

BURNETT RIVER FLOODPLAIN ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2013 – 4PM

COMMITTEE ROOM, BUNDABERG MAIN ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 190 BOURBONG STREET,
BUNDABERG

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Rowan Bond (Chairperson), Kay Amsler, Helen Dayman, John Olsen, Barry Ehrke, John Lee, Jon Carman, Steve Cooper, Andrew Fulton (General Manager Infrastructure & Planning), Rob Calligaris (Council's Design Team Leader), Valerie Andrewartha (Administration Support), Kevin Gutteridge (Queensland Reconstruction Authority Inspector)

Rowan thanked everyone for attending and applauded them on reaching the target set in the Terms of Reference of having a report to Council by early December.

Cr. Mal Forman presented Certificates of Appreciation to the members of the CRG and thanked them for their hard work and dedication during the process.

APOLOGY:

Rowan Bond tendered apologies for Snr Sergeant Grantley Marcus, (QPS Liaison Officer between Disaster Management and Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery & Resilience, Hon David Crisafulli) and Rob Marshman, noting that Rob had submitted some points of discussion.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

CRG MEMBERS BARRY EHRKE AND HELEN DAYMAN MOVED that the Minutes of the CRG Meeting held on 19 November 2013 be confirmed, subject to the changes below – and the Minutes be made available on Council's website.

Kay requested that the numbering of the recommendations be altered so that the current Recommendation 9 was moved to Recommendation 1. Kay requested that record be taken that she strongly supported the prioritisation of the early flood warning mechanisms and evacuation plans recommendation.

Andrew Fulton advised that GHD has been engaged to undertake a study with respect to this issue. He advised that the report contains recommendations with respect to this issue with additional work to be undertaken on this issue upon presentation of the final Report in May 2014.

John Olsen raised concerns regarding levy walls and persons who live on the river. He wanted to ensure that these people were not left out of the issues/fixes.

It was moved that Recommendation 9 be moved Recommendation 1. **Kay Amsler moved this motion with no seconding motion – the motion failed.**

John Carmen requested that on Page 1 under the heading 'Sedimentation' that the paragraph read as follows:-

It was agreed to note in these Minutes that, "a huge amount of sedimentation downstream of Ben Anderson Barrage and Bingera Weir had significantly *further* reduced the tidal prism thereby reducing the affect of the flushing of fine sediments from the tidal section of the river.

The motion was put CARRIED.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Telephone conference call made to Don Copelin and Rowan opened the floor to questions.

John Lee

- concerned about backflow back into North Bundaberg; was its Dans opinion that the water eventually all goes back out to sea.
Dan advised that additional modelling has been undertaken in this respect and advised that the east levy is not pushing water elsewhere in any of the scenarios. Dan also advised that the option of dredging the river further downstream have been investigated, including dredging from the port to the barrage. Ultimately, significant volumes of materials would need to be disposed of. An alternative option may be the widening of the Millaquin bend which would provide a better outcome than dredging that area of the river.

John Carmen

- questioned whether the garden chanel, low level levy and widening of millaquin bend would increase the flooding in areas like Perry Street.
Dan advised that it would, however is currently running models with these types of scenarios. Dan also advised that if 2 or more of these options were constructed at the same time, some cost savings could be provided.
Andrew Fulton advised there some costings have been provided and are currently being reviewed, with the aim to have all outstanding costings provided by next week.

Kay Amsler

- wanted to know what the environmental impacts would be of the Skyringville opening.
Dan advised that there is some discussion in his report on this topic.

John Olsen

- discussed the removal of a section of rock at Skyringville to allow water to make its way naturally through and how he felt that the first major rain event would achieve a significant difference in the sediment level. John believes that this area could potentially resolve some significant safety issues for boaties and the like (especially in the case of tidal surge) during flood events.

Barry Ehrke

- does not believe that undertaking works at Skyringville passage would cause significant environmental issues due to the fact that the wall was man made in the first instance.

Further discussion regarding the Skyringville passage and options was undertaken.

John Carmen

- would the Skyringville passage have any effect on flood waters reaching the sugar stock piles.

Dan suggested that it would make a difference of approximately 0.3 metres.

Helen Dayman

- how much consideration was being given to the weighting as opposed to cost values; are other issues such as environmental and safety being taken into account as much as costing is.

Dan advised that generally it is cost versus benefit.

Rowan Bond on behalf of Rob Marshman

- Rob questioned that if environmental weightings were to change, what effects would it have on the overall picture.

Dan responded by advising that weightings do not necessarily determine priorities.

Rowan Bond

- advised the group that there was some concern in the media that the MCA ratings are priority ratings, to which he has confirmed is not the case.

Helen Dayman

- further MCA rankings after weightings were altered – discussion undertaken with respect to projects that continued to rate in the top 8, in particular rural bridges. Dan advised that rural bridges do not contribute to flood reduction, only to movement of people etc.

Discussion was also undertaken with respect to rural evacuation routes and construction/maintenance of same.

Rowan Bond

- raised concerns with respect to businesses and homes outside of the east levy with regard to the velocity of water coming down from the levy.

Dan advised that there would be nominal increases in water levels.

Rowan, on behalf of the CRG thanked Dan for his time, professionalism and patience during this period.

Barry Ehrke

- wanted it noted that he had no issue with any correspondence from him being made a public record. Rowan Bond advised the same.

Andrew Fulton advised that the CRG report would be distributed to Councillors confidentially next week and with same to meet on 16 December to discuss. Rowan invited members of the group to attend this meeting. Members were also welcome to attend Council's Ordinary Meeting on 17 December 2013 where the report would be formally adopted by Council.

Helen Dayman enquired as to when the results can be reported back to the community.

Andrew Fulton advised that this could occur once it has been adopted by Council (after 17 December 2013).

It was noted that the Report will be forwarded to the Minister as requested, after adoption by Council.

Helen also questioned whether further community meetings would be undertaken, to which Rowan advised that it is anticipated that these should occur end January/February next year.

CRG REPORT TO COUNCIL:

Rowan Bond tabled the report and opened the table to feedback.

Kay Amsler questioned why 7.7.1 (early warnings and responses) did not mention 'first priority'.

It was moved by Kay Amsler and

Seconded by John Carmen that 7.7.1 (Page 19) of the report be altered to read:-

- 7.7.1 The CRG received many suggestions regarding concerns with lack of warning to communities (both urban and rural) which resulted in issues ranging from isolation to actual threat to life and property. The CRG considers that early warning systems being in place **should be considered Council's first priority and** are critical to safety and together with community education, allow people to make informed decisions on what they need to do to protect themselves. It is also acknowledged that the people requiring protection may not be part of the local community (backpackers and tourists for example) and therefore not be familiar with local strategies.

Kay Amsler moved that the amendment be made.

John Carmen seconded the motion. PASSED

Barry Ehrke moved to that the report be adopted (with changes above)

Steve seconded motion to adopt report as amended.

It was **unanimously agreed to adopt report** with the amendment noted above.

Other

Steve Cooper read a thanks to Rowan for his support and works undertaken. The group agreed and thanked Rowan for all of his hard work and dedication.

Rowan thanked and acknowledged the support of Council Officers during this process.

Andrew Fulton advised that both he and Council were very happy with the performance and outputs of the Group and thanked them on Councils behalf.

Kev Gutteridge spoke on behalf of the Minister and commended the group as a whole and Rowans leadership of same. Thanks were given on behalf of the Minister.

It was noted that the electronic copy of attendance sheets are to be removed from the web as they contain signatures.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 6.25pm.