibility study and design/investigation is required.

The Detailed Feasibility Study - Gloucester Road, Stoney Creek Road and Morgan Street – Flood Mitigation Option

4. In the last 5 years, Community has highlighted the flooding problem for the area adjacent to Gloucester Road, Stoney Creek Road and Morgan Street.
5. This project is continuation of the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for Hurstville, Mortdale and Peakhurst Wards in 2023. As per the Floodplain Risk Management Process, a detailed feasibility study of flood risk mitigation options is required prior implementation.
6. It aims to complete a detailed feasibility study of the floodplain risk mitigation option and identify a refined mitigation option for the study area (attached) and benefit and cost assessment.

Council's staff are currently finalising the tender assessment and a consultant will be commencing the work in July 2025. It is expected to be completed by June 2026.

Review of the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for Hurstville, Mortdale and Peakhurst Wards

7. As reported in December 2024 meeting, Council officers sought grant funding to review the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for Hurstville, Mortdale and Peakhurst Wards. The main reason was to update the model to the latest guidelines to further refine the floodplain risk mitigation options, with a particular lens on constructability.
8. However, Council officers are already progressing a Detailed Feasibility Study For Gloucester Road, Stoney Creek Road, and Morgan Street—areas located within the Hurstville Ward. This would result in duplicated efforts, including data collection, survey work, and flood modelling.
9. In addition to above, following an operational review, Council's Strategic Placemaking Team, responsible for management of Flood Studies, Asset Management, Stormwater Investigations and Council infrastructure planning advice has re-prioritised the floodplain risk management activities and grant funded studies and withdrawn this application to manage available resources.
10. Priority will be given to:
 - Delivery of the feasibility study of flood mitigation options for Gloucester, Stoney Creek Road and Morgan Street. This option was recommended in the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for Hurstville, Mortdale And Peakhurst Wards (2023).
 - Undertake comprehensive Community Consultation for Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards Overland Flow Flood Study.
 - Prepare a grant application and manage the delivery of a detailed Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards. This is the next step after the completion of current Flood Study for Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay Wards. It is noted that the grant application will open in March/April 2026. This project is expected to commence in 2027.
 - Stormwater capital works programming to improve stormwater drainage network and reduce nuisance flooding. This was requested by the community during the consultation of the previous flood risk management study.
 - Asset Management

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The detailed feasibility study - Gloucester Road, Stoney Creek Road and Morgan Street – flood mitigation option total project cost is \$180,000. The funding ratio for this project is 3 (DCCEEW) :1 (Council). Council officer will request this amount in FY25/26 Budget.
12. The floodplain risk management study and plan for Hurstville, Mortdale and Peakhurst wards – Withdrawn, no implications on FY25/26 budget. The original grant amount as reported to the December 2024 FRMC was \$200,001.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

13. Community consultation and stakeholder engagement will be undertaken via the following channels:
 - Stage one will be to notify residents via a letter drop. The purpose is to notify that an investigation is taking place.

- Once drafts are prepared, consultation will be done as per Council Community Engagement Policy.

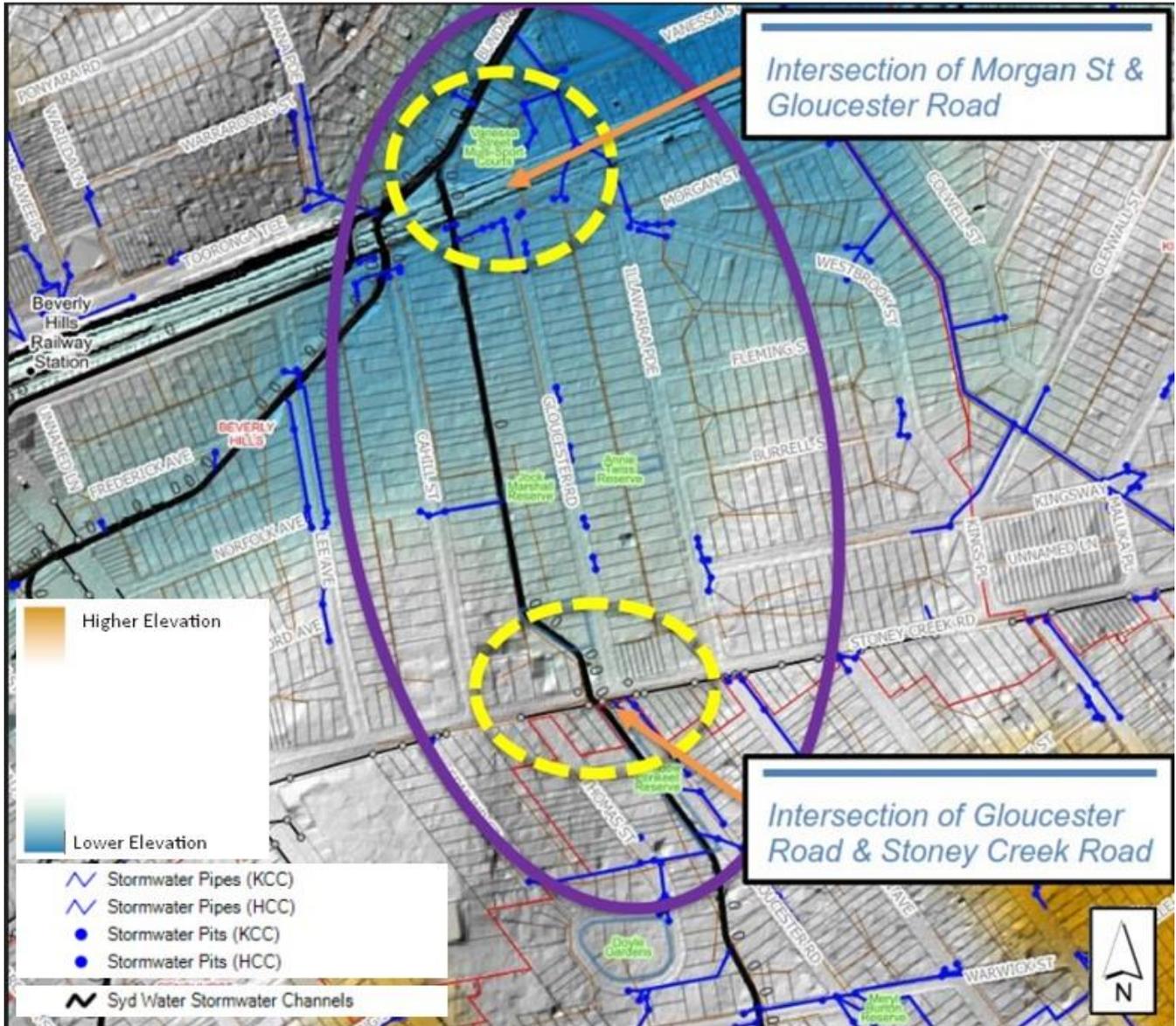
FILE REFERENCE

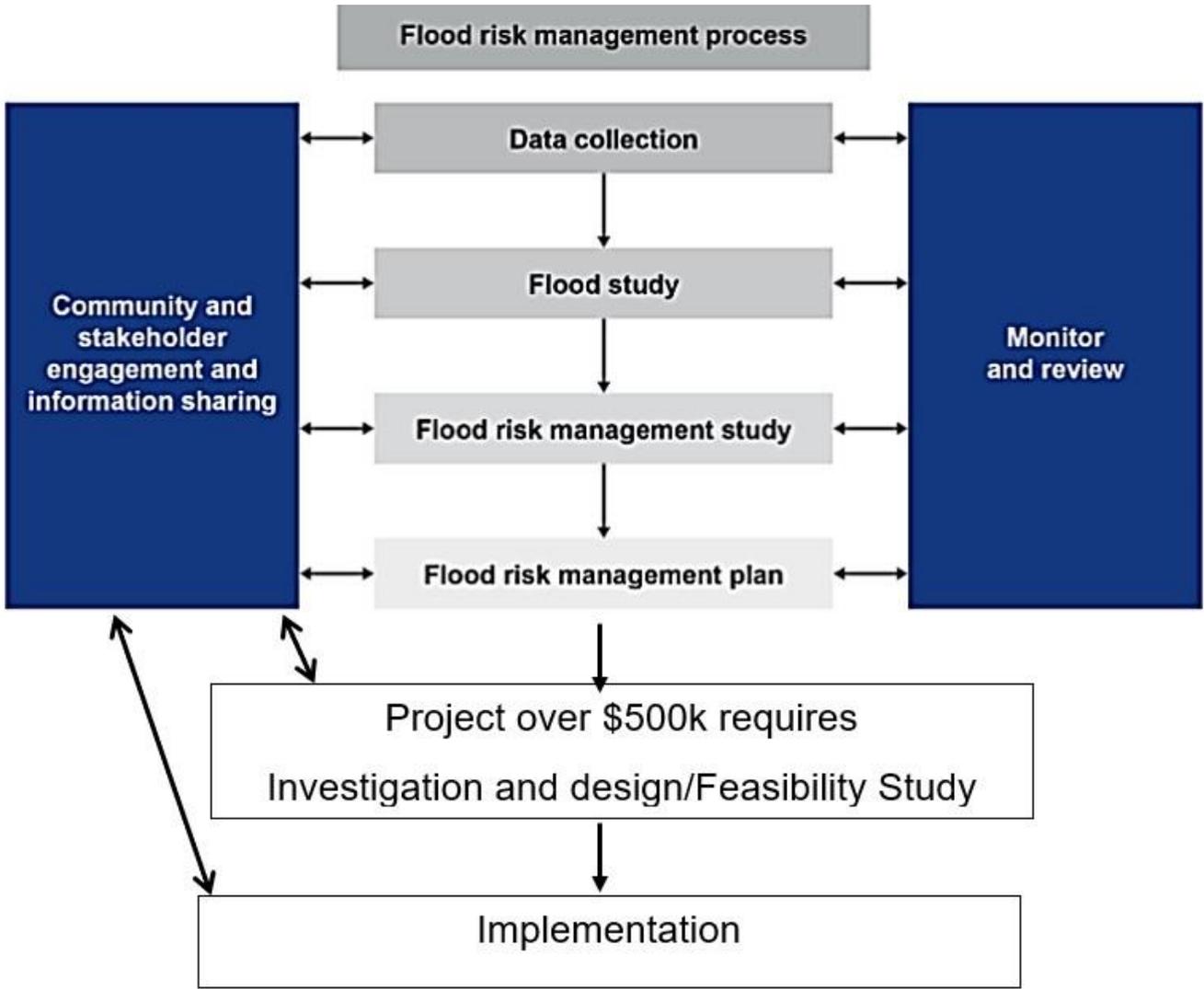
D25/198349

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1  Study Area Map - Feasibility Study for Gloucester Road, Stoney Creek Road and Morgan Street

Attachment [↓](#)2  Floodplain Risk Management Process





CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (CLOSED MEETING)

Council's Code of Meeting Practice allows members of the public present to indicate whether they wish to make representations to the meeting, before it is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting dealing with any or all of the matters listed should or should not be considered in closed session.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the following matters be considered in closed Meeting at which the press and public are excluded.

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) of the Act, the reports and correspondence relating to these matters be withheld from the press and public.