

PRESENT:

John Hough
Alan MacIntyre
David Felsch
Garry Fajks (SES)
Kevin Sherwood (SES)
Mohammed Hanif (OEH)
Toong Chin (OEH)
Matt Rogers
Gordon Cameron
Tim Molloy
Dan Croft

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 1:10 pm with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed those in attendance.

02 APOLOGIES

Consensus:

That the apologies received from Steve Hart, Kate Browning, Patrick McEntee and Graeme Sayer accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Consensus:

That the Minutes of the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA Floodplain Sub-Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2011 be accepted subject to correction of the spelling of John Hough.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 HASTINGS RIVER FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY

Matt Rogers noted that Graeme Sayer had expressed concern with the draft DCP provisions in the study. John Hough also expressed his concerns with potential DCP provisions and the lack of clarity for provisions concerning the replacement of houses in the floodway that may be burnt down. Matt Rogers advised that specific policies would need to be developed as part of the DCP preparation. Gordon Cameron confirmed that a workshop would be held with the committee to formulate the DCP.

Gordon Cameron gave a summary of the report and outlined the major issues raised in submissions.

Matt Rogers noted that there were some concerns raised by Committee members concerning the report being finalised by the Administrator. However, Council business needs to continue under the Administrator who has the full power of the Council until elections in September. Alan MacIntyre supported reporting of the Management Study report to Council now.

Garry Fajks noted that in relation to property values being impacted by flooding that University studies have shown that while property values may decline after a major flood, values will increase overtime to similar pre flood values.

David Felsch raised his concern that the initial advice was that the meeting would consider the results of the exhibition and that now there was a recommendation to adopt the study. Matt Rogers confirmed that there was always an expectation that the following exhibition there would be a report to Council recommending adoption subject to any issues arising from the exhibition.

David Felsch asked if there were to be any changes to the study. Matt Rogers confirmed that there were no proposed changes as the exhibition did not raise any new issues other than the wall on Hastings River Drive that impacted part of the identified flood way. This matter will be subject to closer investigation when reviewing specific provisions for this locality.

John Hough asked what tolerance was allowed in the study. Matt Rogers advised that the study included work to the highest standard based on well known practice by experts in the field using great care and due diligence with the need for some practical application of best practice.

David Felsch pointed out that a large percentage of the Oaks Crescent residents including many long term residents had made submissions and asked if there could be an opportunity for residents to be given further consultation to ensure they fully understood the study. Matt Rogers advised an adequate opportunity for residents to be informed of the study including at the information session was provided. Also at the public information session Chris Thomas provided considerable time explaining the study to residents of Oaks Crescent. There would also be further opportunity for resident involvement with the preparation of the Management Plan and DCP provisions. David Felsch acknowledged that the public information session was well presented.

David Felsch raised concerns that the evacuation plan for Oaks Crescent was not included in the report. Matt Rogers confirmed that detailed evacuation plans need to be prepared by the SES. Kevin Sherwood questioned David Felsch on the evacuation plan. David explained that the plan had been prepared to include flood wardens to assist the SES. Alan MacIntyre stated that he was impressed by the process that the study had been through and congratulated David Felsch and the residents of Oaks Crescent for their involvement and noted the accuracy of the flood model will improve overtime with the provision of additional data.

Consensus:

Consensus was not reached on the recommendations in the report.

David Felsch disagreed with the recommendation on the basis of previously advised

concerns regarding the accuracy of the flood model.

The remainder to members present agreed, that it be recommended to Council:

1. That the Final Draft Hastings River Floodplain Risk Management Study be adopted.
2. That Council proceed with the preparation of a Floodplain Management Plan and Flood Development Control Plan on the basis of the outcomes from the Hastings River Floodplain Risk Management Study.

06 SETTLEMENT POINT- NORTH SHORE BRIDGE APPROVAL

Tim Molloy outlined history of proposal including two applications. One under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the Bridge and a Development application under part 4 of the Act for the bridge approaches and levee that involved filling of wetlands.

Alan MacIntyre outlined concerns with the impact on wetlands and the need for any approval to take account of current day approval requirements.

Consensus:

That it be a recommendation to Council that the consent for Development Application 1989/10 for Filling of Wetlands be surrendered to the extent of the works not already undertaken.

07 GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no General Business items.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 2.00pm.