



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DELEGATE'S REPORT

3rd February 2009

DR2	FLOODPLAIN	MANAGEMENT	AUTHORITY
	QUARTERLY MEETING		
	FILE: 284	BJM	{Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Delegate's report on Floodplain Management Authority (FMA) quarterly meeting November 2008

◇◇◇◇◇◇

DESCRIPTION:

The November meeting was very well attended with representatives from councils (Councillors and staff) across the State, from State Government departments / instrumentalities and private industry. Attendees listed on minutes of meeting attached as [Appendix B – Page F4, Part 2 Page F14](#).

Issues which continue to take up the FMA's energies are:

1. Continuing threat to ongoing funding for Flood Mitigation programmes.
2. Continuing split of responsibility for Flood Mitigation, Flood Risk Management, Flood Planning (including land use planning) and Flood Emergency Management across several State and Federal Government departments and instrumentalities.
3. Lack of common definitions in relation to flooding issues between all stakeholders, (governments, instrumentalities, insurance industry and others).
4. Continuing conflict between NSW State Government directives, i.e. NSW Floodplain Development Manual (April 2005) and Guidelines on Development Controls for Low Flood Risk Areas (January 2007).
5. Diminishing specialist expertise within the various Government departments and instrumentalities.
6. Difficulties in accessing relevant Government Ministers and senior advisors to raise issues of concern to FMA members. Also accessing instrumentalities who have direct impact on funding.

7. Impacts of Climate Change and Sea Level rises, especially impacts on Local Government's responsibility and liability.
8. Lack of Government/s leadership in developing Guidelines to support Impacts of Climate Change and Sea Level rises for Local Government.
9. Education programme on Floodplain Risk Management offered by University of Technology (Sydney).
10. Establishment of National (Peak) body for Floodplain Management.
11. 2009 Floodplain Conference to be held at Albury.

Copy of full minutes of meeting attached as [Appendix B – Page F4, Part 2 Page F14](#).

Chairman's report included:

- Further report on recent visit to American Flooding Conference identifying implications for FMA and Local Government Councils on issues arising from recent flooding episodes in USA.
- State Emergency Management Committee to assess all applications for Federal funding for current financial year. No feedback to date of writing report.
- There has been no commitment to Flood Mitigation Funding beyond this financial year to date.
- Meetings with Minister Keneally's senior staff. Extreme difficulties in accessing recently appointed Ministers for Planning and DECC. (Details of meeting included in attached minutes [Appendix B – Page F4, Part 2 Page F14](#)).
- Need for a national approach to Flood Plain Management, Flood Planning and Flood Mitigation. Different approaches in each State reduce impact on issues of concern when meeting with the Federal Government (who hold the resources). Emergency Flood funding Federal issue through Emergency Management Australia. Unfortunately, it is Local Government who will ultimately carry responsibility for flooding and flood recovery without having any say in funding allocations. This is a particular problem when Local Government has responsibility not only for clean up (to a certain extent) but also for ongoing support and infrastructure replacement/s, land use planning, development and development controls.
- The meeting agreed to progress the proposal on developing a National "Peak" body to represent Local Government's responsibilities and activities in relation to flooding issues. While there is an Australian Local Government Association which currently represents us at Federal level they have many issues on which they need to concentrate with flooding being a minor matter in the larger scheme of issues. As a result, a recommendation to be put forward at the FMA Annual General

Meeting is the establishment of a Steering Committee to progress the proposal.

Executive Officer's report included issues in relation to:

- Recent international insurance industry reports on flooding issues which have the potential to impact on Australia and Local Government in NSW.
- Need for all councils to make representation to their local members, both Federal and State, to take up issues of concern on flooding, flood mitigation funding and concerns re insurance proposals.
- Need for funding applications to include the issues of "sustainability, community resilience, climate control and help for volunteers" as these are areas where funding is available. This could include dune and coast care, environmental projects, river bank restoration etc.
- Identified some relevant reports on web which are important reading.
- Discussion on education programmes including Conference workshops.
- University of Technology course is a joint venture between FMA, UTS and DECC.
- Need to include Flood Management Plan in rezoning processes including changing Flood Risks.
- Need to continue to engage with Planning Institute of Australia and encourage use of CDP points for members undertaking UTS Course.

DECC report:

- Changes to State Grants.
- Chair FMA appointed to National Flood Risk Advisory Group (NFARG).
- Review of Coastal Management Plan (NSW) announced at Coastal Conference.
- Report on Climate Change "Impacts on Flooding" is being prepared. Not surfaced at time of writing this report.
- Undertaking "local flood database project", to identify flood risk and its management in individual Local Government areas.
- Insurance Council of Australia, no common definition of flood or flood issues, yet alone international).

SES report:

- New Director General is Murray Kean
- Local flood plans endorsed for 7 Council areas.
- State Tsunami Plan reviewed. Nil changes for Local Government.
- NSW Levee study has been completed. SES currently digesting. Implications for Kempsey not known at this time.
- Stage 1 of "Flood Shelter in Place" project completed. However, no report to date.

Bureau of Meteorology Report:

Role and responsibility of Local Government in Flood Way systems, including long term maintenance

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Continuing lack of common definitions and approach to flood issues will continue to have a detrimental impact on the environment.

- ***Social***

Flooding and flood related matters have a major impact on the community, not only in relation to development but also in the event of flood events and the disruption to the community including livelihood.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Continuing lack of adequate resourcing from both State and Federal levels of government have a continuing negative impact on Local Government Councils due to the necessity to develop, maintain and renew flood mitigation infrastructure. There is also a need for Councils to pick up the pieces following a flood event and for individual residents a financial loss when flood events impacts on them.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.
2. That Council retain its membership of the Floodplain Management Authority.
3. The Council write to our respective State and Federal members requesting their support in ensuring that adequate funding is available for Floodplain Management Planning, Flood Risk Management projects and Flood Mitigation

funding continues at a level to ensure all flood infrastructure can be maintained at a safe and reliable functioning level.

4. That Council investigate the Flood Risk Management education programme being offered by UTS (Sydney) as a continuing development programme for relevant staff.
5. That Council support the development of a National (Peak) Floodplain Management body.

.....
COUNCILLOR E A GREEN