

#### Minutes of the Flood Risk Management Advisory Committee Meeting 27 August 2025

Date / Time	27 August 2025 – 2:00 PM		
Venue	Microsoft Teams		
Chairperson	Councillor Mat Howard		
Voting Attendees	Clr Mat Howard	Michael Carney (SES)	Pilar Lorenzo
	David Chick	Matthew Murphy	Tim Harnett
	Emily McGrath		
Technical Advisory Attendees (Non-Voting)	Peter Shields (IWC)	David Paton (IWC)	James Ogg (IWC)
	Rafaah Georges (IWC)	Andrew Jones (Sydney Water)	
Observers	Tiffanie Ong (IWC)	Robert Baker (Marrickville SES)	Jason L'Ecuyer (Cooks River Alliance)
	Hiti Gandhi (Cooks River Alliance)		
Apologies			

#### 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

Michael Carney moved that the Minutes of the Flood Management Advisory Committee held on 26 February 2025 be confirmed. Seconded by Councillor Mat Howard.

#### 5. Staff Reports

##### 5.1- FMACC0225 (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
FMAC 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	Council's existing web page for emergency information has been updated to include information links to support services like SES and Red Cross.	In Progress

		rental agencies for new residents to the local community	Emergencies – Be prepared – Inner West Council	
FMAC 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.	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.	In Progress
FMAC 29/2/24	5.6	That Council investigate the publication of evacuation routes among consideration of public signage	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.	Completed
FMAC 29/2/24	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.	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.	Completed
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	Report provided to the Committee at this meeting for initial discussion.	In Progress

		Committee.		
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	Report provided to the Committee at this meeting.	Completed
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 C0325(1)	40.1	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	Report provided to 20 May Council meeting.	Completed
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.	Report provided to 20 May Council meeting.	Completed
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	Letter issued to residents 11 July 2025	Completed
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.	Letter sent to Sydney Water 10 July 2025	Completed

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 C0525(1)	19.4	That Council report the outcomes of these engagements to Council in August 2025.	Report being prepared for the September meeting of Council. (Deferred from August)	In Progress
Ordinary Council 17/06/25 C0625(1)	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.	Terms of Reference have been updated accordingly. A summary provided to the Committee at this meeting.	Complete

#### OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

#### DISCUSSION

Clr Howard enquired on Resolution C1124(1) 17.2 regarding the drainage of Despointes Street. James Ogg advised that the proposed stormwater improvement works are a result of the Marrickville Valley Flood Risk Management Study and form part of the 2025/26 design program. The scope is to upgrade the existing inlets into the Sydney Water canal between Silver Street, Despointes Street and Illawarra Road. Construction budgets are currently included within the draft delivery program for progressive roll out between 2027 and 2029.

Clr Howard also enquired on Resolution C0425(1) 30.2 regarding letters which were sent out to residents of Northcote Street and if any responses had been received from residents. James advised that no responses have been received directly related to Northcote Street residents, however a response was received from Malakoff Street residents regarding works being carried out in Carew Lane and the interactions with driveways and garage openings. A meeting has been organised with the affected resident.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Tim Harnett moves the item, seconded by Pillar Lorenzo.

**For Motion:** Unanimous

#### FMACC0825(1) Item 2; UPDATE TO THE FLOOD MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 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) and b) Remove reference to a quorum, consistent with the Inner West Traffic Committee; 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.

#### OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

#### DISCUSSION

Council resolution to amend the terms of reference to remove reference to the quorum and added within the voting members a change to allow for a member of the Inner West Local Democracy Group as a voting member. James advised Council is working with the convener of that group to determine who is to be invited.

Robert Baker raised a query regarding the Action Register presented at each meeting and how historical records of past items can be accessed. James Ogg explained that once actions have been completed and closed out, they are removed from the current meeting agenda. However, historical agenda items and resolutions can be located in the minutes and meeting reports of previous meetings.

Matthew Murphy notes attachments to the Flood Management Advisory Committee Terms of Reference uses a previous version of the Local Traffic Committee Terms of Reference, noting that this discrepancy should be corrected.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the report and amended terms of Reference be accepted, subject to the removal of references to the Local Traffic Committee.

Matthew Murphy moves item, seconded by David Chick.

**For Motion:** Unanimous

#### FMACC0525(1) Item 3 ; FLOODING IN THE AREA OF EVAN JONES PARK

#### SUMMARY

Following heavy storms on 10 February 2025, community members reported significant overland flow from Evan Jones Playground into the adjacent laneway. Additionally, the lid of the nearby gross pollutant trap (GPT) was dislodged, creating a serious safety hazard. Recurrent issues were also noted with debris accumulation, particularly soft-fall wood chips from the playground surface, which regularly obstruct the drainage system and exacerbate localised flooding.

An investigation was undertaken to explore options for minimising the impact of flooding at 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.

To mitigate the impact of future events directly to the park, 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 to reduce debris-related blockages in the drainage system.

#### OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Pilar Lorenzo moves the item, seconded by Michael Carney.

**For Motion:** Unanimous

**FMACC0825(1) Item 4 ; FLOODING NEAR NORTHCOTE STREET MARRICKVILLE**

**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 \$180,000.00 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 \$800,000.00 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.

**OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION**

That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

**DISCUSSION**

Tim Harnett raised concern that focus is on the existing infrastructure of the larger pipes to secure more capacity in a patchwork scenario rather than considering larger infrastructure struggle to support the flow of water. David Paton comments that Sydney Water has a large culvert which runs down Malakoff Street, which is what Council is looking to tap into that has extra capacity to relieve the flow of water through the main channel along Northcote Street there is potential to make a significant difference.

This is the typical process for flood mitigation within an urbanised catchment where opportunities for wholesale upgrade are limited. There are a number of trunk drainage systems that run across the LGA which are at capacity, and council works to utilise them as best possible to allow to get water into them and operating as best possible, as such there is a chance of spare capacity Council can channel into to achieve an outcome. A report was provided to the committee in February regarding Council's overall flood management process, which will be recirculated to committee members.

Clr Howard raised resident concerns regarding Councils lack of maintaining and removing of the vegetation thought to be causing the flooding, however notes it would be the overall capacity of the part of the network and the lack of capacity as once the channel is full there is no where for the water to go, which is the purpose of trying to create an additional connection to the Malakoff Street culvert.

Clr Howard enquired how the smaller \$240,000 proposal in Jarvie Park compares to the larger \$800,000 option within the Marrickville Valley Flood Risk Management Plan and which provides a greater benefit. James Ogg noted that the Flood Risk Management Report effectively combined two improvements into one option with the total estimate of \$800,000. If able to do both option, there will be greater benefits, however based on current calculations, approximately 60% of the benefit can be achieved just by doing the diversion. The smaller cost diversion also has less site constraints impacting delivery.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That Flood Management Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

Mat Howard moves the item, seconded by Tim Harnett.

**For Motion:** Unanimous

#### FMACC0825(1) Item 5 ; PUBLIC FORUM TO THE FLOOD MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

##### 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.

##### OFFICERS 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.

##### DISCUSSION

Tim Harnett queried whether this proposal allowed people to canvas the committee from a purely individual perspective on an issue. The discussion clarified that the proposed public forum is to be limited to items within the published agenda only. The agenda will include reports on specific locations requested by the Flood Management Advisory Committee as well as the outcomes of any significant public engagement during a Flood Study, Flood Risk Management Plan or flood mitigation design. As well as regular engagement with Council officers in this process, the intention is to provide further opportunity for the community to speak directly to the Committee if concerns remain unresolved. Noting that the committee is advisory in function only, with any formal decision requiring the approval of Council, members of the public are also able to register to speak to the Council.

Clr Howard notes this proposal ensures that people are only able to speak to items that are on the agenda to reduce the risk of deviating Council's attention from the requirements and objectives are under the Flood Risk Management Frameworks. Like the Local Traffic Committee Public Forum and the Ordinary Meeting of Council, the Public Forum operates as an opportunity for the members of the public make comment to specific items of the agenda for an allotted period within the meeting, after which the remainder of the meeting happens without further submissions. This provides the public opportunity to make an oral submission such the public can be assured that the advisory committee is aware of the views of the wider community.

Matthew Murphy would like to confirm whether the proposal allows for members of the public to observe the rest of the meeting in a muted scenario or are only permitted to join the meeting for the purpose of their presentation and drop off once the meeting item has been dealt with. Matthew Murphy notes he has no objection for members of the public be permitted access observe the meetings.

Council Officers will determine if any formal changes need to be made to the Terms of Reference and advise the committee at its next meeting.

##### COMMITTEE 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.
- Matthew Murphy moves item, seconded by Tim Harnett.

**For Motion:** Unanimous



**7. General Business**

Matthew Murphy requested that the meetings be limited to an hour, recognising the time commitment requested of community members within regular business hours. Council Officers noted that efforts would be made to preserve brevity of a meeting where possible, however at some times during the year a longer meeting may be required in order to fully participate in the review or guidance of a Flood Study, Flood Risk Management Plan or Flood Mitigation Process. At such meetings, the meeting convenor and the Chair will review the number of report items to ensure that Committee members time is respected.

Matthew Murphy sought clarification on Agenda Item 2, asking whether the Access Local Democracy Group members, is required to be approved by the full Council. Cllr Howard clarified that the resolution and the amended Terms of Reference are such that the member representing the Access Local Democracy Group is selected by Democracy Group, similar to how the voting member representing NSW SES is nominated by NSW SES.

**Local Flooding Concerns**

Michael Carney raises concerns about increased flooding in Illawarra Road between Hill Street, Thornley Street and Cahill Place. Water levels are encroaching further up Hill Street, and issues may be due to an old rain guard which may possibly be blocked and the new pedestrian crossing which is causing water to dam. A report will be provided to the next Committee meeting.

Cllr Howard advises residents from community have raised concerns about flooding incidents at the corner of Ewart Street and Osgood Avenue and requesting for more information at the next council meeting about these issues at this location. James Ogg noted that Council's Engineers are aware of the issues noted at this location and a report will be provided to the next Committee meeting.

**Meeting Closed 2:51 pm**