

## 12.4 Report on the Nattai Ponds Flood Study-Stage 1

Reference: 8100/17  
Report Author: Floodplain and Stormwater Engineer  
Authoriser: Manager Assets  
Link to Delivery Program: Engage and encourage community by developing programs to explore ways by which we may all live more sustainably

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the outcome of the public exhibition of the Nattai Ponds Flood Study-Stage 1 Report and recommend its adoption.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. **THAT the Nattai Ponds Flood Study Report be adopted.**
2. **THAT Council apply for grant funding from the Office of Environment and Heritage to undertake Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan for the catchment.**

### REPORT

#### **BACKGROUND**

Council has been developing Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plans for various catchments for a number of years across the Shire in accordance with the NSW Government's Flood Policy and Floodplain Development Manual.

Under the policy, the management of flood liable land is the responsibility of the Local Governments. The state government provides 2/3 subsidy for funding towards floodplain management projects and technical support through the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH). The flood study is the first stage in the floodplain risk management process. The flood studies model floods of different magnitudes and document the extent of inundation and hazards. There are essentially four stages in floodplain management process as outlined below:

Stage	Description
1. Flood Study	Determines the nature & extent of the flooding problem
2. Floodplain Risk Management Study	Evaluates management options for existing & future development of the floodplain, taking into consideration

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	the social, economic & environmental costs & benefits
3. Floodplain Risk Management Plan	Management plan for the risks identified in the risk management study
4. Plan Implementation	Implementation of actions identified in the plan

Generally the Stages 2&3 are undertaken at the same time.

#### **REPORT**

Catchment Simulation Solutions were engaged by Council to undertake the Nattai Ponds Flood Study-Stage 1. The flood study was prepared in consultation with the residents and property owners in the catchment, Wingecarribee Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee (WFRMAC), Council staff and the Office of Environment & Heritage.

Following Council's adoption of the recommendations of the WFRMAC, the draft report was publicly exhibited for 40 days from 6 May 2016 to 15 June 2016. One submission was received at the end of the exhibition period.

The submission primarily related to the inadequacy of the Braemar Avenue culvert. The submission went on to request that no further development occur in the upstream catchment until actions were taken to rectify the problems at the Braemar Avenue culverts.

The submission was reviewed and it was determined that no changes to the Nattai Ponds Flood Study were considered necessary. However, this comment should be noted and incorporated into the future Floodplain Risk Management Study for the catchment. The full report will be available in the Councillors' room for viewing prior to the Meeting.

The discussion about the report can be read in **Attachment 1**.

#### **IMPACT ON FIT FOR THE FUTURE PROPOSAL OUTCOME**

It is not possible to assess the impacts on Council's Fit for the Future Improvement Plan until a floodplain risk management study and plan is undertaken for the catchment.

#### **CONSULTATION**

##### **Community Engagement**

A flood study website was established for the duration of the study. A community information brochure and questionnaire were distributed to 414 households and businesses. A total of 68 responses were received which provided data on flooding incidents which informed the flood study.

Community feedback was invited on the draft report from residents during the public exhibition period. A total of 23 property owners who indicated that they had experienced flooding in the past were also notified during the exhibition period. The draft report was exhibited for 40 days as suggested by the WFRMAC. A media release was issued at the beginning of the exhibition.

The draft flood study report was exhibited at the Moss Vale Civic Centre; Bowral and Mittagong libraries and through the dedicated website [www.nataiponds.floodstudy.com](http://www.nataiponds.floodstudy.com) and also through the Council website.

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#### **Internal Consultation**

Staff from the following Branches were consulted:

- Development Services
- Environment & Sustainability
- Infrastructure Services

#### **External Consultation**

The Office of Environment and Sustainability and the WFRMAC were consulted.

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### **SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

- **Environment**

There are no environmental issues in relation to this report.

- **Social**

Impacts of flooding can be significant within the community. The floodplain management process allows Council to develop plans to minimise flood impacts on the community.

- **Broader Economic Implications**

There are no broader economic implications in relation to this report.

- **Culture**

There are no cultural issues in relation to this report.

- **Governance**

Under NSW legislation, Councils have the primary responsibility and obligations to manage floodplains. The preparation of the flood study is the beginning of the process to manage flooding within the Nattai Ponds Catchment.

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### **COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The Nattai Ponds Flood Study has been completed within budget. Government subsidised floodplain management studies/projects represent significant value for money to Council, as successful projects attract 2/3<sup>rd</sup> funding from the State Government. If the report is adopted, then Council can proceed to apply for 2/3<sup>rd</sup> funding to undertake the next stage, namely Nattai Ponds Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

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### **RELATED COUNCIL POLICY**

Nil.

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#### OPTIONS

The options available to Council are:

##### Option 1

Council adopts the Nattai Ponds Flood Study-Stage 1 final report as exhibited.

##### Option 2

Council choose not to adopt the Nattai Ponds Flood Study-Stage 1 report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

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#### CONCLUSION

Councils are responsible for determining the extent of flooding within the Council areas to determine future remedial works and strategies to minimise flooding impacts on the community. The completion of this flood study is the first step in this process.

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#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Discussion-Nattai Ponds Flood Study-Stage 1