



DELEGATE'S REPORT

2 February 2010

DR2	FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES
FILE: 284	BJM (NRN) {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on Floodplain Management Authority's (FMA) November 2009 Quarterly Meeting.

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DESCRIPTION:

The quarterly meeting of the FMA was held at the McKell building on Thursday 26 November commencing at 11.00 am. This meeting was very well attended and Chaired by the Deputy Chair as the Chairperson was attending an Emergency Management meeting.

Minutes of the meeting are tabled for information and can also be found on the FMA's website www.floods.org.au

Issues from the Chairman's report;

- Land use planning and the need for planning policy to reflect flood plain risk management principles as set out in the Manual.
- Insurance Council flooding information needs to be available to local government.
- Problems with floodplain mapping and insurance "high risk" mapping; they are different things serving different purposes. Access is needed to the Insurance Council's "high flood risk" lines.
- FMA to seek information from Insurance Council regarding the number of properties classified as "high risk" in each local government area as a start point.

The need for continuing dialogue with all relevant Ministers and Minister Wong in relation to recent announcement on Climate Change.

States are continuing to attempt to devolve responsibility and costs to local government whilst denying the authority and financial resources to meet these devolved responsibilities.

Deputy Chair's Report

Focused on telecommunications, scholarship policy and draft updated constitution. Further discussions on the meeting with Federal Attorney General at the Lismore launch of Flood Manuals. AG McClelland clearly identified the importance of flood mitigation and that of land use planning in reducing the impacts of flood as one of the natural disasters continually facing Australia. He went on to say that it was important that these facts be recognised and systems put in place to ensure proper management of mitigation issues. He agreed that mitigation of natural disaster results in better prepared communities, and reduced cost to the country and communities in terms of dollars and impacts on individuals and communities. However, I don't think anyone else is listening.

The Federal Attorney General has also taken our concerns on reduced funding on board but we are still waiting to see the programs which have been identified as possible funding sources for flood mitigation (as with all other natural disaster mitigation areas). The matter of flood levees and their safety was again raised with no government department holding the information.

Technical Report

Ian Dinham reported on the flood risk management course highlighting the success of the 2009 year. He urged all councils to "send a planner" to the course, particularly block 3 on land use planning, a must for all planners involved in any way with flood plain management issues.

Other issues:

- Manly hydraulic station - 40% of rain and flood gauges are not funded in NSW State budget.
- There is no local government representation on the State Emergency Management Committee, it is dominated by combat agencies, and representation is needed.
- Newcastle Flash Flood Warning System was raised, recent audit showed many sites defective.

Emergency Management NSW

"The National Disaster Resilience Program" is now being administered wholly by the States and Territories. Each jurisdiction will be running and announcing their own program. It appears that Queensland has announced and called for applications for a grants program which is being funded under the NDRP. This announcement has no bearing on programs in NSW.

NSW is still waiting on Commonwealth approval of our program before an announcement and call for applications is made. The new NDMP in NSW will be called the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS). Once announced, information will be made available on the EMNSW website, a press release issued and an email announcing the NDRGS sent to a wide distribution list including all current NDMP project managers, local councils, the FMA, the LGSA and other interested parties.

Subject to Commonwealth approval an announcement should be made early next week. **As of today's date (23/1/10) we are still waiting.**

Legal Advice from Marsdens in relation to Planning and Flooding issues. See [Appendix A - Page DR1.](#)

Discussion on Draft Coastal Policy, points raised see [Appendix B - Page DR3.](#) The other issue discussed was the final report from the North Coast & Mid North Coast Regional Flood Recovery Coordinator. While the meeting felt that he had addressed the flood recovery issues very well, they were disappointed that he had not included flood mitigation necessity, although he had discussed this on local radio as being an important component of flood recovery and resilience.

Dates for FMA quarterly meeting for 2010 were circulated.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- **Environmental**

Good flood mitigations will ensure minimum damage to the environment.

- **Social**

Flood preparedness, including mitigation, must be part of floodplain management planning to ensure the least disruption to the life of the community and to minimise the danger to people, property and livelihood.

- **Economic (Financial)**

The financial and economic loss resulting from flooding is very high for communities and individuals. We need to have good mitigation in place to reduce this impact.

- **Policy or Statutory**

Council may need to review its planning policies in relation to land use on the floodplain in light of current policies (including draft Coastal Policy) and the impacts of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the information be noted.**
- 2. That the General Manager have the relevant officers review the matters raised by both Marsdens and the draft Coastal Policy discussion as they relate to Kempsey Shire Council**

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COUNCILLOR E A GREEN