

**ITEM 2. WOOLLOOMOOLOO, RUSHCUTTERS BAY AND CENTENNIAL PARK CATCHMENT AREAS FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND PLANS – PUBLIC EXHIBITION****FILE NO: S118124****SUMMARY**

On 24 February 2014, Council approved a tender for the engagement of a contractor to prepare the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans. The draft editions of the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans have now been completed and endorsed by the Floodplain Risk Management Committee. This report recommends that the following nine documents be placed on public exhibition for community comment:

- Woolloomooloo Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report);
- Woolloomooloo Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report);
- Woolloomooloo Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft Report);
- Rushcutters Bay Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report);
- Rushcutters Bay Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report);
- Rushcutters Bay Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft Report);
- Centennial Park Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report);
- Centennial Park Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report); and
- Centennial Park Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft Report).

The draft Flood Studies, as a precursor to the Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans, were completed for the Woolloomooloo Catchment Area in February 2013 and for the Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas in June 2013. The draft Flood Studies were made available on the City's website in late 2013 and will now be placed on formal public exhibition alongside the draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council place the draft Flood Study, draft Floodplain Risk Management Study and draft Floodplain Risk Management Plan for the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas, as shown in Attachments B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J to the subject report, on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days; and

- (B) a further report on the draft Flood Study, draft Floodplain Risk Management Study and draft Floodplain Risk Management Plan for the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas be presented to Council following the public exhibition process with any proposed changes.

## ATTACHMENTS

**(Note – Hard copies of Attachments B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J will be circulated separately from the agenda paper in limited numbers. A copy will be available for inspection on Council’s website and at the One Stop Shop and Neighbourhood Service Centres.)**

**Attachment A:** Catchment Plan

**Attachment B:** Woolloomooloo Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report)

**Attachment C:** Woolloomooloo Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report)

**Attachment D:** Woolloomooloo Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft Report)

**Attachment E:** Rushcutters Bay Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report)

**Attachment F:** Rushcutters Bay Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report)

**Attachment G:** Rushcutters Bay Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft Report)

**Attachment H:** Centennial Park Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report)

**Attachment I:** Centennial Park Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report)

**Attachment J:** Centennial Park Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft Report)

**BACKGROUND**

1. The development of Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans for all the stormwater catchments within the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) is a legislative requirement.
2. The City has developed and adopted a Decentralised Water Master Plan that focuses on water re-use and water quality measures. There are \$25M of related initiatives allocated within the Long Term Financial Plan.
3. The NSW Government has developed a Flood Prone Land Policy to determine if development on floodplains is appropriate and sustainable. The Policy promotes a merit based approach to balance social, economic, environmental and flood risk parameters.
4. The Policy states that individual councils have the primary responsibility for floodplain risk management and the NSW Government will, if required, provide technical and, in some cases, financial support.
5. The Floodplain Development Manual 2005 developed by the NSW Government, sets out a four stage approach as follows:
  - (a) preparation of a Flood Study to identify the nature and extent of flooding;
  - (b) preparation of a Floodplain Risk Management Study to investigate all available flood mitigation solutions or options, in consideration of social, ecological and economic factors relating to flood risk;
  - (c) formulation of a Floodplain Risk Management Plan, including preferred solutions and/or options, and formal adoption by the council; and
  - (d) implementation of the Floodplain Risk Management Plan.
6. The preparation and implementation of the various Floodplain Management Plans are critical components in improving the way the City plans and manages flood risks, including infrastructure requirements.
7. The eight drainage catchment areas (see Attachment A) in the City LGA are:

<b>Catchment Name</b>	<b>Area (Hectares)</b>	<b>Proportion of the City LGA (%)</b>
Alexandra Canal	1,141	43
Blackwattle Bay	315	12
<b>Centennial Park</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>6</b>
City Area	199	7
Darling Harbour	307	12
Johnstons Creek	224	8
<b>Rushcutters Bay</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Woolloomooloo</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>100</b>

8. On 4 August 2008, Council resolved to establish a Floodplain Risk Management Committee to assist the City in the development and implementation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans.

9. The Floodplain Risk Management Committee is comprised of representatives from the:
  - (a) the community;
  - (b) NSW Office of Environment and Heritage;
  - (c) NSW State Emergency Services;
  - (d) NSW Fisheries;
  - (e) Sydney Water;
  - (f) Waterways Authority of NSW;
  - (g) Leichhardt Municipal Council;
  - (h) Councillors; and
  - (i) City staff.
10. The Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas (shown in Attachment A) together comprise approximately 18 per cent of the entire City LGA. These catchment areas include the suburbs of Woolloomooloo, Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay, Darlinghurst, Rushcutters Bay, Moore Park, Centennial Park and Paddington.
11. The completion of the draft Flood Studies for the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Areas was reported to the Environmental Committee on 19 August 2013.
12. On 24 February 2014, Council approved the tender to prepare the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans.
13. The draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plan for these three catchment areas are now completed. These study reports have been prepared in accordance with the NSW Floodplain Development Manual.

#### **KEY IMPLICATIONS**

14. The draft Flood Studies for the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas have identified a number of flooding problems, including ponding areas, trapped low points, flood corridors and regions of high hazard.
15. The draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies for the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas have assessed a variety of potential measures to address flooding problems identified by the Flood Studies. Measures were assessed in accordance with floodplain risk management guidelines set out in the NSW Floodplain Development Manual.
16. The draft Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas recommend a comprehensive suite of flood management measures for further consideration and implementation.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

17. The cost of implementing the Floodplain Risk Management Plans will be funded by allocations made within the City's Long Term Financial Plan, State and Federal Government Grants and contributions from developers.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

18. Section 733 of Local Government Act 1993 – "*Exemption from flood liability-flood liable land and land in coastal zone*" applies if the City follows the Floodplain Risk Management process.
19. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 – land use planning and management of flood prone lands through Local Environment Plan provisions rest with councils.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

20. The City's Floodplain Risk Management Committee steers the development of the Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans. During the study period, the Committee:
  - (a) received several progress reports regarding the development of the studies and plans;
  - (b) received several presentations regarding the preparation of the studies and plans; and
  - (c) was provided with an opportunity to review and comment on initial draft editions of the studies and plans.
21. A community brochure and survey was undertaken during the preparation of the Flood Studies in June 2011 for the Woolloomooloo Catchment Area and between October and November 2012 for the Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas. The surveys were also made available online through the City's website. The City received 38 responses from the Woolloomooloo and 36 and 47 responses from the Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas respectively. As requested, residents reported their experience of flood and difficulty with property access.
22. Following completion of the draft Flood Studies in 2013, the Floodplain Risk Management Committee determined that the public exhibition of these documents should coincide with the public exhibition of the subsequent Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans. The Flood Studies were made available to the public on the City's website in late 2013.

23. As part of the preparation of the Floodplain Risk Management Studies, an additional community brochure and survey was distributed to 571 properties within the Woolloomooloo, 826 properties within the Rushcutters Bay and 557 properties within the Centennial Park Catchment Areas in 2014. Online versions of the surveys were also included on the City's website. The Floodplain Risk Management Study survey targeted all property owners and residents at risk of flooding. This survey built on the previous consultation and sought additional community input on preferred management measures. The City received 53 responses from the Woolloomooloo, 45 responses from the Rushcutters Bay and 57 responses from the Centennial Park Catchment Areas. The responses largely supported a preference for stormwater drainage network upgrades, improved flood flow paths, strategic planning and flood related development controls. These preferences were considered in preparing the Floodplain Risk Management Study and formulating a Plan for both study areas.
24. Workshops were also conducted with representatives from Sydney Water, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and NSW State Emergency Services in December 2014. A variety of risk management measures and their preliminary assessment outcomes were presented in the workshop and feedback was sought from the participants.
25. This report recommends that the draft Flood Studies, draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and draft Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchment Areas be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.
26. A community engagement plan will be prepared and implemented prior to the public exhibition of the nine reports.

**GARRY HARDING**

Director City Operations

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