

ITEM 4. SYDNEY CITY CATCHMENTS – INCORPORATING THE CITY AREA AND DARLING HARBOUR CATCHMENTS – FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND PLANS – PUBLIC EXHIBITION**FILE NO: S122236****SUMMARY**

On 8 December 2014, Council approved a tender for the engagement of a contractor to prepare the Sydney City Catchments Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans. The Sydney City Catchments incorporates the drainage catchments of the Darling Harbour Catchment Area and the City Area Catchment. The draft City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment Area Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans have now been completed and endorsed by the Floodplain Risk Management Committee.

The draft Flood Studies, as a precursor to the Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans, were completed for the City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment Area in October 2014. The draft Flood Studies were made available on the City's website in late 2014 and will now be placed on formal public exhibition alongside the draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans.

This report recommends that the following six documents be placed on public exhibition for community comment:

- City Area Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report);
- City Area Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report);
- City Area Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft Report);
- Darling Harbour Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report);
- Darling Harbour Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report); and
- Darling Harbour Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft Report).

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 City Area and Darling Harbour Catchment Areas, as shown at Attachments B, C, D, E, F and G to the subject report, on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days; and
- (B) a further report on the draft Flood Studies, draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and draft Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment Area be presented to Council following the public exhibition process with any proposed changes.

ATTACHMENTS

(Note – Hard copies of Attachments B to G 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: City Area Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report)

Attachment C: City Area Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report)

Attachment D: City Area Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Draft Report)

Attachment E: Darling Harbour Catchment Flood Study (Draft Report)

Attachment F: Darling Harbour Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study (Draft Report)

Attachment G: Darling Harbour 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 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 (Attachment A) in the City LGA are:

Catchment Name	Area (Hectares)	Proportion of the City's 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 Sydney City Catchment Area (shown in Attachment A) includes the drainage catchments of the City Area and Darling Harbour. Together, they comprise approximately 19 per cent of the entire City LGA. These catchment areas include the suburbs of Millers Point, Dawes Point, The Rocks, Barangaroo, Sydney CBD, Haymarket, Surry Hills and parts of Ultimo and Pyrmont.
11. The completion of the draft City Area Catchment Flood Study and draft Darling Harbour Catchment Area Flood Study was reported to the Environmental Committee on 5 May 2014.
12. On 8 December 2014, Council approved the tender to prepare the City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment Area Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans.
13. The draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plan for these two 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 City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment Area 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 City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment Area 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 City Area and Darling Harbour 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 relating to exemption from liability in relation to information provided in relation to flood liable land.
19. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

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 mailed to 21,250 residents and businesses within the combined study area during the preparation of the City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment Area Flood Studies in May 2013. The surveys were also made available online through the City's website. The City received 58 and 186 responses from the City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment Area respectively.
22. Following completion of the draft Flood Studies in 2014, 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 draft Flood Studies were made available to the public on the City's website in late 2014.

23. As part of the preparation of the Floodplain Risk Management Studies, an additional community brochure and survey was distributed to 951 properties within the City Area Catchment and 2,487 properties within the Darling Harbour Catchment Area in April 2015. 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 22 responses and 85 responses from the City Area Catchment and the Darling Harbour Catchment Area respectively. The responses largely supported a preference for unblocking drains, stormwater drainage network upgrades, improved flood flow paths and flood forecasting, warnings and evacuation planning. These preferences were considered in preparing the Floodplain Risk Management Study and formulating a Plan for both study areas.
24. A workshop was conducted with representatives from Sydney Water in July 2015. A variety of floodplain risk management measures and their preliminary assessment outcomes were presented in the workshop and feedback was sought from the participants.
25. A community information session was held at the Good Neighbourhood BBQ at Ward Park on Sunday, 25 October 2015. A variety of floodplain risk management measures and their preliminary assessment outcomes were discussed with the community. Feedback was sought from the community regarding preferences for the floodplain risk management measures presented. Online versions of the community information session brochures and preferences survey were also included on the City's website. These preferences were considered in preparing the Floodplain Risk Management Study and formulating a Plan for both study areas.
26. This report recommends that the draft Flood Studies, draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and draft Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment Area be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.
27. A community engagement plan will be prepared and implemented prior to the public exhibition of the six reports.

GEORGE ANGELIS

Acting Director City Operations

Sean Howie, Project Engineer – Water Assets