

ITEM 3. WOOLLOOMOOLOO, RUSHCUTTERS BAY AND CENTENNIAL PARK CATCHMENT AREAS FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND PLANS – ADOPTION**FILE NO: S118124****SUMMARY**

On 29 June 2015, Council resolved 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. A further report was to be submitted to Council following the public exhibition process with any proposed changes.

The City has now completed the public exhibition process, addressed matters raised in the submissions and amended the study reports as required.

This report is seeking Council's adoption of the following nine documents:

- 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).

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council adopt 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 as shown in Attachments B to J to the subject report.

ATTACHMENTS

(Note – Hard copies of Attachments B to 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 \$32M 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:
 - (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 (Attachment A) in the City LGA are:

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

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:
 - (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 draft Flood Studies for the Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Centennial Park Catchments were 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. On 29 June 2015, Council resolved 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.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

14. A Community Engagement Plan was prepared by City staff and all public exhibition activities were conducted in accordance with this plan.
15. 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 were placed on public exhibition from 20 July 2015 to 7 September 2015.
16. The public notice of the exhibition was advertised in three newspapers, namely:
 - (a) The Sydney Morning Herald;
 - (b) Central Sydney Magazine; and

- (c) Wentworth Courier.
17. A notification letter about the public exhibition of the documents was posted to all property owners, including building strata managers, within the catchments.
 18. The draft exhibition documents were available to view throughout the public exhibition period at the:
 - (a) One Stop Shop (Town Hall House);
 - (b) Redfern Neighbourhood Service Centre;
 - (c) Green Square Neighbourhood Service Centre;
 - (d) Glebe Neighbourhood Service Centre;
 - (e) Kings Cross Neighbourhood Service Centre; and
 - (f) City's website (www.sydneyyoursay.com.au).

Community Response

19. The public exhibition page on the Council's website received 646 page views.
20. During the public exhibition, eight submissions were received for the Woolloomooloo Catchment Area and two submissions for the Centennial Park Catchment Area. No submissions were received for the Rushcutters Bay Catchment Area.
21. Six submissions received from the Woolloomooloo Catchment referred to flooding issues at Victoria Street, Potts Point. In summary, these responses relate to over floor flooding and obstructions to gutter flow relating to storm events on 25 April 2015 and 24 August 2015 where existing drainage was inadequate. In response to these submissions, an additional option 'Investigate kerb & gutter enhancements in Victoria Street' has been added to the draft Floodplain Risk Management Plan.
22. The other two submissions related to correction of a map and completion of an unfinished sentence, which have been addressed in the draft Floodplain Risk Management Plan.
23. Two submissions were received from the Centennial Park Catchment Area. The first submission was in three parts. The first was a request to note the Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail (CSELR) projects; the second was to amend a road name in the figures; and the third was to note environmental constraints associated with a proposed mitigation work, being a pit and pipe upgrade between Lang Road and Kensington Ponds in Centennial Park. The second submission related to inadequate drainage at Dibbs Street in Centennial Park. In response, a project has been created to investigate the stormwater system at this location.

Sydney Water Comments

24. Sydney Water has advised that they will work in collaboration with the City to investigate options to reduce the flood risk issue in Victoria Street, Potts Point as per the adopted plan.

FINALISATION OF STUDY DOCUMENTS

25. Subsequent to the public exhibition, 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 have been amended by adding:
- (a) details of the public exhibition process;
 - (b) a mitigation option 'Investigate kerb & gutter enhancements in Victoria Street' in the draft Woolloomooloo Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study and in the draft Plan. The mitigation option has been prioritised as high and proposed to be carried out within the short term.
26. The Floodplain Risk Management Committee was informed about the public exhibition process and proposed amendments. Amendments to the study documents were circulated to members of the City's Floodplain Risk Management Committee for review and comment. The Committee supported the adoption of the study documents.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

27. Once the Floodplain Risk Management Studies and the Floodplain Risk Management Plans have been adopted by Council, the recommendations will be incorporated into a future amendment to the City Plan, and flood planning provisions added to the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan.
28. The current Section 149 Certificate for all properties covered by the Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012 carries the following clause:
- "The development on this land or part of this land is subject to flood related development controls refer to Clause 7.15 of Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012 and Section 3.7 of Sydney Development Control Plan 2012."*
29. This clause will be updated once the Floodplain Risk Management Plans have been adopted by Council and the recommended planning controls implemented. The update will result in a number of properties having flood related development controls lifted.
30. The Floodplain Risk Management Studies and the Floodplain Risk Management Plans will also allow the City to develop future works programs to address floodplain management in the catchments. Once adopted, the City will be in a position to seek grant funding for significant infrastructure required by the Floodplain Risk Management Plans.
31. Following implementation of the infrastructure within the Floodplain Risk Management Plans, further properties may then have the flood control message on the Section 149 Certificate removed.
32. The modelling information developed as part of these studies will be available to the public. This model will result in improved consistency for future engineering assessments undertaken to determine the impacts to the floodplain resulting from development.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

33. The cost of implementing the Floodplain Risk Management Plans is funded by allocations made within the City's Long Term Financial Plan, State and Federal Government Grants and contributions from developers. The total cost of capital works to be completed within 10 years associated with the plans for these three catchments is approximately \$7M.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

34. Section 733 of Local Government Act 1993 relating to exemption from liability in relation to information provided in relation to flood liable land.
35. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

36. The City's Floodplain Risk Management Committee steers the development of the Floodplain Management 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) were provided an opportunity to review and comment on an initial draft edition of these studies and plans.
37. During the preparation of the flood studies, a community brochure and survey was distributed to 537 properties within the Woolloomooloo Catchment in June 2011, and 792 properties within the Rushcutters Bay Catchment and 1,889 properties within the Centennial Park Catchment between October and November 2012. 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.
38. 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 Flood Risk Management Studies and Plans. The Flood Studies were made available to the public on the City's website in late 2013.

39. An additional community brochure and survey was distributed to 571 properties within the Woolloomooloo, 826 properties within Rushcutters Bay and 557 properties within the Centennial Park Catchment Areas in 2014 as part of the preparation of the Floodplain Risk Management Studies. Online versions of the surveys were also included on the City's website. The Floodplain Risk Management Studies survey targeted all property owners and residents at risk of flooding. This survey was 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 the study areas.
40. 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.
41. In April and May 2015, the City also consulted with the Sydney Cricket Ground and Sports Ground Trust, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust and Woollahra Municipal Council.
42. In May 2015, copies of the draft Flood Studies, Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Plans were circulated to the Floodplain Risk Management Committee for review and comment and no comments were received.
43. Two public information days were held during the exhibition period. A meeting was held at Paddington Markets on Saturday, 25 July 2015 and another was held at the Kings Cross Organic Food Markets on 1 August 2015.
44. 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 were placed on public exhibition as detailed earlier in this report.

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