

ITEM 3. SYDNEY CITY CATCHMENTS – INCORPORATING THE CITY AREA AND DARLING HARBOUR CATCHMENTS – FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND PLANS – ADOPTION**FILE NO: S122236****SUMMARY**

On 29 February 2016, Council resolved that the draft Flood Studies, draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and draft Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the Sydney City Catchment Area be placed on public exhibition. The Sydney City Catchments incorporates the drainage catchments of the Darling Harbour Catchment and the City Area Catchment. 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 six documents:

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council adopt the final Flood Studies, final draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and final draft Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment, as shown at Attachments B to G to the subject report.

ATTACHMENTS

(Note – Hard copies of Attachments B to G will be circulated separately from the Agenda Paper in limited numbers. They will be available for viewing 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 (Final Report)

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

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

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

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

Attachment G: Darling Harbour Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Plan (Final 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 initiatives relating to this Master Plan that are expected to be 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 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 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 Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans.
13. On 29 February 2016, Council resolved that the draft Flood Studies, draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and draft Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the Sydney City Catchment Area 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 Sydney City Catchment Area were placed on public exhibition from 7 March to 11 April 2016.

16. The public notice of the exhibition was advertised in two newspapers, namely:
 - (a) The Sydney Morning Herald; and
 - (b) Central Sydney Magazine.
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); and
 - (b) City's website (www.sydneyyoursay.com.au).

Community Response

19. The public exhibition page on the City's website received 385 page views.
20. During the public exhibition, two submissions were received for the City Area Catchment, one submission for the Darling Harbour Catchment, and one submission relating to both catchments.
21. The Darling Harbour submission related to flooding issues at locations outside the catchment. The submission also indicated preferences for the proposed flood mitigation options. The reported flooding is identified and addressed in the Rushcutters Bay Floodplain Risk Management Plan. A written response was provided to this submission.
22. Of the City Area submissions, one submission provided preferences for the proposed flood mitigation options using the online comment sheet with no further comments. The second submission consisted of a consultant's review of the reports with a request for the City to undertake further economic analysis of flood damages and to provide details of the implementation of the proposed options. In response to this submission, appropriate amendments to the reports have been made and a written response was provided.
23. The submission that related to both catchments was a request for the City to minimise debris entering Sydney Harbour through the drainage system. A written response was provided to this submission outlining the City's water quality improvement targets, which will be incorporated into the implementation of the floodplain risk management measures where possible.

FINALISATION OF STUDY DOCUMENTS

24. Subsequent to the public exhibition, the draft Flood Studies, draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and draft Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the Sydney City Catchment Area have been amended by adding:
 - (a) details of the public exhibition process; and
 - (b) the emergency response planning process to reflect current terminology used by NSW Government emergency service organisations.

25. The Floodplain Management Committee was informed about the public exhibition process and proposed amendments. Amendments to the study documents were circulated to members of the Committee for review and comment. The Committee supported the adoption of the study documents.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

26. 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.
27. 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.”
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. 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

32. The cost of implementing the Flood 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.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

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

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

35. 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 the studies and plans.
36. A community brochure and survey was mailed to 21,250 residents and businesses within the combined study area during the preparation of the draft Flood Studies in May 2013. The surveys were also made available online through the City's website. The City received 186 responses from the Darling Harbour Catchment and 58 responses from the City Area Catchment. Respondents reported their experience of flood and difficulty with property access.
37. 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.
38. 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 as part of the preparation of the Floodplain Risk Management Studies 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 Darling Harbour Catchment 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.
39. A workshop was also 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.
40. Community information sessions were held at the Good Neighbourhood BBQ at Ward Park on Sunday, 25 October 2015 and at Fig Lane Reserve, Ultimo on Sunday, 13 March 2016. A variety of floodplain risk management measures 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.

41. In November 2015, a copy 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.
42. The draft Flood studies, draft Floodplain Risk Management Studies and draft Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the City Area Catchment and Darling Harbour Catchment were placed on public exhibition as detailed earlier in this report.

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