



DELEGATE'S REPORT

13 October 2009

DR8	FLOODPLAIN	MANAGEMENT	AUTHORITIES
	AUGUST 2009 MEETING		
	FILE: 284	BJM	{Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on attendance at the quarterly meeting of Floodplain Management Authorities (FMA) held in Sydney on 25 August 2009.

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DESCRIPTION:

This was a very busy meeting reporting on the executive activities for the previous quarter and addressing issues raised by FMA members.

The Chairman reported on meetings with -

- State Ministers, Keneally, Tebbutt and Whan;
- Federal Attorney General McClelland;
- several shadow ministers in NSW; and

included discussions on problems facing floodplain management, flood mitigation and funding.

Further discussion in relation to difficulties with natural disaster funding following the floods in the mid and north coast of NSW.

There was a good response at the meetings, however, the outcomes to date have been slow.

Land use planning and development controls are frontline tools in floodplain management and flood mitigation. The FMA will participate in the Planning Institute Conference at Newcastle to raise the profile of this as a part of the planners' role.

Concerns continue to be expressed to Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) re staffing levels and the current organisational review being undertaken.

Currently reviewing recent advice from Marsden's on flood issues.

Continuing to push the issue of digitalised flood mapping across the state, especially in light of the move by insurers to utilise their own maps when offering flood insurance.

Continuing problems arising from the federal government's natural disaster mitigation programs will continue to be pursued.

Executive Officer's report:

Highlighted the need for member councils to respond to the survey which has now been sent out twice. The FMA cannot address problems if members do not raise them with us.

Financial plan and expenditure to date were included in the reports.

Deputy Chair reported:

- Discussion with manager of coastal and rural flood unit
- Meetings with Rob Oakeshott re flooding matters
- Presentation on FMA and its role in floodplain management and mitigation, including funding issues.
- Representing FMA at ALGA national congress with input into relevant motions including planning and funding.
- Forwarding a report on flood mitigation funding issues to flood recovery coordinator.
- Update of the FMA constitution and development of a scholarship policy for presentation at November 2009 meeting.

Technical Report:

Spoke on continuing problems with inclusion of "exceptional circumstances" in draft local LEPs.

Planning Report:

Spoke further on the planning institute's conference in Newcastle.

2010 conference update was presented. Planning is well ahead. Dates are confirmed for 23-25 February 2010 inclusive with the possibility of a DECCW 1 day seminar following on 26 February 2010. DECCW continue to be major sponsors of the conference.

General Business:

NDRAA funding: several councils are still waiting for funding following flooding earlier in the year. FMA needs to be kept informed of the outcomes so as to keep raising the issues with relevant ministers (state and federal).

General discussion on stated barriers to funding. Meeting was advised that there is a natural disaster funding manual and the formulas for funding are clearly identified. There is also a natural disaster relief manual (both documents will be put on FMA Website).

Meeting further advised that RTA required to fund 100% of pre-flood condition for main roads only.

Further discussion as to membership of SEMC, previously DG SES now fire brigade commissioner (executive to follow up).

Flood education: Maitland Council have developed a school based education program on flooding which identifies flood height levels on buildings which they have developed into a tourist walk.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- **Environmental**

Lack of adequate flood mitigation has the potential for causing major harm to the environment

- **Social**

Lack of adequate flood planning and mitigation programmes has the potential for serious harm to individuals and the social fabric of the community.

- **Economic (Financial)**

Lack of adequate land use planning and flood mitigation has the potential for serious financial and economic harm to the community.

- **Policy or Statutory**

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.
2. That Council advise the FMA of concerns in relation to all issues relevant to floodplain management, land use planning relevant to floodplain issues and relevant funding matters.
3. That Council continue to lobby all local state and federal members on issues arising from floodplain management and flooding issues including funding (grants and natural disaster funding).

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COUNCILLOR E A GREEN