



**FLOOD MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 2025

2:00 PM

AGENDA

Item 1

1 Apologies

2 Disclosures of Interest

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of 28 May 2025 Flood Management Advisory Committee **3**

Late Items

Nil at time of printing.

4 Staff Reports

ITEM

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5 General Business

6 Close of Meeting

Minutes of the Flood Risk Management Advisory Committee Meeting – 26 February 2025

Item 1

Directorate Name	Infrastructure		
Date / Time	26 February 2025 – 3:00 PM		
Venue	Microsoft Teams		
Chairperson	Councillor Mat Howard		
Voting Attendees	Clr Mat Howard	Clr Olivia Barlow	Michael Carney (SES)
Community Representatives			
Non – Voting Technical Advisory Attendees	Ryann Midei (IWC)	David Paton (IWC)	James Ogg (IWC)
	Rafaah Georges (IWC)	Sadeq Zaman (DCCEEW)	
	Claire Wheeler (CRA)	Michael Rosenthal (Rhelm Consulting)	
Observers	Simon Myall	Tim Harnett	Jaan Ranniko
	Matthew Murphy	Bowen Hicks	Emily McGrath
	Pilar Lorenzo	Tiffanie Ong	
Apologies	David Grasby (Sydney Water)	Lachlan Broadbent	Liam Hogan

2. Acknowledgement Of Country – Clr Howard

I acknowledge that we are meeting on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora Nation and pay my respects to the elders past and present and I extend that respect and acknowledgement to any Aboriginal people who are here with us today.

3. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

That the Minutes of the Flood Risk Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 24 July 2024 be confirmed.

The minutes were confirmed by Councillor Matt Howard and seconded by Michael Carney

5. Staff Reports

5.1- FMACC0724(1) Item 1 Outstanding Actions Register

SUMMARY

The following table provides the status of outstanding actions from previous Flood Management Advisory Committee meetings.

Meeting	Item	Actions	Comments	Status
29/2/24	4.1	That the Flood Management Advisory Committee endorse the updated Terms of Reference subject to replacing Transport for NSW Roads with Transport for NSW.	The Terms of Reference were adopted by Council at its meeting on 9 April 2024	Completed
29/2/24	5.1	That the Flood Management Advisory Committee support the schedule of actions to be taken to facilitate flood education within Inner West Council.	Noted	No action required
29/2/24	5.2	That Council develop communications regarding flooding and relevant services in the local area including the SES that can be made available through customer service centres, libraries and be made available to local real estate or rental agencies for new residents to the local community	An update will be provided at the next Committee meeting	In Progress
29/2/24	5.3	That Council better support and promote the activities of the SES, including in our local newsletter.	An update will be provided at the next Committee meeting	In Progress
29/2/24	5.4	That in the development of the Flood Information Hub, Council work to make emergency information for accessible and visible, that Council investigates the reporting of local road closure information.	An update will be provided at the next Committee meeting	In Progress
29/2/24	5.5	That the proposed information sessions undertaken with the Alexandra Canal Flood Risk Management Study and Plan and Johnstons Creek Whites Creek Flood Risk Management Study and Plan be undertaken with SES Officers.	SES Officers participated in the four information sessions during the exhibition period.	Completed
29/2/24	5.6	That Council investigate the publication of evacuation routes among consideration of public signage.	An update will be provided at the next Committee meeting	In Progress
29/2/24	5.7	That Council engage directly with community groups on the foreshore impacted by flooding.	An update will be provided at the next Committee meeting	In Progress
29/2/24	7.1	That the Flood Management Advisory Committee endorse the public exhibition of the Alexandra Canal Flood Risk Management Study and Plan.	Council resolved to exhibit the Study and Plan at its meeting on 9 April 2024. Exhibition is now complete, with its outcomes being tabled at July committee meeting	Completed
29/2/24	7.2	That the Flood Management Advisory Committee endorse the public exhibition of the Johnstons Creek and Whites Creek Flood Risk Management Study and Plan	Council resolved to exhibit the Study and Plan at its meeting on 9 April 2024. Exhibition is now complete, with its outcomes being tabled at	Completed

Item 1

			July committee meeting	
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OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

DISCUSSION

Item 5.2. and 5.3 actions are still in progress. Item 5.4 has been deferred in its development as council undergoes a website review. Item 5.7 is in progress within the LGA and item 17.2 as per the outstanding actions register for 26 February 2025 regarding flooding in Despointes Street is still being investigated and in progress with further update to be provided in the next meeting.

Michael Carney raised an issue regarding letting SES attend council events, SES is not receiving any information on events happening in the area.

Request for Michael Carney to receive the contact details of who to speak to, to pass along email address of the units.

James Ogg to action and speak to the events team and Michael Daley.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Councillor Barlow moves the action register and seconded by Michael Carney.

For Motion: Unanimous.

5.2 – FMACC0225(1) Item 2 Update on adopted Flood Risk Management Plan Options

SUMMARY

To date, Council has completed and adopted nine Flood Studies and six Flood Risk Management Studies & Plans (FRMSP) across 90% of the Local Government Area including:

- Eastern Channel Subcatchment Management Plan (Golder Associates, 2011)
- Leichhardt Flood Risk Management Study & Plan (Cardno, 2017)
- Marrickville Valley Flood Risk Management Study and Plan (Cardno, 2017)
- Dobroyd Canal & Hawthorne Canal Flood Risk Management Study and Plan (WMA, 2019)
- Whites Creek & Johnstons Creek Flood Risk Management Study and Plan (Stantec, 2024)
- Alexandra Canal Flood Risk Management Study and Plan (Stantec, 2024)

Marrickville South is the only catchment of the Inner West LGA without a contemporary flood study or flood risk management plan. Council has been successful in securing two-thirds grant funding from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to support the delivery of this Flood Study. Council will be issuing a request for quotation to engage specialist flood consultants in early March.

The completed Flood Risk Management Studies and Plans propose a total package of structural mitigation measures valued at approximately \$300 million across assets owned by Council and other utilities, with 26 options considered high priority totalling approximately \$105 million.

Council currently budgets \$1.5 million to stormwater upgrade projects addressing local catchment issues as well as some of the smaller mitigation investigations and design. Council seeks additional funds through state and federal grants to supplement this work, however due to the limited funding available through these grants, or the increasing level of detailed design required to support such a grant, this is generally beyond the financial capacity of Council to deliver in the short to medium term without significant impact on other Council services.

Currently the primary management actions to manage and mitigate the impact of flooding are therefore primarily dependent on non-structural measures such as planning controls, emergency response planning and reactive maintenance including undertaking CCTV and cleaning of stormwater assets.

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

DISCUSSION

Council Officer advised the report outlines what the flood risk management process is, the process is guided by the Department of climate change, energy, environment and water. Council through its floodplain risk management and its officers look after flood risk management within the local government area which is carried out across different stages. A flood study is carried out, which has been done for ~90% of the LGA, before moving to a flood risk management study and flood risk management plan. The study indicates where hazards are, where evacuations may need to be thought through and what measures to reduce or plan for risk. The study reviews all potential options, impacts the options may have and makes a cost benefit analysis and multi criteria analysis to come up with a list of prioritisation within the study for council to pursue and determine which plans are implemented.

Council Officer advises the works are undertaken by Council and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water provide 2/3 grant funding for these activities, in 2024 there was approximately 10 millions in grants on offer for the state, this is a competitive grants process and must be applied for each year. Stormwater fund is separate, council has funds committed, approximately 1.5 million for stormwater renewal for all stormwater assets and about 1 million for stormwater upgrades.

Community member Simon Mya raised concerns regarding extreme flooding in Hearn Street Leichhardt on February 10th, and noticed the area was not covered by the study from last year in, and despite flood study carried out in 1990 around the Whites Creek catchment area included severe observations around flooding in the area which is still recurrent now, and enquires why it is still not covered in the new 2024 report.

Council Officer advises the Hearn Street was part of a previous study started by Leichhardt Council at the time, to which Hearn Street in particular is within the Leichhardt flood risk management study and plan. The 2024 Whites Creek and Johnston Street flood risk management plan focused on areas south of Parramatta Road.

Simon Mya questioned if there were no actions proposed for the Whites Creek catchment area as part of the earlier study.

Council Officer advises no actions were listed specifically within the previous study plan. Hearn Street backs on to Whites Creek, which is part of what causing flooding, the Sydney water channel runs at a particular capacity and how swiftly water can drain into the channel once it is full. There were options in and around Whites Creek, contingent around upgrades around the channel itself to relive pressure downstream.

Simon Mya raised concerns that in the 2024 study, many of the proposed actions were upstream of the Whites Creek area which could potentially exacerbate flooding issues in Hearn Street and downstream north of Parramatta road, and this issue has not be addressed.

Council Officer notes, any option upstream has to demonstrate that works will not impact downstream. This excludes many options, for much of Whites Creek there is only one options in the Whites Creek management plan that was adopted in 2024 as there is only a small portion that sits below Parramatta Road, all the items within Whites Creek are within the Leichhardt flood risk management study and plan as Hearn Street areas above Parramatta Road were part of the former Leichhardt Council who commenced the Leichhardt flood risk management study ahead of Marrickville and Ashfield.

Councillor Howard recommend James Ogg and Simon Mya discuss this after the meeting regarding further queries.

Simon Mya requested for clarification regarding if the action plan was still open and under review, James notes that the table within item 2 in the report speaks to the different flood risk management plans, and the Leichhardt management plan includes parts of Hawthorne Canal, Whites Creek and Johnstons Creek and areas around Hearn Street and above Parramatta Road was included. 8 flood risks management plans have been carried out to date, Marrickville South, and the areas around Dulwich Hill, the flood study is set to commence this year. The last two catchments being William Street and Cooks River are small contributors to other catchments and other councils, a small portion of land in Croydon that drains into Canada Bay and portion of Ashfield that drains into Canterbury Bankstown, but these are minor contributor catchments and will not be looking into details for those. Each of the 8 flood risk management plans proposed certain options, there is about \$80-90 projects for all those with a projected cost of ~300 million, and the high priority options with a projected cost of ~\$100-105 million. Part of prioritising that is working out where council can deliver most impact fastest, or, the larger multi million dollar projects in Leichhardt involves correspondence and engagement with Sydney Water as the larger dollar value projects are on Sydney Water Assets. Each of the 8 plans has a ranking and prioritisation within the plan itself, moving forward the outcome is to rank all the projects against each other on the same scale to formally prioritise them. From the current plans, Council this year has completed and upgraded Centennial Road, inlet upgrade in Northcote Marrickville, works in Fitzroy Street, stormwater replacement and upgrade in Wardley Street Balmain. There are project scheduled to happen this year in Haberfield and Enmore, and Victoria Road and Railway Parade in Marrickville. Council is also progressing designs this year for Illawarra Road, Addison Road and Edgeware Road, the three designs came from the Marrickville and Eastern Channel flood risk management plan. Council as advises in response to the stormwater and flooding from last year,

there is another 6 upgrade designs progressing for construction next year. The flood mitigation options are done with the stormwater upgrades.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Council Howard declares a non-significant and no pecuniary interest in this item as he does not reside within the area of concern. The report is just being notes, no funding decisions are being made,

Councillor Barlow moved the report and Michael Carney seconded.

For Motion:

Unanimous

5.3 FMACC0724(1) Item 3 LOCAL INCIDENTS OF FLOODING ON 10 FEBURARY 2025

SUMMARY

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan: 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

At approximately 12pm on Monday 10 February Sydney experienced widespread thunderstorms affecting homes and flooding roads, including areas of Inner West Council. Rainfall data from nearby rain gauges at Sydney Olympic Park, Canterbury Racecourse and Sydney Observatory indicates that approximately 25mm water fell over the Inner West over the course of 30 minutes. This dispersion of rain is approximately equivalent to a 20% AEP event. Council has received 133 requests related to stormwater and flooding since this event. 46 of these requests have since been completed, with a further 54 in progress at the time of this report. The remaining requests require further investigation to determine possible civil works in the short and medium term. These requests primarily came from Leichhardt, Marrickville. Annandale and Ashfield.

Many of these requests related to blocked stormwater pits and inlets resulting from heavy leaf drop due to strong winds in late January, which consequently limited the speed at which water could be drained away from the roadway.

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

Council Officer advises that the increase flooding on Illawarra Road between Hill Street and Wharf Street has been noted and this will be investigated, and continue to raise issue on Railway Terrace with TfNSW through the local emergency management committee. Information was provided to TfNSW around the catchment around that space and they are investigating ways to improve the inlets and this will also be reviewed before committing to work.

DISCUSSION

The table within the report provides a breakdown of the suburbs that were mainly affected, a big concentration within the Leichhardt, Marrickville, with Annandale and Ashfield being with the impacted areas.

Council Officer notes one of the factors seen was high number of report of leaf litter or blocked pits that resulted from strong winds in January. The report lists multiple areas where resident reported the same flooding area, this included Darley Road and Elswick Street, Leichhardt, Station Street Petersham, Queen Street / Pyrmont Street, Holden Street / Palace Street, Ashfield, Probert Street Camperdown, Camden Street Enmore and Newington Road Marrickville. Some of these locations were already known to Council through the flood risk management study of previous events. Council is in progress of designing and delivering upgrades in four of these locations. Camden Street Enmore is expecting a stormwater upgrade in April, Pyrmont and Queen Street, council has commenced community consult on the proposed design that has happened within the last week and the design is expected to be completed later this year for construction late 2025. Elswick Street, Council expects to construct early 2026, similar to Holden and Palace Street. The remaining three streets, Station Street Petersham, Probert Street Camperdown and Newington Road, more assessment is to be undertaken and this will be included in future capital works programs. Darley Road, which is a state road and Council has informed TfNSW regarding on going risks and the request Council has received.

Michael Carney raised concerns of increased flooding at Illawarra Road Marrickville between Hill Street and Wharf Street over the last 18 months which previously did not occur. Requesting for investigation if the pits need cleaning or another issue. In regard to TfNSW, Michael has raised a discussion point about Railway Terrace at Petersham, and an increase in flooding and there will be shared infrastructure at that location and is waiting to hear back.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

For Motion:

Michael Carney moves the report and seconded by Councillor Barlow

Unanimous

5.3 FMACC0225(1) Item 3 Local Incidents of Flooding on 10 February 2025

SUMMARY

Presentation from Cooks River Alliance by Michael Rosenthal from Rhelm Consulting.

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

DISCUSSION

A recent study was undertaken as part of the coast management program for the Cooks River looking at inundation from the coastal side.

The coastal management programme is led by the state government and developed over 5 stages, the inundation hazard assessment sits in stage 2 of the programme, the study is currently

moving from stage 2 to 3, and identifying and evaluating options for inclusion in the coastal management programme. The CMP will be publicly exhibited and certified by the Minister to allow councils to access grant fundings. The coastal management programme is being built around 9 values which were identified through community and stakeholder consultation, flood resilience is one of the 9 value themes of which is specifically relevant to the Flood management advisory committee.

The CMP study area for the Cooks River spans 6 councils and cover the entire catchment of the Cooks River. As part of stage 2, the inundation hazard assessment was carried out with the purpose of talking to all the councils involved with the CMP to determine a fit for purpose methodology that works for everyone and identifying appropriate sea level rise scenarios to consider within the study and mapping coast and tidal inundation. The maps were then used to do a first pass on assets and infrastructure exposure assessment under the different types of flooding. The CMP looked at different scenarios, for tidal inundation a focus on high water of spring, looking at present day sea level 0.2m, 0.5m and 0.9m, for costal inundation for event based flooding, looking at present day, 5, 10 and 100 year storm.

The map shown provides an overview of present day coastal inundation, note, many of these areas that would be impacted by a coastal storm are much more impacted by catchment flooding, and some of these areas are already known problem areas when it rains.

Tidal inundation (sunny day flooding) was another area of flooding that was looked at. Haberfield is not within the study area for the Cooks River, but a known location where high high tides are can come up through the stormwater system and impact the roads. The study looked at where in the Cooks River area is the to happen more and more frequently. Tidal inundation become more frequent over time with sea level rise and is there to stay. It starts by coming up through the stormwater system and eventually peaking into the low points of road and eventually overtopping the bank and surpassing the stormwater system entirely.

The study look at different areas that would be impacted by overbank flooding and backwater flooding, differentiate between areas that management at the stormwater system could be used to mitigate flooding and areas where more topographical changes are needed to limit the flooding. Another idea explored was the drainage window concept, where the invert and overt of the stormwater outlet when submerged in low tide, the water in the catchment cannot drain out and over time the drainage capacity of the systems is reduced, and to look at further investigation and adaptation would need to occur.

When looking at the pits and pipe system to determine areas that might be exposed to back water flooding, a caveat to the assessment was that they were unaware of floodgates or assume any losses to the system. Key areas around the study area were looked at, the study looked at asset exposure to get a picture of the risk for each of the areas. The study also looked at days inundated, the map indicated areas that are frequently inundated and areas that are not frequently impacted. The map of Marrickville shows with 0.9m of sea level rise, the drainage window concept means the stormwater drainage efficiency with the boundary conditions in the channel would mean the draining is diminished and drainage capacity diminished.

Rhelm Consulting has spoken to all the councils affected by this issue and for this information to be brought to the flood committee. This study will need to be released to the public domain but before doing so are seeking councils guidance on the best way to do this, and what is council's

longer term response to this issue and be part of the stage 2 of the CMP. The CMP development is expected to take another 9 -12 month before it is out for public exhibition.

The main points brought to the committee, is that the notification of the study and the stage 2 study and the maps need to be released to the public and cooks river alliance will facilitate that. The approach being to prepare and circulate public facing fact sheet/web copy to support release of the study to help guide the community. Once the Councils who are affected by the issue have the information and comfortable with the fact sheet to then upload their reports to the CMP website.

Council Officer clarifies where council sits with this study. Council received the information within the last couple of weeks and have carried out preliminary looks in terms of the areas affected, and there are properties already in the area that have been tagged for known inundation. At this stage the study does not speak to planning changes, this is a risk identification study and not a response study. There are features that don't take into account existing infrastructure to such as flood gates or flood valves to stop tidal flows around the Marrickville space.

Council Barlow requests a copy of the presentation.

Ryann Midei advises this is just early consultation for information purposes, there is still discussion and approval processes from a council perspective before this is shared.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

For Motion:

Councillor Howard notes the report and seconded by Councillor Barlow.

Unanimous

6. General Business

Jaan Ranniko raised query regarding the flooding issue at Illawarra Road, and the drains at Cahill Place appear to have minor damages and request for that to be looked at.

Raised enquiry regarding tidal inundation, and will backfill and cause more floods and where more information could be found regarding this.

Council Officer advises that Marrickville was a former swamp land and there is a low lying area that cannot drain by gravity itself, and drainage from Marrickville is pumped out to the Sydney Basin. There are no invert levels in the pipe, as such the pipe is higher than the river and does not have the same impact as the report may show.

Councillor Barlow notes that as per the forum held in Ashfield, there are a few places notes for overland flooding that had not flooded before or to the extend that it was. The streets mentioned include Arthur Street, Abergeldie Street and Holden Street which are both known overland risk areas.

Ryann Midei advised that a register of enquiries that were made and officer already making calls.

Tim Harnett raised the issue regarding fallen trees on the road at the bottom of Hearn Street which is blocking the drainage channel which is exacerbating the flood risk at the junction of Albion Road and Hearn Street and the clearing of leaves appears to be on an 8 week rotation that does not appear to be enough to clear the drainage channels.

Councillor Howard request for Ryann and team to action to look at the frequency to which the works are being carried out. Ryann has advised that there is a scheduled run of sweeping footpath and cleaning roads in areas which there is a larger amount of leaf matter, and this can be looked at to be done more frequently.

Tim Harnett also notes Wardell Road Petersham that the flooding is becoming more pronounced and the frequency of clearing of leaves may be a factor to this.

Meeting Closed: 4:08pm

Item No: FMACC0825(1) Item 1

Subject: OUTSTANDING ACTIONS REGISTER

Prepared By: James Ogg - Stormwater and Asset Planning Coordinator

Authorised By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

Item 1

RECOMMENDATION

That the Outstanding Actions Register be received and noted.

Meeting	Item	Actions	Status	Comments
FMAC 29/02/24	5.2	That Council develop communications regarding flooding and relevant services in the local area including the SES that can be made available through customer service centres, libraries and be made available to local real estate or rental agencies for new residents to the local community	In Progress	Council's existing web page for emergency information has been updated to include information links to support services like SES and Red Cross. Emergencies - Be prepared - Inner West Council
FMAC 29/02/24	5.4	That in the development of the Flood Information Hub, Council work to make emergency information for accessible and visible, that Council investigates the reporting of local road closure information.	In Progress	Planned road closures are currently reported to state agencies and digital mapping services via the NSW Government OneRoad portal. Council will review capacity to provide similar updates for Emergency operations.
FMAC 29/02/24	5.6	That Council investigate the publication of evacuation routes among consideration of public signage.	Completed	The Inner West Local Emergency Management Committee is currently reviewing the Flooding Emergency Sub-plan. Given the short warning time of a flood event and the short duration, site specific signage is not considered an

				effective and replicable management measure.
FMAC 29/02/24	5.7	That Council engage directly with community groups on the foreshore impacted by flooding	In Progress	
Ordinary Council 12/11/24 C1124(1)	17.2	That Council investigate placing stoppers (at Despointes Street, Marrickville) to maintain the ability for the rainwater to enter the drain without being diverted onto the footpath and ponding creating a safety issue.	Completed	Existing road width does not allow for parking spaces to be provided with wheel stops while remaining compliant with Australian Standards. An alternative design to extend the stormwater drainage and increase inlet capacity has been prepared for future detailed design, subject to grant funding.
Ordinary Council 12/11/24 C1124(1)	26.6	That Council provide for members of the public to present to the Flood Risk and Management Committee on flood related matters by establishing a public forum, as is the case with the Inner West Council Traffic Committee.	In Progress	Report provided to the Committee at this meeting for initial discussion.
Ordinary Council 18/02/25 C0225(1)	39.3	That Council officers list flooding at Northcote Street and area flooding at the next Flood Management Advisory Committee, including the extent of flooding, mitigations currently in place and future options to mitigate and manage flooding	Completed	Report provided to the Committee at this meeting.
Ordinary Council 18/02/25 C0225(1)	39.4	That Council request officers report to the April Council meeting with information and future options to mitigate and manage flooding at Northcote Street, Marrickville	Completed	
Ordinary Council 11/03/25	40.1	That Council develop a plan for safe and effective flood management across Evan Jones Playground and	Completed	Report provided to 20 May Council meeting.

C0325(1)		Whites Creek Lane, Leichhardt and upgrades to the infrastructure in this playground and street, including: a) reviewing and reporting on the timeline		
Ordinary Council 11/03/25 C0325(1)	40.2	That Council report the plan for flood improvement for Evan Jones Playground and Whites Creek Lane, Leichhardt to the May 2025 Council meeting.	Completed	Report provided to 20 May Council meeting.
Ordinary Council 29/04/25 C0425(1)	7.1	That Council receive the minutes and adopt the recommendations of the Flood Management Advisory Committee held on 26 February 2025	Completed	
Ordinary Council 29/04/25 C0425(1)	7.2	That Council approve appointment of the Community Representatives to the Flood Management Advisory Committee.	Completed	
Ordinary Council 29/04/25 C0425(1)	30.1	That Council receive and note the report for flooding in the area of Northcote Street, Marrickville	Completed	
Ordinary Council 29/04/25 C0425(1)	30.2	That Council write to residents of Northcote Street to provide an update on actions being undertaken to address flooding in the area of Northcote Street, Marrickville	Completed	Letter issued to residents 11 July 2025
Ordinary Council 20/05/25 C0525(1)	19.1	That Council receive and note the report - Flood Management Plan for Evan Jones Playground	Completed	
Ordinary Council 20/05/25 C0525(1)	19.2	That Council write to Sydney Water requesting updated costing associated with upgrading of the Whites Creek stormwater channel.	Completed	Letter sent to Sydney Water 10 July 2025
Ordinary Council 20/05/25 C0525(1)	19.3	That Council identify grant funding options available, and preparatory work that would be needed to apply for such grants, to fund these upgrades.	In Progress	
Ordinary Council 20/05/25	19.4	That Council report the outcomes of these engagements to Council in August 2025.	In Progress	Report being prepared for the September meeting of Council. (Deferred

<i>C0525(1)</i>				from August)
Ordinary Council 17/06/25 <i>C0625(1)</i>	55	That Council amend the Terms of Reference for the Inner West Flood Management Advisory Committee to: a) Remove reference to a quorum, consistent with the Inner West Traffic Committee; and b) Include a member of the Inner West Access Local Democracy Group to attend and hold voting rights as a member of the Committee.	Complete	Terms of Reference have been updated accordingly. A summary provided to the Committee at this meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: FMACC0825(1) Item 2

Subject: UPDATE TO THE FLOOD MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Prepared By: James Ogg - Stormwater and Asset Planning Coordinator

Authorised By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on 17 June 2025 (C0625(1) Item 55), Council resolved:

That Council amend the Terms of Reference for the Inner West Flood Management Advisory Committee to:

- a) Remove reference to a quorum, consistent with the Inner West Traffic Committee; and*
- b) Include a member of the Inner West Access Local Democracy Group to attend and hold voting rights as a member of the Committee.*

These changes have been made to the Terms of Reference, included as Attachment 1.

The Terms of Reference have also been amended to refer to the Director Engineering instead of the Director Infrastructure, following the change of Council's organisational structure in February.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) FMAC Terms of Reference V4

INNER WEST

Flood Management Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

V4

WFO2025/0002

Item 2

Attachment 1



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1 Introduction

Inner West Council (Council) established the Flood Management Advisory Committee ('Committee' or 'FMAC') on 23 August 2016 in accordance with the NSW Government Flood Prone Land Policy and the NSW Flood Risk Management Manual (The Manual).

These terms of reference set out the Committee's objectives, authority, composition and tenure, roles and responsibilities, reporting and administrative arrangements.

2 Objective

The objective of the Flood Management Advisory Committee is to assist the Council in the preparation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the Inner West Council local government area which will:

- Reduce the impact of flooding and flood liability on the community.
- Reduce private and public losses resulting from flooding.
- Recognise flood prone land as a valuable resource which should not be necessarily sterilised.
- Take into account social, economic, ecological and cultural factors.

The Committee acts as both a focus and forum for the discussion of technical, social, economic and environmental matters, and for the distillation of possibly differing viewpoints on these matters into ongoing management plans.

3 Function and Scope

The function and scope of the Committee will include but not be limited to the following:

- To assist Council in the development of Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans for the Inner West Council local government area.
- To provide a link between Council and the local community.
- To identify objectives and strategies related to the improvement of the management of the floodplain.
- To monitor and review the implementation of flood planning in the Inner West Council local government area.
- To provide input into known flood behaviour as part of a flood study or flood risk management plan.
- To assist in the collection of information to support flood modelling and design.
- To facilitate coordination of flood management between local and state government agencies.
- To support and review the implementation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans within local planning processes, works programs and education campaigns and encouraging community participation.



The Committee does not consider specific development issues proposals/applications but focuses on broader management issues, Council policies and strategies affecting flood prone lands.

4 Delegation

The Committee is advisory in nature providing recommendations to Inner West Council. The Committee has not been delegated authority by Council. Any recommendations of the Committee must be ratified by resolution of Council and implemented by a member of Inner West Council staff with an appropriate delegation.

The Committee does not have any power to incur expenditure or to bind the Council to any decision upheld by the Committee.

5 Membership and Appointments

5.1 Membership of the Committee

Council recognizes its local community as a valuable partner in the management of the floodplain and the FMAC is a valued part of Council's local democracy.

The Committee comprises representatives from the local community with interest or expertise in flooding, elected representatives of Council, representatives of various NSW State Government departments / authorities / corporations, Council staff, and specialist consultants as engaged by Council.

Membership on the Committee is voluntary and by invitation from Inner West Council.

The Committee will consist of:

Members (voting)

- 2 Councillors nominated as per the terms of reference
- Up to 8 Local Community Representatives appointed as per the terms of reference
- 1 representative of the Inner West Access Local Democracy Group
- 1 representative nominated by the NSW State Emergency Service Local Cluster

Technical Advisory Members (non-voting)

- 1 representative nominated by Sydney Water
- 1 representative nominated by the NSW SES Metro Zone
- 1 representative nominated by the NSW SES Ashfield-Leichhardt Unit
- 1 representative nominated by the NSW SES Marrickville Unit
- 1 representative from Transport for NSW Roads
- Up to 2 representatives from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Inner West Council Coordinator Stormwater & Asset Planning
- Inner West Council Manager Engineering Services
- Inner West Council Director Engineering
- Inner West Local Emergency Management Officer

Local Traffic Committee Terms of Reference

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Invitees & Observers (non-voting)

- Relevant officers from Inner West Council within Civil Works, Operations, Planning and Environment
- Representatives from other Councils or Government Agencies where they impacted by a Flood Study or Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan being undertaken by Inner West Council

Additional observers can be invited to committee meetings at the discretion of the Committee Facilitator. Membership can be altered at any time by Council resolution.

5.2 Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons

Up to two elected representatives of Council may be members of the committee. The elected representatives of Council to serve on the committee shall be nominated by Council.

For the purposes of this charter the term “elected representatives” includes elected members of Council and, where there are no elected members of Council, persons that have been nominated by Council as members of Local Representation Advisory Committees.

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of the Committee shall be nominated by Council from the nominated elected representatives unless determined otherwise by Council.

If neither the Chairperson nor the Deputy Chairpersons of the Committee is able or willing to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the Committee may elect a member of the Committee to be acting chairperson of the Committee for that meeting.

5.3 Appointment of Community Representatives

Up to eight Community Representatives may be members of the committee, selected from members of the community who reside or operate on flood prone land, have expertise in local flood management, or represent local sporting groups, social groups, environmental groups or chambers of commerce impacted by flooding.

Expressions of interest for Community Representatives will be called for at intervals as required. Advertising for expressions of interest will be on Council's website.

Expressions of interest must be in writing. Expressions of interest will be prioritised by relevant Council staff.

Recommendations for appointment to the Committee will be prioritised based on the following selection criteria:

- Residence or property ownership or business operator within Inner West LGA.
- Representation across all Council's catchments.
- Knowledge of local catchment flooding issues.
- Commitment to represent the interests of the Inner West community concerning floodplain management issues.



- Ability to attend Committee meetings and public meetings within LGA as required.
- Ability to commit to a long term membership of the Committee.
- Preparedness to observe Council's Model Code of Conduct.

Successful applicants will be notified in writing and appointments of Community Representatives to the Committee will be reported to Council by the committee.

Community Representatives membership may be determined for up to two terms of Council (or remainder thereof).

Community Representatives shall serve on the Committee in a voluntary capacity.

5.4 Casual Vacancies

Any member of the Committee may, by giving notice in writing addressed to the Committee, resign as a member.

Membership on the Committee shall cease if:

- A member resigns in writing to the Committee;
- If a member (or representative) is absent without notification of absence for three (3) consecutive Committee meetings; or
- Upon resolution of Council to remove a member from the Committee.

In the event that a casual vacancy is caused by the resignation of a member, the Committee Facilitator will advise the Committee at its next meeting that a vacancy has arisen, and will provide a report to the next available Council meeting concerning a prospective replacement having regard to the following:

- If the member was nominated as a representative of an organisation, then the organisation shall be invited to nominate a replacement representative.
- If the member was nominated as a Community Representative, then the Committee Facilitator will review original expressions of interest received and ascertain if any of the individuals who previously nominated are prepared to be considered as a member of the Committee.
- If there are no previous or current nominations then an expression of interest will be called.
- Should a vacancy occur within six (6) months of the end of term of the current Council, the vacancy will not be filled until the first term of the new Council.



6 Responsibility of Members

6.1 Code of Conduct

Council's [Model Code of Conduct](#) applies to the Local Traffic Committee Members (LTC Members).

Failure by a Council Official or LTC Member to comply with the standards of conduct prescribed under the Model Code of Conduct may constitute misconduct and could result in suspension or removal from the advisory committee or working group.

Failure by a member of staff to comply with Council's Model Code of Conduct may also give rise to disciplinary action.

Council has zero tolerance for aggressive, humiliating, bullying, intimidatory or violent behaviour towards Council Officials or LTC Members.

Respect is one of our core values and Council Officials and LTC members are required to:

1. Treat everyone equitably and fairly
2. Embrace diversity
3. Acknowledge and value the needs of LTC Members
4. Actively listen, to understand each other's point of view
5. Value feedback and respond constructively

6.2 Understanding and Contribution

Members of the Committee are expected to:

- Understand the relevant legislative and regulatory requirements appropriate to Inner West Council
- Contribute the time needed to study and understand the papers provided.
- Apply objectivity and good judgment.
- Express opinions frankly, ask questions that go to the fundamental core of issues.
- Members of the Committee are not permitted to speak to the media as a representative of the Committee unless approved by Council. General information with regard to purpose and objective of the Committee is available on Council's website

6.3 Conflict of Interest

All FMAC members are required to disclose conflicts of interest in accordance with the [Conflict of Interest Policy](#). All FMAC Members are required to undertake an initial Disclosure of Interests upon commencement as a FMAC Member and annually thereafter. Any new Conflict of Interest that arises must be disclosed as soon as practicable and no more than one month post becoming aware of the new interest.

Refer Schedule 1 Disclosure of Interest.



6.4 Role of the Chairperson

The Chairperson is responsible for:

- Opening the meeting and following the agenda
- Allocating times to be devoted to agenda items and ensuring that these times are observed
- Encouraging all members of the Committee to express their point of view
- Determining the most effective way of dealing with the issues raised and making the necessary arrangements to achieve this
- Summarising the progress of the discussion and degree of consensus reached at the end of each agenda items, and confirming this with the Minute taker before moving on
- Closing the meeting and confirming the date, time and place of the next meeting
- Liaising and reporting to the Council.

6.5 Committee Facilitator

The designated Committee Facilitator is the Director Engineering or their nominee.

The Committee Facilitator is responsible for:

- Establishing the meeting agenda in conjunction with the Chairperson
- Preparing and distributing the agenda
- Ensuring the agenda and minutes are published
- Ensuring that relevant matters are brought before the Committee
- Ensuring that the input and decisions of the Committee are incorporated into Council activities.
- Booking venues
- Taking accurate minutes in the format determined by the Committee; and
- Distributing the minutes

7 Meetings

7.1 Frequency

The Committee will meet a minimum of four times a year, at quarterly intervals. Special meetings of the committee may be called where required at critical points in the review and delivery of Flood Studies and Flood Risk Management Plans, or there are pressing issues to be put forward to the Committee.

The meetings of the Committee are to be called by the Committee Facilitator. The proposed date, time, location and business to be transacted at each meeting will be notified to all members of the Committee at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Meetings will allow for hybrid attendance (face-to-face and online) to ensure that members have as many options as available to take part in the Committee.

Local Traffic Committee Terms of Reference

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7.2 Meeting procedures

The following procedures shall apply during meetings:

- Meetings of the Committee shall be conducted under the Council's Model Code of Conduct.
- The Chairperson may call a special meeting if, in the Chairperson's opinion, there are matters of urgency that require attention.
- The Committee may invite people to attend meetings to observe, make representation or provide expert or technical advice.
- Provision shall be made on each agenda for General Business to be raised at each meeting.
- The agenda for the meetings shall be issued on the week preceding the Committee meeting.
- Council's role is to note the Committee's Minutes and to consider recommendations made by the Committee. Such recommendations will be highlighted for the attention of Council.
- The minutes shall be drafted and distributed after each meeting to Committee members.

7.3 Meeting Conduct

Members shall respect the views and opinions of each other, allowing for one person to speak at a time and participate in the meeting with decorum. The Chairperson will facilitate the meeting to ensure the meeting keeps to the agenda allowing for all agenda items to be considered.

When the Chairperson rises or speaks during a meeting:

- Any FMAC Member then speaking or seeking to speak must cease speaking.
- Every FMAC Member present must be silent to enable the Chairperson to be heard without interruption.

A Council Official or FMAC Member commits an Act of Disorder if they:

- a. Contravenes the Flood Management Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
- b. assaults or threatens to assault Council Officials or a FMAC Member
- c. moves or attempts to move a recommendation that has an unlawful purpose or that deals with a matter that is outside the jurisdiction of the Local Traffic Committee
- d. insults, or makes unfavourable personal remarks about, or imputes improper motives to any other Council official or FMAC Member
- e. or does anything that is inconsistent with maintaining order at the meeting or is likely to bring the Council or the Flood Management Advisory Committee into disrepute.

Where a LTC Member commits an act of disorder the Chairperson reserves the right to expel any person from the meeting.



8 Sub-Committees & Working Groups

Sub-Committees or Working Groups may be established to support the Flood Management Advisory Committee and Council in the delivery of flood risk management projects.

Working Groups will contain relevant technical staff from Council, the Department of Planning and Environment, State Agencies, and selected consultants.

Sub-Committees and Working Groups will report to the Flood Management Advisory Committee on the progress of the matters assigned to them.

9 Breaches of this Terms of Reference

Breaches of Terms of Reference may result in an investigation of the alleged breach in line with relevant Council policies including the Model Code of Conduct.

Any alleged criminal offence or allegation of corrupt conduct will be referred to the relevant external agency.

10 Dissolution

The Committee may at any time be dissolved and disbanded by resolution of Council.

11 Administrative Changes

From time-to-time circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made including branding, Council Officer titles or department changes and legislative name or title changes which are considered minor in nature and not required to be formally endorsed.



12 Version Control – Terms of Reference History

This Terms of Reference will be formally reviewed every three years from the date of adoption or as required.

Governance use only:

Document	Flood Management Advisory Committee Terms of Reference	Uncontrolled Copy When Printed	
Custodian	Manager Engineering Services	Version #	Version 4
Approved By	Council	ECM Document #	39705892
Next Review Date	April 2027		

Amended by	Changes made	Date Adopted
Engineering Services	Amended Contact Officer	29/9/2017
Engineering Services Governance and Risk	Significant updates to the entire document as part of the required review into meeting schedule, membership and committee governance. Terms of reference amended to align with standard IWC governance procedures	09/04/2024
Engineering Services Governance and Risk	Removal of quorum and updated to voting members in accordance with Council Notice of Motion C0625(1) Item 55 Amendment of internal job titles	14/08/2025



Schedule 1 – Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

Information	A conflict of interest arises if it is likely that a person with a private or personal interest could be influenced in the performance of his or her public or professional duties by that interest, or that a reasonable person would believe that the person could be so influenced. Council's Code of Conduct requires Council officials to declare potential Conflicts of Interest and take appropriate action to resolve these situations immediately.
Types of Interests	<p>1. Pecuniary Interest</p> <p>Is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of an appreciable financial gain or loss to you, or to another person with whom you are associated. This could include your partner, close relative and business associate. (Section 4 (4.1) Code of Conduct).</p> <p>2. Non-Pecuniary Interest</p> <p>Is a private or personal interest, which you have which may arise from a friendship, a family member, sporting, social, religious or cultural association. This may include money, interests of a financial nature or a non-financial benefit.</p>
How a Conflict of Interest would arise:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where you have a personal interest that would lead you to be influenced in the carrying out of your Council work or public duties. • Where you have a personal interest that could lead a reasonable person to think you could be influenced in the carrying out of your Council work or public duties. • Where you know of a family member, relative, friend, associate or anybody close to you has an interest that could lead you to be influenced or a reasonable person to think you could be influenced, in the carrying out of your Council work or public duties.
Identify, Declare and Manage Conflict of Interest?	<p>Where you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter for the purposes of clause 5.2 of the Code of Conduct, you must disclose the relevant private interest you have in relation to the matter fully and in writing as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the non-pecuniary conflict of interest.</p> <p>How you manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest will depend on whether or not it is significant, refer to Clause 5.6 to 5.9 of the Code of Conduct for guidance.</p> <p>If you determine that a non-pecuniary conflict of interests is less than significant and does not require further action, you must provide an explanation of why you consider that the conflict does not require further action in the circumstances.</p> <p>Where you have a significant non-pecuniary or pecuniary conflict of interest you must not participate in consideration of, or decision making in relation to, the matter in which you have the significant non-pecuniary or pecuniary conflict of interest.</p>



Employee's Details	<p>Name: Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>Position: Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>Directorate: Choose an item.</p>
Description of Conflict of Interest	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>Type of Conflict</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pecuniary</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Non-Pecuniary – Significant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Non-Pecuniary – Non-Significant</p> <p>Date Conflict Declared: Click or tap to enter a date.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The details I have provided are correct to the best of my knowledge and the declaration is made in good faith.</p> <p>Signature of Employee: _____ Date: Click or tap to enter a date.</p> <p>Please submit this form to your Manager/Senior Manager/Director or General Manager</p>
Action taken to avoid any impact from the Conflict of Interest	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Manager will monitor the employee's adherence to the action plan stated above.</p> <p>Manager's Name: Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>Signature of Manager/Snr Manager: _____ Date: Click or tap to enter a date.</p> <p>Signature of Director/GM: _____ Date: Click or tap to enter a date.</p>
Endorsement by Employee	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I note the proposed action, endorse it, and agree to abide by it. If the circumstances as set out in this declaration changes, I will resubmit a new declaration setting out the circumstances for approval.</p> <p>Signature of Employee: _____ Date: Click or tap to enter a date.</p>
Completed Forms	<p>Send completed forms to Governance@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p>

Item No: FMACC0825(1) Item 3
Subject: FLOODING IN THE AREA OF EVAN JONES PARK
Prepared By: James Ogg - Stormwater and Asset Planning Coordinator
Authorised By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

- 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West
- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community members reported extensive overland flow from Evan Jones Playground into the lane following storms on 10 February 2025, together with the lid of the gross pollutant trap (GPT) near Evan Jones Playground dislodging and causing a dangerous hazard. There has also been debris accumulation, including soft-fall wood chips from the playground, regularly blocking the drainage system and impacting on flooding.

A investigation was conducted into opportunities to minimise flooding impacts on Evan Jones Playground and Whites Creek Lane. The primary mitigation options involve significant upgrades of the trunk drainage systems which are cost prohibitive to upgrade.

The actions identified to manage and mitigate the impact of flooding are non-structural measures such as planning controls, emergency response planning and inspection and maintenance of stormwater assets. To mitigate the impact of future events, maintenance activities are routinely undertaken on the playground and gross pollutant trap (GPT). The playground is scheduled for upgrade as part of the 2026/27 Capital Works program, with the scope including replacement of the wood chips with rubber softfall.

BACKGROUND

On Monday 10 February 2025, Sydney experienced widespread thunderstorms affecting homes and flooding roads, including areas of Inner West Council.

Rainfall data from nearby rain gauges at Sydney Olympic Park, Canterbury Racecourse and Sydney Observatory indicate that approximately 25mm water fell over the Inner West over the course of 30 minutes. This dispersion of rain is approximately equivalent to a 20% AEP event (sometimes known as a 1 in 5 year storm event). Council received more than 130 stormwater and flood-related requests following that event.

The local community have documented the impacts of recent weather events that have impacted Evan Jones Park and the adjacent Whites Creek Lane, including this event in February. Community members have reported extensive overland flows through Evan Jones

Park into the lane, together with impacts to the playground and gross pollutant trap (GPT) within the park, causing dangerous hazards.

At the Council meeting held on 11 March 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council develop a plan for safe and effective flood management across Evan Jones Playground and Whites Creek Lane, Leichhardt and upgrades to the infrastructure in this playground and street, including:*
 - a) *reviewing and reporting on the timeline for the implementation of any relevant recommendations of the Leichhardt Flood Risk Management Plan which applies to flood management in this area;*
 - b) *undertake investigations of all components of the stormwater drainage system which drains from Emma Street to the Whites Creek Channel through Evan Jones Park, in collaboration with Sydney Water;*
 - c) *ensuring that stormwater improvements are included as part of the playground upgrade for Evan Jones Playground planned in FY2025/2026, including the replacement of bark chips in the playground with a surface that does not clog local drains;*
 - d) *clearing and preparing a maintenance plan for the stormwater drains in Whites Creek Lane, in collaboration with Sydney Water where necessary;*
 - e) *reviewing the street sweeping schedule for the lane and advising Whites Creek Lane residents via letterbox drop of the schedule;*
 - f) *Council officers to hold a public meeting with residents to publicly discuss and assess the grove of trees in the reserve land on the corner of Whites Creek Lane and Styles Street for any danger and soft soil as the result of recent heavy rains; and*
 - g) *reviewing and improving the dead-end signage at the entrance to Whites Creek Lane at Reserve Street.*
2. *That Council report this plan to the May 2025 Council meeting, in time to inform the budget.*

A report was subsequently presented to the 20 May 2025 Council Meeting. The discussion below includes the details regarding the Leichhardt Flood Risk Management Plan, the Sydney Water drainage system which passes through Whites Creek and Evan Jones Park, and recurrent maintenance of the stormwater system and laneway.

DISCUSSION

Evan Jones Park is located at the confluence of two significant trunk drainage systems, being Whites Creek, which is located along Whites Creek Lane, and one of its tributaries which extends up to Balmain Road in Leichhardt. Both these drainage systems are owned and managed by Sydney Water.

Whites Creek was channelised between 1898 and 1935, replacing the natural creek line as development progressed through Leichhardt and Annandale. The channelised creek takes the form of an underground culvert from Parramatta Road to downstream of Moore Street, after which it is an open channel from Whites Creek Valley Park to Rozelle Bay.

Gross pollutant traps (GPTs) have been constructed to collect litter, silt and debris from these trunk drainage lines, with both located in Evan Jones Park. Sydney Water owns and cleans the GPT connected to the Whites Creek Channel, whilst Council is responsible for the GPT near the Evan Jones Playground which services the tributary.

- a) Leichhardt Flood Risk Management Plan

Council adopted the Leichhardt Flood Risk Management Study and Plan (FRMSP) in 2018, which included mitigation options to address the risk of flooding across all catchments in the former Leichhardt Local Government Area, including this area of Whites Creek.

The Leichhardt FRMSP identifies the following potential flood mitigation options for this area:

- Upgrade of the Whites Creek stormwater channel, which is largely located within Whites Creek Lane, but extends from Rozelle Bay to Norton Street and upstream of Parramatta Road.
- Upgrade of the stormwater pipeline which extends from Whites Creek Lane to Balmain Road.

Although these trunk drainage lines are owned by Sydney Water, previous discussions with their representatives have indicated that the costs associated with any upgrade or amplification of these pipelines would need to be funded by Council. The combined cost for the above works was estimated in 2017 to be approximately \$35 million, which is a prohibitive for Council to fund alone.

While Council does seek additional funds through state and federal grants to support these types of major upgrades, due to the limited funding available through these grant programs and the increasing level of detailed design required to support such a grant, it is likely that such works would be beyond the capacity of Council to deliver in the short to medium term without significant impact on other Council services.

Therefore, the current primary management actions to manage and mitigate the impact of flooding are primarily non-structural measures such as planning controls (raising houses and garages above flood levels), emergency response planning (evacuation routes and education) and inspection and maintenance of stormwater assets (video survey of pipelines and cleaning where required).

It must be noted that any upgrade of Whites Creek and its surrounds would not remove the risk of flooding in its entirety, meaning that the non-structural measures would need to be maintained in perpetuity.

b) Drainage system from Emma Street

The trunk drainage line between Emma Street and Whites Creek Lane extends as far north as Balmain Road. This drainage line is owned and maintained by Sydney Water.

Sydney Water advise that they undertake yearly condition assessments of their stormwater pipelines. Council has requested that they undertake a CCTV inspection of this line in light of the recent flooding event.

c) Playground upgrade

Following the storm event in February this year, timber edging has been installed around the Evan Jones Playground to assist in holding the bark/ wood chips in place during rainfall.

The playground is scheduled for upgrade as part of the 2026/27 Capital Works program, with the scope including replacement of the wood chips with rubber softfall.

d) Drainage maintenance

Maintenance and cleaning of all Council GPTs is conducted on a quarterly schedule, with the Evan Jones GPT serviced in December 2024, then in March following the storm event and also May 2025.

A specialist consultant was engaged to undertake a comprehensive audit of the GPT in May. The unit is operating effectively, and no structural defects were identified in the unit or connecting pipelines. The report identified that the unit could be subject to surcharge in high rainfall events due to backwater flows from the Whites Creek stormwater channel.

The GPT unit has a bolt-down lid to prevent this surcharge within the park. However, the bolts were found to be missing following the storm event in February and were subsequently replaced.

e) Street sweeping

Whites Creek Laneway is currently serviced by Council on the endorsed 40 working day cleaning program for residential streets and laneways across the LGA. The Operations teams will continue to monitor this site and assess the need for an increase in service. The service includes weed removal, collection of dumped rubbish, gutter cleaning, and debris removal.

f) Trees on corner of Styles Street and Whites Creek Lane

Council's Public Tree team will lead a meeting on site to discuss any tree matters across the site. Council's engagement and Public Tree team will work with the community to finalise a meeting date and time.

g) Street signage

The intersection of Whites Creek Lane and Reserve Street has been reviewed by the Traffic and Transport Planning team who advise that both approaches have sufficient signage indicating that the road (Whites Creek Lane) is a 'No Through Road' north of Reserve Street. However, the signage is being repositioned to improve visibility.

Council considered the above matters at the 20 May 2025 Council Meeting and resolved:

1. *That Council receive and note the report.*
2. *That Council write to Sydney Water requesting updated costing associated with upgrading of the Whites Creek stormwater channel.*
3. *That Council identify grant funding options available, and preparatory work that would be needed to apply for such grants, to fund these upgrades.*
4. *That Council report the outcomes of these engagements to Council in August 2025.*

Council wrote to Sydney Water on 10 July 2025 and received a reply on the 25 July 2025, recommending that an initial feasibility study be undertaken by Council, after which Sydney Water would work with Council to develop the project and seek internal funding. Items 3 and 4 are currently being actioned ahead of a report to Council in September.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An amount of \$150,000 has been included in the draft budget for the 2026/27 financial year for the upgrade of the Evan Jones Playground.

Maintenance undertaken to date, including installation of timber edging in the park and cleaning of the Evan Jones GPT, was funded through existing operational budgets.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: FMACC0825(1) Item 4
Subject: FLOODING NEAR NORTHCOTE STREET MARRICKVILLE
Prepared By: James Ogg - Stormwater and Asset Planning Coordinator
Authorised By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

- 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West
- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residents have experienced flooding in Northcote Street and Malakoff Street on several occasions since February 2022, affecting several properties and flooding vehicles parked in the street.

Following initial consultation with residents in 2022, stormwater upgrade works were planned and completed in November 2024 at a cost of approximately \$180,000 to increase drainage capacity in Northcote Street, which has improved the capture of stormwater within the street and reduced the length of time that flood waters remain in the street.

Further works within Carew Lane and Malakoff Street are included in the draft FY26 budget in the amount of \$240,000.

Despite the completed works having improved the drainage system in Northcote Street, the capacity of the stormwater channel running between Northcote Street and Malakoff Street remains a constraint on the system and impacts on the effectiveness of the above works.

The Marrickville Valley Flood Risk Management Plan includes a proposal to divert and upgrade the existing stormwater pipelines within Jarvie Park and Petersham Road to further mitigate flood risk in Northcote Street at an estimated cost of \$800,000.

Funding has been included in the draft FY26 budget for feasibility assessment of a more targeted pipeline diversion within Jarvie Park, which could potentially be delivered at a lower cost. The results of this investigation would be presented to Council ahead of budget considerations for FY27 and beyond.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 18 February 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council note the ongoing flooding of streets in Northcote and surrounding streets.*

2. *That Council acknowledges the work undertaken by Inner West Council to increase the intake capacity of stormwater on Northcote Street in the 2024-2025 Budget.*
3. *That Council request officers list flooding at this location for discussion at the next Flood Management Advisory Committee, including the extent of flooding, mitigations currently in place, and future options to mitigate and manage flooding at the location.*
4. *That Council request officers report to the April council meeting with information and future options to mitigate and manage flooding at this location.*
5. *That Council write to Sydney Water requesting a meeting to discuss options to improve the capacity and effectiveness of the water channel that runs through the area.*

Council Engineers have been consulting with the residents of Northcote Street and Malakoff Street since flooding impacted several properties and flooding parked vehicles in the street in February 2022. Drainage upgrade works were completed in Northcote Street in November 2024, improving the capture of stormwater and reducing the length of time that flood water remains in the street.

However, the stormwater channel that runs between Northcote Street and Malakoff Street, runs full in significant storms and impacts on the effectiveness of the recently completed works.

Council staff met with representatives from Sydney Water in March this year to discuss the concerns of the local residents, along with flood mitigation options.

DISCUSSION

History of flooding at this location

The Inner West Council Local Government Area (LGA) is highly urbanised, with much of the area subdivided and developed prior to current awareness and understanding of long-term rainfall patterns and intensity. Many residential areas have been built either immediately adjacent to or across major creek lines which were channelised in the early 1900s.

This has resulted in many areas across the LGA having ongoing exposure to latent flood risk to varying degrees.

Specifically, Northcote Street is situated within a local low point of a major tributary to Cooks River via what was, prior to the industrialisation of Marrickville, the Gumbramorra Swamp. Inner West Council now calls this catchment Marrickville Valley, draining to the Sydney Water pumping station in Sydenham before being pumped out to Cooks River.

The portion of catchment draining to this location is in the order of 140 hectares and extends to New Canterbury Road. In the 1960s the Department of Public Works constructed a 1.9km underground channel which intercepted the open channel just upstream of Malakoff Street and diverted stormwater directly to Cooks River at Thornley Street, rather than via the Western Channel in Carrington Road.

Attachment 1 outlines the depth and extent of flooding affecting the area from Northcote Street to Garners Avenue. The figures are extracted from Council's Marrickville Valley Flood Risk Management Study.

In February 2022, Inner West Council experienced significant flooding across areas of Marrickville, including Northcote Street and Malakoff Street, and was one of 61 Councils

included in the Declared Natural Disaster AGRN 1012 - NSW Severe Weather and Flooding: 22 February 2022 onwards.

Current and Future Mitigation Options

Following the flooding in February 2022, Council developed plans to improve the capacity of the existing pits and pipelines directly draining Northcote Street and Malakoff Street. This was split into three projects with design and delivery to be staged between 2023 and 2026.

1. Pipe replacement and inlet upgrades in Northcote Street – Designed FY24 and delivered November 2024
2. Pipe renewal and new pits in Carew Lane – To be delivered FY26
3. Inlet Upgrades in Malakoff Street – New pits connecting directly to Sydney Water infrastructure in Malakoff Street. Designed by Council and approved by Sydney Water for construction in FY26.

The FY26 Operational Plan also includes further investigation and design of downstream inlet improvements and upgrades in Despointes Street, Illawarra Road, Silver Street and Sydney Street, in addition to the physical works in Carew Lane and Malakoff Street outlined above.

The Marrickville Valley Flood Risk Management Study and Plan was adopted by Council in 2018. Council has been progressively investigating the feasibility of the options proposed in the Plan, including high priority items between Despointes Street and Silver Street, and Illawarra Road and Shepherd Street.

The Flood Risk Management Plan includes a further option within Jarvie Park as a medium priority item (Item FM3.1). The project would upgrade pipelines in Petersham Road and intercept existing stormwater pipelines from Cecilia Street and Depot Lane within Jarvie Park to drain directly to the Malakoff Street underground channel downstream of Northcote Street. It is anticipated that this would divert 23 hectares (approximately 15% of the total catchment) away from Northcote Street and reduce flood levels by up to 100mm in the 1% AEP flood event.

Council has been prioritising the development of High Priority options across the LGA. Consequently, this option does not currently form part of Council's Long Term Financial Plan or Delivery Program. The total estimated cost of this option is roughly \$800,000, which would impact on the delivery of flood mitigation works elsewhere in the LGA.

The report to Council on the 29 April 2025 proposed a more targeted measure that could potentially be delivered at a lower cost, with initial investigation to be undertaken this year ahead of design and delivery in FY28. Council has applied for a grant from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the Floodplain Management Program, which would allow this project to be brought forward.

Council's Director Infrastructure, Engineering Services Manager and Coordinator Stormwater & Asset Planning met with representatives from Sydney Water in March this year to discuss the concerns of residents, along with the above mitigation option. The Sydney Water representatives supported the proposal in principle and are committed to working with Council and the community to support measures to improve flooding in the area.

Council considered the above matters at the 29 April 2025 Council Meeting and subsequently resolved:

1. *That Council receive and note the report.*
2. *That Council write to residents of Northcote Street to provide an update on actions being undertaken.*

These letters were sent to residents on 11 July 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The renewal of the pipeline in Carew Lane and upgrade of stormwater inlets in Malakoff Street forms part of Council's delivery program for FY26 in the amount of \$100,000 and \$140,000 respectively.

An amount of \$25,000 has been included in the draft budget for FY27 for the feasibility assessment and detailed design of the Jarvie Park stormwater diversion works. An application for funding is being made through the NSW Flood Management Program to supplement funding and allow this project to be brought forward.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: FMACC0825(1) Item 5
Subject: PUBLIC FORUM TO THE FLOOD MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Prepared By: James Ogg - Stormwater and Asset Planning Coordinator
Authorised By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.
2. That a revised Terms of Reference including details of the Public Forum is provided to the Flood Management Advisory Committee in November following a review by Council's Governance team.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inner West Flood Management Advisory Committee was first established in 2017 in accordance with the Floodplain Development Manual (2005).

The committee is advisory in nature and does not have or exercise any formal powers of Council. The committee is established by Council and reports its recommendations to Council via a report and publication of its minutes. Any resulting actions ultimately require the approval of Council.

This report reviews the purpose of the Flood Management Advisory Committee, compares the operation and procedures of the Local Traffic Committee and makes suggestions for implementation of a public forum for the Flood Management Advisory Committee, ahead of formal recommendations at a later meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Inner West Flood Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) was first established in 2017 in accordance with the Floodplain Development Manual (2005) – since superseded by the Flood Risk Management Manual (2023) (the Manual).

The FMAC is established by Council to support and oversee the flood risk management process in accordance with the guidance of the Manual.

At its meeting on 12 November 2024 (C1124(1) Item 26), Council resolved:

6. *That Council provide for members of the public to present to the Flood Risk and Management Committee on flood related matters by establishing a public forum, as is the case with the Inner West Council Traffic Committee.*

DISCUSSION

Under the guidance of the Manual, the main objective of a Flood Management Advisory Committee is to assist councils in undertaking flood studies and developing Flood Risk Management Plans for a given study area, including advice on priorities for implementation. The committee primarily acts as a forum to discuss technical, social, economic, environmental and cultural issues and distil these viewpoints into the final Flood Studies and Flood Risk Management Plans adopted by the Council.

The committee is advisory in nature and does not have or exercise any formal powers of Council. The FMAC reports to the Council through the reporting of its minutes, with any recommendations requiring the approval of Council, which has the final decision-making authority.

It is similar to, though not directly comparable with, Council's Local Traffic Committee (LTC). Like the Flood Management Advisory Committee, the Local Traffic Committee is advisory in nature with no decision-making powers. The LTC is primarily a technical review committee designed to consider the technical merits of proposals, ensuring that any proposal meets current technical guidelines, prior to being approved by Council.

Current Operation of the Local Traffic Committee

The LTC is primarily a technical review committee, made up of representatives of Council, NSW Police, Transport for NSW and the local State MP. The LTC is designed to consider the technical merits of proposals, ensuring that any proposal meets current technical guidelines, prior to being approved by Council. The merits of the scheme, from a public perspective, is the responsibility of the Council and thus residents' views should be taken into account by the Council rather than the LTC.

Noting this, public participation in the LTC operates on an invitational basis. Residents and other stakeholders are notified when a specific report is to be tabled at the LTC relating to their immediate area or an item that they have previously been consulted on or made a submission to.

Reports to the Committee are typically prepared following completion of an investigation into requested parking or traffic management changes, exhibition of a Local Area Traffic Management Plan, or the detailed design of structures that might change road shape or performance (such as a raised pedestrian crossing).

Those interested in making a submission to the committee are required to register their intention by the close of business the day before the meeting is held.

Considerations for a Flood Management Advisory Committee Public Forum

As noted above, the main objective of a FMAC is to assist the council in undertaking flood studies and develop a Flood Risk Management Plan for a given study area, including advice on priorities for implementation. Decisions relating to the inclusion and priority of any mitigation action must follow the guidelines in the Manual and these decisions are made when Flood Risk Management Studies and Plans are developed and approved. Upholding this process provides Council with exemption from liability relating to flood liable land in accordance with Section 733 of the Local Government Act.

The input and engagement of residents, businesses and community groups during the preparation of flood studies and flood risk management studies and plan is important to this process of ongoing oversight and review. A public forum process should aim to improve the Committee and Council's understanding of matters under consideration to achieve better decision-making outcomes.

With these in mind, the following measures are put forward to the FMAC for consideration:

Reports to the committee:

- Progress reports and consultation reports during the preparation of a Flood Study or Flood Risk Management Plan will continue to be presented to the FMAC in accordance with the guidance of the Flood Risk Management Manual.
- Flood event reports, where staff report on substantial flood events, observed flood behaviour, and how it aligns with information within adopted flood studies and plans.
- Status reports on the implementation of flood risk mitigation actions from approved Flood Risk Management Plans.

Submissions:

- Where Council is engaging with the community of any flood study or flood risk management plan, the community are invited to make a submission. Members of the community who make a submission will also be entitled to speak during the public forum time of the subsequent FMAC where the matter is being considered.
- Any member of the public requesting to speak to an item at the meeting is required to register their intent prior to the meeting to receive an invitation to the meeting.
- Submissions are to be made at the start of a meeting for the consideration of members during the remainder of the meeting.
- Submissions are to be limited to three minutes in accordance with the Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

Following the feedback of the FMAC to the above proposed approach Council officers will undertake a review of procedures with the support of Council's Governance team and provide an updated Terms of Reference to the November committee meeting for endorsement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.