

DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

8th March 2005

DSS11 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
FILE: * KJF

SUMMARY:

Reporting on attendance at the 45th Annual Conference of the Floodplain Management Authorities of NSW.



The 45th Annual Conference of the FMA was hosted by Eurobodalla Shire Council and held in Narooma from 22nd until the 25th February 2005. Council was represented by the Mayor Councillor Hayes, Councillor Saul, the Director Shire Services and Manager Engineering Strategy.

The conference was officially opened by the Hon. Jim Lloyd MP, Minister for Local Govt., Territories and Roads, The Minister recognised the influence of the FMA and noted that although a significant area of NSW was in drought, it was the most flood prone State. A National framework for Risk Assessment has been developed following release of a C.O.A.G Report and Local Council need to adapt local policies to suit this new format. The Minister also noted the funding for the Regional Flood Mitigation program was \$9m.

Keynote speaker, Vick Verdult, CEO of Zeeland Province in the Netherlands, spoke on the ESCAPE Project, a regional flood mitigation scheme involving a range of coastal regions in the Netherlands and England. The scope of the scheme is substantial and the presentation was interesting and well presented.

A further keynote speaker on Thursday was also extremely interesting. Assoc Prof Ted Bryant from the University of Wollongong presented a paper "The Susceptibility of the NSW Coast Line to Flooding from Tsunamis". With a wall of water up to 10m high and moving as far as 10kms inland, the impact would be extreme. Prof Bryant noted that Australia's East Coast was subject to tsunamis and showed slides of resultant disruption evident on the coastline.

Other presentations of interest were;

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"Floodplain Management – From the Past to the Present to the Future" by Durran McLuckie from Dept of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.

"Adding Value to BoM Flood Predictions" by Mark Babister and Matthew Chadwick from Webb McKeown and Associates and Steve Oppen and Belinda Davies from NSW State Emergency Services.

"Remember Commemorate – Prepare Flood anniversaries as a community education focus" by Phil Campbell from NSW State Emergency Service.

"The Use of Airborne Laser Surveys in Floodplain Management" by David McConnell from Patterson Britton & Partners.

"Liability" by David Baird from Marsden Lawyers.

"Floodgate – An engineering solution for Flood Mitigation" by Keith Jackson and Mike Clarke from *Floodgate Australia* and Jim Oliver from *JCL Hydraulics*.

"The Po River – 2000 Years of History" by Steve Molino from Molino Stewart P/L.

"A Clever Solution: Do the Opposite as a Matter of Policy" by David Gibbins and Stuart Holle from Newcastle City Council.

"Flood Notifications from Flood Risk to Reality" by Nilmini De Silva from Fairfield City Council and John Maddocks from Bewsher Consulting.

Technical tours covered

1. Moruya – Engineering Solutions for Commercial Areas
 - a. Commercial property protection.
2. Wagonga Inlet – Ecological impacts of Flooding
 - a. Oyster Farms
 - b. Fishing
 - c. Tourism
 - d. Farming
3. Tuross – Urban and Coastal Flooding
 - a. Land swap program
 - b. Impacts of an ICOL opening policy

The Annual General Meeting of the FMA was held on the Wednesday afternoon and saw the re-election of Chairman Councillor Allan Ezzy, Deputy Chairman Councillor Arch Humphrey, Executive Member Technical Ian Dinham, and the appointment of Tamworth Regional Council as the Executive Services Provider.

Next years conference will be in Lismore and Gunnedah was successful in its bid for the 2007 conference.

An information booklet on the FMA has been made available to all Councillors.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS

- *Environmental Implications*

Attendees have the opportunity to review practices in other locations and become aware of best practice in Flood Mitigation.

- *Social Implications*

There are no social implications.

- *Economic (Financial) Implications*

There are no economic implications as all costs are covered by the current budget.

- *Policy or Statutory Implications*

There are no policy implications.

- *Director's Review*

As per the report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

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K J Finnie
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES