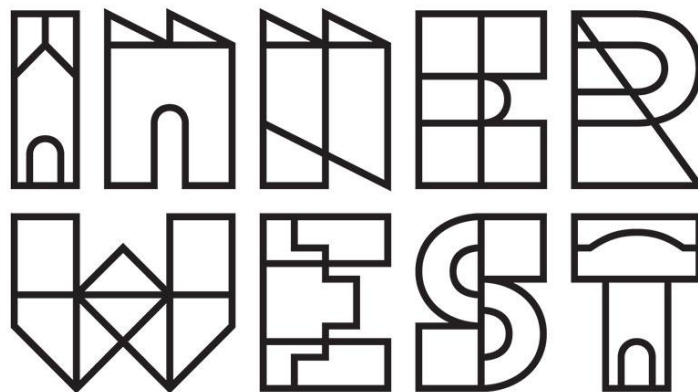


AGENDA



FLOOD MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 27 JULY 2023

1:00 PM

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Disclosures of Interest**
- 3 Confirmation of Minutes**
 - Minutes of 30 August 2022 Flood Management Advisory Committee **3**
- 4 Items for the Committee**
 - ITEM**
 - FMAC0727(1) Dobroyd Canal and Hawthorne Canal Flood Risk Management Study & Plan
Item 1 – Proposed Endorsement
 - FMAC0727(1) Alexandra Canal Flood Risk Management Study & Plan and Johnsons
Item 2 Creek and Whites Creek Flood Risk Management Study & Plan
– Review of initial mitigation proposals
 - FMAC0727(1) Review of Committee Terms of Reference
Item 3
- 5 General Business**
- 6 Close of Meeting**

Minutes of Meeting - 30 August 2022

Meeting commenced at 2.05PM

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country by Clr Mat Howard

I acknowledge that we are meeting on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and pay respects to their elders past and present and I acknowledge any elders that are here with us today. I do think it's important that as we embark on this meeting today to acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded both over land and water and to acknowledge the custodianship for millennia over the lands and waters that we live on and amongst.

2. Present

Voting Members

Chair	Clr Mat Howard
Councillor	Clr Marghanita Da Cruz
State Emergency Service	Alexander Bailey
State Emergency Service	Robert Baker
Community Representative	Lois Gray
Community Representative	Shad Wall

Non-voting Technical Advisory Members

Inner West Council	James Ogg
Inner West Council	Rafaah Mian
Inner West Council	David Paton
State Emergency Service	Liam Hogan
State Emergency Service	Klaus Neuscheler
State Emergency Service	Deborah Kearns
City of Sydney	Stuart McTaggart

3. Apologies

Community Representative	Tim Harnett
Community Representative	Rhonda Kruger
Sydney Water	David Grasby
Inner West Council	Joe Di Cesare
Inner West Council	Michael Gallardo
Inner West Council	Manod Wickramasinghe
State Emergency Service	Peter Kaye

Motion (acceptance of apologies): (Clr Marghanita/Lois)

Motion carried unanimously

4. Terms of Reference

The Committee is advisory in nature and any recommendations are not binding on Council. The Committee currently has nine voting members of which six voting members were present, satisfying a quorum of 50% for the meeting.

5. Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Mat Howard disclosed that he currently works in the office of Jo Haylen the member for Summer Hill. Councillor Howards capacity includes often engaging with Sydney Water on issues pertaining to state related matters. This does not impact Councillor Howards fulfilment of responsibilities as a voting member of the Flood Advisory Management Committee or Chair, however wanted the issue to be noted.

Motion: (Clr Marghanita/Lois)

Motion carried unanimously

6. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting held 28 March 2019 were accepted as correct.

Committee Recommendation:

THAT the minutes of the previous Flood Management Advisory Committee meeting be noted and accepted.

Motion: (Lois Gray/Robert)

Motion Carried Unanimously

7. Staff Reports

FMACC0822(1) - Item 1 - Inner West Council Flood Response

James Ogg provided the committee with a flooding report that Councils General Manager Peter Gainsford had requested for James to prepare, given the substantial volume of rain and flooding that has occurred this year. Points discussed from this report include;

This year is approaching one of the wettest years on record, in the City of Sydney since record keeping began. The current year on record is 1962, with just over 2000mm of rain. To date when this report was written, Sydney had experienced just over 1700mm of rain, however since then we have had an additional 100mm of rain since.

The Telegraph had an article advising that Sydney is currently 200mm away from the wettest year on record. This rainfall is twice the size of what was previously experienced in 2017, 2018, 2019 and comparable with flooding years of known flooding in 1988 and 1990. The two worst days this year were probably the 23rd of February and the 8th of March 2022, with smaller rainfalls happening in April and July.

The flooding that Inner West received as a whole is flash flooding, which is overland flooding that comes from higher catchments through the local valleys, the exception being Marrickville which sits on a former swamp land and is quite low lying compared to the creek, therefore water will pond in there much more prolonged and relies on pumping stations that are owned and operated by Sydney Water to drain the majority of the flows in there.

The report notes that the SES is the lead agency in responding to flood matters. Council supports them in provision of providing barricades, road closures and sandbags were provided for the last storm events. Council undertakes proactive drain cleaning in the days leading up to storms and also have a list of hot spots that the maintenance crew tend to throughout the year. Council is also aware of vital locations throughout the drainage network

in the LGA, hence Councils Civil Works team were involved in the removal of debris, tree branch removal as well as attending out of hours call outs.

Councils long term flood management plan includes, completing flood studies for all the Inner West/Council area. There is an area of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill that remains and does not have a modelled flood study, however the remainder of the Council areas are modelled, with Flood Risk Management Plans now available for 80% of the LGA.

In addition, there are substantial costs associated with the studies and plans, however Council is slowly developing an implementation program that is tied with areas that require stormwater renewal works or in areas of existing developments. Currently, this has been Council's prioritisation, however Lords Street Drainage is an example outside of the priority method. Lord Street drainage upgrade is currently under design and being finalised this year for delivery in Newtown. In the following years there will be additional lower cost improvements that Council can begin implementing, that will be put into Council's stormwater capital works program moving forward.

A lot of higher costing mitigation methods are shared with Sydney Water and Council have been liaising with them in regard to their next Capital Works plans. These plans can be further discussed in the next flood access management meeting, upon David Graysby's return to Sydney Water. However, currently Council have assigned contributions within the draft program for Whites Creek and areas of Haberfield as well as some minor considerations in Marrickville.

Comments and Questions Arising

- Robert Baker provided additional feedback/ an overview of the SES activity in regard to the flood response in the LGA over the year from the SES. Rob used a graph to demonstrate the statistics of job call outs to the SES from the period of the 1st of January 2022 to the 28th of August 2022. The SES had a total of 600 storm jobs, there were 150 of flood miscellaneous jobs including overland flooding and flood threats, flood assistance included the request of sandbags, sand bagging and pumping if necessary. The SES had 120 requests for sandbags, equating to approximately 1000 sandbags distributed to residents. Additionally, the SES had set up collection points at Marrickville, Leichardt and Ashfield whereby residents could come and collect sandbags, however if residents were unable the SES would deliver and setup the sandbags for the resident.
- James Ogg thanked the communications team within Council who used the channels of social media to provide flooding advice and tools to the LGA community.
- Robert Baker additionally informed the committee that the SES peak times for Ashfield and Leichardt were in January, February and March. March and July were the biggest months with 100 plus job request in March. Half of the March requests included flood threats water damage and tree damage. The Marrickville area had a similar pattern with February, March and July being the high request months. The graphs reinforce that higher activity levels will be present in the wetter months. With La Nina and the Dipole at the Indian Ocean the SES are anticipating a wet spring.
- Alexander Bailey commented that the numbers displayed in the graphs are the numbers received in the SES online calling system through the SES state headquarters beacon system, hence a lot of these requests don't require teams to be going out as the duty officers talk to the resident, prior to sending a team out and encourage the resident to find a solution independently. Therefore, the SES numbers aren't an actual record of the number of residents the SES assisted during any event.

- Alexander Bailey also commented that the SES had been working closely with Council since the amalgamation of Marrickville, Leichardt and Ashfield.
- Councillor Howard gave his heartfelt and sincere thanks and praise to the SES volunteers for everything that they have done, putting their lives on hold and on the line to serve the community. Cllr Howard advised the SES volunteers to provide feedback at anytime should they require any additional assistance, however noted that the SES had their contacts within Council, relationships were strong and that everyone was headed in the right direction.
- Councillor Da Cruz commented that the committee really appreciated having the SES available in a time of crisis. The question was also put to the SES members if there was anything more that Council could do to further prepare the community for these flooding events, for example community events.
- In response to Councillor Da Cruz, Liam Hogan commented that the SES were involved in the recent Edge Festival, held at Sydenham. There was a truck present with information for the community in the form of flyers, volunteers from Ashfield, Leichardt and Marrickville talking to people and giving them the message of readiness.
- Liam Hogan further commented that currently the SES has a good relationship with Council and that traffic barriers and traffic response worked extremely well in the most recent event. During flood events/water over the road events especially at the lower end of the Cooks River, the traffic barriers stopped people from driving through, saving lives.

Action: Councillor Howard asked James Ogg to make an action note, for the events team to be in contact with the SES for flooding/storm events.

- Alexander Bailey further commented that both units, Councils events team and the SES have a community response element to them. These groups both go out into the community and is now developing into a community capability group in order to produce community resilience. Additionally, the floods that occurred on the north coast, demonstrated that the community can stand up when required. Therefore, advanced discussions with the community and pre-preparing them has a lot of advantages, however the disadvantage is that Council is in a highly urbanised area and it is becoming a lot more difficult in getting people to see the problem.
- James Ogg commented that he and Alexander have had many discussions when the Dobroyd Canal and Hawthorne Canal Flood Risk Management Plan were being exhibited in late 2019. Public events were stopped in 2020 due to obvious reasons, hence the flood studies didn't go any further. James further advised, that both units were keen to be doing more community engagement, a key item that come from all the flood risk management plans that Council has done to date. All the flood risk management plans note that Council can't remove all flooding.

Question: Councillor Da Cruz asked if flooding was caused just by increased rainfall or if Council had an issue with an increase of hard surfaces and more runoff and weather Council was cleaning the drains in Marrickville from the army land to the canal and if Council were stopping people from throwing rubbish around the area.

Answer: James Ogg provided comment that there is still uncertainty in terms of the additional impacts of climate change and what weather patterns will do to increase flooding as there are a number of factors that can relate to it. Currently the guidance is that flood modelling needs to be undertaken at 10% and 20% to test the changes.

Studies indicate that the rainfall increases cause flash flooding with quick peak and drop. Additionally, the two factors that create runoff is the permeability of the ground and how intense the rain is coming on to it. In situations where the ground is saturated, the soft grounds can be just as bad as hard surface in terms of direct runoff and what we are seeing more of this year. Additionally, in the last few years there has been updates to the Australian Rainfall and Runoff Guidelines, previous to this was from 1984, hence an addition of 20 years of rainfall data helps create patterns a lot more accurately.

- Alexander Bailey made comment that he agreed with James advice, when soil is less permeable, there is an increase/additional runoff. Ashfield and Leichardt will be doing community awareness, involving new members and giving as much information to the public, more specifically around the creeks and canals. More specifically, taking Hawthorne Canal as an example the complexity of what concur when waterways come together. There is saturated soil and then high water levels coming down the canal and they meet a king tide at the mouth of the canal. During storm season there is a storm surge which produces a large volume of water, pushing it towards the mouth of the canal and across the City Link, hence trying to point out to the public that it is a lot more complex then water running off a hill or through their property.
- Klaus Neuscheler made comment that he undertook some studies in the area over the last 15 years, hence the rainfall pattern has changed. The LGA has experienced more rainfall in shorter periods almost several times a year. Rain events have also increased in comparison to the past where we may have experienced one major stormwater event per year. Reasons for this could be due to ocean temperatures rising, therefore the amount of water out of the ocean increases due to the higher temperatures and therefore the evaporation rate goes up. Klaus also commented that due to this information he expects to see a lot more rain over the next ten years.

Question: *Lois Gray asked/raised concerns regarding what Alexander had explained, regarding the water at the creek mouth meeting the water in the Harbour. Issue being the rain that we have had, did any of that coincide with the extremely high tides and if it didn't, is the modelling completed for Hawthorne Canal adequate for what we would be experiencing in future rainfall events.*

Response: *James Ogg provided a response by stating that there was some interaction with high tides, particularly in the march storms which affected the Carrington Rd precinct as it lies on a previous swamp area, hence it ponds a lot more and drains a lot slower into Cooks River. James further advised that he was unaware of any substantial interactions at Hawthorne Canal, whereby the tide level was causing the water to not flow through properties and directly out to the canal. Currently there is only one space where you get the two meeting, down towards the Defense force site at Canal Rd.*

- Robert Baker made comment that there were issues with high tides at Cooks River.
- Klaus Neuscheler commented that Cooks River has continuous problems with high tides in the Marrickville area. The Riverside area in Dulwich Hill has been largely fixed in normal weather. New flood gates have been installed by Council that can shut out the river at high tides, as Riverside is a bit lower than high tide levels in Cooks River. Backflow has now gone due to this installation, however Holbeach is still flooding and Carrington Rd is more complex as it gets a lot more water due to the industrial area, around both sides of Sydenham Rd, from Tempe to Sydenham Station. This area is all surfaced area and causes stormwater to flow off and ends up in the Cooks River through the central channel and backflows along Carrington Rd and hence if the stormwater can't get out it ends up pooling and causes a lot of problems as the area has high traffic flow in the morning and afternoons. Additionally, the barriers that

Council have provided have helped immensely with road blocking, however there is more to be done in terms of traffic management and warning people. The flooding and high tide situation in the Cooks River is interesting as it has three gauges and mainly via height drop. These gauges have been monitored very recently/reliably and shows when we receive rainfall in the catchment area. The Canterbury Rd gauge can show up to 1 meter more water than a normal river level at the time, hence stormwater slowly comes down passes Illawarra Rd in the Marrickville area and fizzles out in the Tempe area where another gauge is. Therefore, the high tide prevents water coming out into the river. On two occasions when we have experienced high tides, once between Christmas and March and the second time around mid-year. Unfortunately, they are the times when we experience a lot of rain, and we will need to deal with this problem for a long time.

- David Paton introduced himself as the Engineering Services Manager at Inner West Council and apologised for not being present since the beginning on the meeting. David Further commented on modelling that Council relies on for flood studies. The modelers make assumptions regarding the probability of the water level being at a certain height at the Harbor and then run a number of scenarios to see the sensitivity of the different levels and balance the probability of the two things happening at the same time. You wouldn't assume that a king tide would align with a hundred-year event, although it could happen, however that is not how the modelling is set up. Other factors also include the impact on climate change, the modelling is completed by adding the extra percentage of rainfall and they test the sensitivity of it. The point of this is that there is a 500mm freeboard applied to the modelling above the calculated flood level. By looking at all these factors we are trying to ensure that all these variabilities, fit within that free board level, even though the level may end up higher in the modelling than predicted, it should always remain under the freeboard level. The freeboard accounts for all those variabilities that might happen, for example like blockage of a pipe means the water runs somewhere where you don't expect it to.
- Alexander Bailey made comment that the weekend prior to this meeting and in preparation of the two flood days with the community, Alex went for a walk along the waterfront from the mouth of the Hawthorne Canal, back towards the Dobroyd Canal. Due to the number of works being undertaken there, all of the signs had predicted high tides, that Ashfield Council had put in 20 years ago. These signs were currently either not visible or had been removed, however there were signs that remained where he was standing, predicting what the high tides would be. However, he compared this back to a few years ago when he went to the same location with a high tide without any rainfall and was just already below the 2050 year. Alexander stated that he would be interested in having these signs reinstated so that people can get an idea of how other things are changing as well as rainfall.

Action: *Councilor Howard asked James Ogg on the feasibility of having these signs reinstated.*

- Robert Baker commented on the Cooks River community Engagement. Robert informed the group that when the king tides are predicted, the SES undertake letterbox drops on key points and in March the SES door knocked along Holbeach Ave and Old Street, along Riverside Crescent and Carrington Rd, giving the community at these locations a heads up. There was a king tide and potential rain may have made things worse than the king tide. Door knocking is a continuing program for the SES and they have also been given approval from zone and state as well. Robert also advised that the door knocking method made a massive difference at Riverside Crescent, prior to the rectification works peoples cars would become flooded and also people would loose thousands of dollars on cars even parked in the garage, however residents have been moving their cars in response to the SES letter

box dropping. The SES use this form of communication with King tides however, are unable to predict flash flooding.

- James Ogg responded to some questions including:

Question: Debris and drains, what was Council doing to ensure that the network was operating at full capacity, with specific focus on the Defense Force site, around Marrickville and more specifically around Carrington Rd

Answer: *Council have developed an internal hotspot location list. If Council were to try and get to every pit it would take two or three years to do the entire network, however currently there are 150 pits noted on this list. This list includes locations that are in critical spaces, whereby a pit were to block or the pits around were to block causing cascading issues, they are either sags in front of properties or areas of particular interest. This list isn't set it's a live working list and more attention will be given to it. Council cleaning crews tend to these locations month after month and note pits with large volumes of silt and debris. These locations are then referred for CCTV survey and cleaning of the network. Currently Council is reactive to stormwater pipe cleaning, however, have a CCTV survey program that outlines what pipes are blocked, broken or require cleaning. Damaged pipes that are operating at their total capacity either have small repairs undertaken under Council maintenance team or are placed on Councils Capital Works Program for larger works, for the next available financial year.*

In terms of the Defense Force site the project managers had the stormwater pipe network surveyed and the survey showed that the pipe was running clear. They are currently undertaking works in that space to upgrade portions of that pipe as part of their subdivision approval. Once that is completed, they are completing every part of their roadworks permit including how they could demonstrate, how they could continue to provide overland flow through the site so that it wouldn't cause flooding in O'Connor Street whilst they were under construction. There is also a gross pollutant trap at the end of those lines that will be handed back to Council at the end of construction and will be part of 18 gross pollutant traps that Council currently has on cyclic cleaning, undertaken by a contractor.

In terms of Marrickville, there has been a lot of works happening in the Carrington Rd precincts recently. Council had a meeting with Sydney Water and Sydney trains to go over what works they had undertaken to clear a lot of the channels that have become overgrown in that space. Council's understanding is that Sydney Trains should be maintaining those channels, however Council is still currently in discussion with Sydney trains regarding their understanding of this. However, they have ensured that those channels are clear and have cut back a lot of growth that was happening in that space. Sydney Water have done some desilting of the components that they have and Council has undertaken cleaning of our own pipes in the area as well.

Action: *Councillor Howard asks James to confirm with him via email if the intake pipes that had been sent to him had been completed or scheduled to be completed shortly. Councillor Howard would like to be updated regarding this as it would give confidence to the community that the work has been completed.*

- Councillor Howard commented that by working as a member for Summer Hill, he had been advocating really strongly for Sydney Water to conduct a lot of desilting work. Cllr Howard had also been working really closely with Sydney trains and the ARTC about the O'Hara and Burn Street flooding that regularly occurs. They pulled out a bunch of things from underneath the revolution building, including some construction work from 15 years ago. The work that happening there is fantastic, however the community focus will shift very quickly back to Council.

- Councilor Howard commented that around the Sydney Water maintenance schedules. Sydney Water has increased its maintenance of the clearing of the gross pollutant trap at the bottom of Carrington Rd, now being on a high rotation and are doing work on the pump at Carrington and Cary St, which is significant, and it looks like they are clearing a lot of the drains and channels that lead into the old pumping station further up on the rail lands all of which will have a significant impact.

***Action:** Councillor Howard requested that Council provide a better understanding in regard to the maintenance schedule around Carrington Rd in South Marrickville as this would give some confidence to the Community that everyone was pulling in the same direction.*

- Councilor Howard thanked the SES and everyone in the community who has been undertaking stormwater works to protect the community but also at times to educate the community about our responsibilities and how we can work together to reduce and mitigate the impacts of flooding on properties or in the community.

Committee Recommendation:

THAT the report be noted and accepted. Council to provide advice/confirmation to Councillor Howard on the requested items.

Motion: (Lois/Alex)

Motion Carried Unanimously

FMACC0822(1) Item 2 Community Engagement – Johnstons Creek and Whites Creek Flood Risk Management Plan and Alexandra Canal Flood Risk Management Plan

James Ogg provided a power point presentation outlining flooding information available to residents in the Inner West LGA, via Councils website. Some this information included how catchments are subdivided, links to existing flood studies and studies available to date and general information.

There are currently 9 primary catchments with Dobroyd Canal located to the north-west of the LGA and Hawthorn Canal located north of the LGA and both ultimately discharging to Iron Cove. Marrickville Valley is located towards the south of the LGA. Johnstons Creek sits on the eastern boundary of the LGA whilst Whites Creek is in the north-eastern region of the LGA, both draining to Rozelle Bay. Councils foreshore catchment is a combination of a dozen small micro catchments, that discharge individually to Parramatta River, Sydney Harbour and Rozelle Bay. Alexandra canal is located to the south of the LGA and we also have a small catchment called Marrickville South, which delas with a small section of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill along the Cooks River. Council currently also has two small catchments which contribute to the flooding areas in the Burwood and Canada Bay LGAs. Currently Council has 90% of the LGA covered with flood modelling, outlining flooding that is likely to happen. Currently the last key catchment that requires a flood study is Marrickville South, which drains to Cooks River.

Johnstons Creek and Whites Creek and Alexandra Canal previously had a flood model and flood studies completed in 2017, showing areas of significant concern and flooding. Within Alexandra Canal there is five target areas or hotspots, where flooding is of significance requiring mitigation strategies. Johnstons Creek and Whites Creek is focusing on the areas south of Parramatta Rd as areas north of Parramatta Rd were included in the Leichardt Flood Study.

Council has been working with Cardno a specialised consultant, for a year to revisit the flood modelling to current rainfall standards. Council is currently ready and preparing to undertake community consultations. A proposed engagement period is from the 12th of September and runs for four weeks. There will be two main avenues for community consultation including online where residents may fill out a form online or engagement sessions whereby residents can attend in person and raise questions. As the Alexandra Canal affects both residents and businesses there will be two dedicated sessions for both.

Comments and Questions Arising

James Ogg responded to questions including:

Question: Robert Baker asked when residents would have access to the studies.

Answer: The plan is currently not formed yet, however we are working with Cardno to create the plan and expect it to be completed in May of 2023. This is the initial community consultation at this stage.

- James Ogg commented that an issue in the Inner West is where an urbanized catchment is built over many of the previous creek lines and tributary areas, therefore there are now buildings that could have had water courses. The south of Parramatta Rd has a big train line causing a big weir as well. The urban nature of Inner West catchments provides a number of constraints to full mitigation

Committee Recommendation:

THAT the committee supports the commencement of community engagement for the Johnstons Creek and Whites Creek Flood Risk management plan and the Alexander Canal Flood Risk Management plan.

Motion: (Councillor Da Cruz /Robert Baker)

Motion Carried Unanimously

8. Review of Terms of Reference

James Ogg commented that the terms of reference suggests up to 8 community members and that the term of the community members was to be two terms of Council. In addition he believes the committee is currently just within these boundaries as one term was completed under administration and the other term under Council, hence the committee is now due to take expressions of interest from community members for future meetings.

Question: James Ogg asked the committee if they would like to change the number of community members to reflect either the catchments or as per Councils wards.

Question: Councillor Howard asked how many community members were currently engaged with the committee

Answer: James Ogg advised that there were currently four community members Lois and Shad who were present and Rhonda and Tim who both gave their apologies.

Question: Councillor Howard asked if Council would seek advice about the way forward with community members and what were the next steps

Answer: James Ogg responded that he was happy to seek advice internally and that he was partly seeking advice from the committee, in regard to whether the committee wanted to express interest for new community members prior to the next meeting and also determine how many community members would be suitable.

Question: Lois Gray asked and commented that she assumed if she wanted to continue on the committee that she would need to re-apply.

Answer: James Ogg responded that he believes so, however he would need to seek advice, however he believed this to be the case.

- Lois Gray commented that as she had been through the process it was good to continue with her understanding of the development of the actual flood study through to engagement, finalization and lastly the implementation.

Action: Councillor Howard commented that Council should seek advice from the governance team and to circulate this information in the committee and to also ensure that the criteria for any expressions of interest also recognizes service and level of experience.

- James Ogg advised that in regards to the non-technical advisory there is up to 12 from in the Inner West Council, however this number can be reduced due to the change in organization of Council, since the committee had been set up. The committee currently did not have non- voting advisory members from SES.
- Robert Baker commented that in accordance with the terms of reference document, SES can be invited as non- technical advisory members if they are affected by a flood study or flood management plan.
- Alexander Bailey commented that since the terms of reference had been set up, there have been changes not only to Council but within the SES as well. There are two units currently active within the LGA. The SES have formed clusters whereby Ashfield would team up with Leichardt and so forth, to provide flexibility for a cluster local commander to be present at meetings.
- Councillor Da Cruz commented that the LGA is a large area to cover and that it would be great if there was local knowledge of the various areas/catchments rather than the wards. She suggested that community members be present from each catchment or a person who represents two catchments.

Question: Councillor Da Cruz asked if the Sydney Catchment Authority was still in existence

Answer: James Ogg replied that he believed they still were however, they may have changed their name. Up until recently they had members sitting within groups such as the Parramatta River Catchment Group that the Council was part of or the Cooks River Alliance and the Sydney Coastal Councils Group.

Question: Councillor Da Cruz wanted to know if Council had technical members as part of the Parramatta River Catchment Group.

Action: James Ogg to follow up on this query. James further advised that from previous history there were representatives on this committee, including David Paton who was a technical guide. James further advised that he had also been sitting in with the technical committee for the parameter of the catchment group.

Question: *Councillor Howard asked if Council would revise the terms of reference with staff and then initiate any change from there or would it required to be endorsed by Council or the FMAC committee.*

Answer: *James Ogg replied that changes in the terms of reference needed to be endorsed by the group. An action point would be to take the advice to the next meeting, in terms of the numbers proposed and changes.*

Question: *Councillor Howard asked when the next meeting was scheduled*

Answer: *James Ogg advised that there was currently no schedule, however a frequency should be determined. James further suggested that when Council moved to the second phase of community engagement, most likely February 2023, the committee should provide feedback on the mitigation measures proposed. This would bring the next meeting to late January/early February.*

- *Lois Gray commented that meetings should be around key advisory times rather than a set frequency.*
- *James Ogg commented that if any committee members had any thoughts in terms of frequency of meetings and were not comfortable in sharing currently, they could speak to him directly or reach out at another time.*

9. General Business

No general business for discussion

Meeting closed 3:35pm