



# Disaster and Emergency Committee

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Date of meeting: 30 July 2024  
Location: Council Chambers  
Time: 4:00pm

**BUSINESS PAPER**



**DISASTER AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

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**1.2. Apologies**

**1.3. Declaration of Interests**

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## DISASTER AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

### 1. AGENDA

Meeting Date: 28 May 2024

### 1. AGENDA

#### Welcome

Minutes of the Meeting of the Disaster and Emergency Committee held in the Council Chambers on 28 May 2024, commencing at 4:01pm.

#### ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Councillor Sarah McMahon, Mayor  
Councillor Barry Calvert, Deputy Mayor  
Councillor Shane Djuric  
Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett  
Councillor Jill Reardon  
Councillor Les Sheather  
Councillor Danielle Wheeler (audio-visual)  
Councillor Nathan Zamprogno

**Apologies:** Councillor Patrick Conolly  
Councillor Amanda Kotlash  
Mr Kevin Jones, NSW State Emergency Service

**In Attendance:** Mr Andrew Garner, Police NSW  
Mr Anthony Baerwinkel, Endeavour Energy  
Mr Ross Chivers, NSW Ambulance  
Ms Rebecca Tulk, NSW Ambulance  
Mr Ethan Parker, Rural Fire Service  
Mr Ian Stubbs, Fire and Rescue NSW  
Ms Elizabeth Richardson, General Manager  
Mr Laurie Mifsud, Director Corporate Services  
Mr Will Barton, Director Infrastructure Services  
Ms Jackie Carr, Executive Manager Infrastructure Operations  
Ms Suzanne Stuart, Manager Communications and Events  
Mr Phillip Bow, Resilience and Emergency Management Officer  
Ms Patricia Krzeminski, Manager Governance and Risk  
Ms Melissa Ryan, Administrative Support Coordinator  
Ms Imogen Williams, Administrative Support Officer

#### APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

Apologies were received from Councillors Patrick Conolly and Amanda Kotlash.

Councillor Eddie Dogramaci was absent from the Meeting.

A request to attend the meeting via audio-visual link was received from Councillor Danielle Wheeler.

#### RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Lyons-Buckett, seconded by Councillor Calvert that the apologies and request to attend the meeting via audio-visual link be accepted.

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**1. AGENDA**

**Meeting Date: 28 May 2024**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor McMahon declared a less than significant pecuniary interest as she is a member of the Rural Fire Service.

Councillor Wheeler declared a less than significant pecuniary interest as she and her son are members of the Rural Fire Service and volunteered during the last flood in April 2024.



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**Meeting Date: 28 May 2024**

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

The Committee resolved on the Motion of Councillor Reardon, seconded by Councillor Sheather, that the Minutes of the Disaster and Emergency Committee meeting held on 26 March 2024 be confirmed.

**For the Motion:** Councillors McMahon, Calvert, Djuric, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Sheather and Wheeler.

**Against the Motion:** Nil.

**Absent:** Councillors Conolly, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Veigel and Zamprogno.

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**3. AGENCY UPDATE**

**Meeting Date: 28 May 2024**

**3. AGENCY UPDATE**

Mr Andrew Garner, Police NSW and Mr Ethan Parker, Rural Fire Service provided an agency update.

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**4. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION**

**Meeting Date: 28 May 2024**

**4. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION**

**4.1.1. DE - April 2024 Flood Event (151940)**

**Directorate:** Infrastructure Service

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**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee receive and note the report regarding the April 2024 Flood Event.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Lyons-Buckett, seconded by Councillor Reardon.

That the Committee receive and note the report regarding the April 2024 Flood Event.

**For the Motion:** Councillors McMahon, Calvert, Djuric, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Sheather and Wheeler.

**Against the Motion:** Nil.

**Absent:** Councillors Conolly, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Veigel and Zamprogno.

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**Meeting Date: 28 May 2024**

**4.1.2. DE - Endeavour Energy - Electrical Infrastructure Resilience in the Hawkesbury - (151940)**

**Directorate:** Infrastructure Service

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Mr Anthony Baerwinkel, Endeavour Energy presented on infrastructure resilience in the Hawkesbury.

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the Disaster and Emergency Committee:

1. Receive the presentation from Endeavour Energy on infrastructure resilience in the Hawkesbury.
2. Identify any matters for further action or resolution by Council.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Sheather, seconded by Councillor Reardon.

That the Disaster and Emergency Committee:

1. Receive the presentation from Endeavour Energy on infrastructure resilience in the Hawkesbury.
2. Identify any matters for further action or resolution by Council.

**For the Motion:** Councillors McMahon, Calvert, Djuric, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Sheather, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

**Against the Motion:** Nil.

**Absent:** Councillors Conolly, Dogramaci, Kotlash and Veigel.

*Councillor Nathan Zamprogno joined the meeting at 4:47pm.*

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### 4. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

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#### 4.1.3. DE - Ambulance NSW - Servicing the Hawkesbury - (151940)

**Previous Item:** 064, Ordinary (9 April 2019)

001, Infrastructure Committee (17 April 2019)

**Directorate:** Infrastructure Service

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Ms Rebecca Tulk, NSW Ambulance presented on NSW Ambulance Service in the Hawkesbury.

#### OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. Receive the presentation from Ambulance NSW on NSW Ambulance Service in the Hawkesbury.
2. Identify any matters for further action or resolution by Council.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Reardon.

That:

1. The Committee receive the presentation from Ambulance NSW on NSW Ambulance Service in the Hawkesbury.
2. The response time data that was alluded to, be collated and presented to Council.
3. Council write to the relevant Minister and ask them to explain the process by which Ambulance Station locations are selected and whether Local Government is usually included in this process.

**For the Motion:** Councillors McMahon, Calvert, Djuric, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Sheather, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

**Against the Motion:** Nil.

**Absent:** Councillors Conolly, Dogramaci, Kotlash and Veigel.

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**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Meeting Date: 28 May 2024**

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business discussed.

Meeting terminated at 5:36pm.

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### 3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

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### 3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

#### 3.1.1. DE - Flood Recovery Update - (151940, 95495)

**Directorate:** Infrastructure Services

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#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The overarching purpose of this report is to satisfy the recent amendment to the Committee's Charter, that a meeting of the Committee be held following a natural disaster. It is an opportunity for the Committee to receive information on the response and initial recovery activities and to provide feedback on those activities related to the natural disaster floods of 7-9 June 2024.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive and note the report regarding the June 2024 Flood Events.

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#### BACKGROUND

The Disaster and Emergency Committee is established for the purpose of providing advice to Council about policy matters as they relate to natural disasters and other emergencies. The Committee is convened, relevantly, following a natural disaster to allow for consideration by the Committee of the response and recovery activities and to invite relevant NSW agencies and the combat agency to brief the Committee. In this instance, the Committee has been convened following the flood event on the Hawkesbury River over the period 7-9 June 2024.

#### DISCUSSION

##### Briefing by State Agencies

Representatives from relevant NSW State Agencies will be provided with the opportunity to update/brief the Committee on their Agency's activities as they relate to this flood event.

##### Summary of June Event

Unlike the April 2024 flood event in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley (HNV), which saw widespread rain and flash flooding across many parts of the catchment, the June event was characteristically a 'dry flood', given the bulk of the rain which caused the flooding, fell in the upper reaches of the catchment - in the Upper Nepean and Warragamba catchments - while relatively little amounts of rain fell across the Hawkesbury Local Government Area (LGA). For instance, only 38.8mm of rain fell at the Richmond Automatic Weather Station over the three days to 9am Saturday, 8 June 2024.

Compared with the April 2024 flood event, the June 2024 flood exhibited a number of significant differences including:

- Faster rates of rise, particularly at North Richmond (maximum rate of rise in June 2024 was 1.45m/hour versus a maximum rate of rise in April 2024 of 0.96m/hour), and

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- Fast arriving peak (relative to commencement of river rises, the peak arrived some 10 hours and 9 hours earlier at North Richmond and Windsor respectively, in June 2024, as compared with April 2024)
- Very little inflows from the Grose, Colo or Macdonald Rivers

Along the Hawkesbury, flood levels were slightly less than the April 2024 event with the peak at North Richmond being 0.37m lower (peak of 10.144m) and at Windsor 0.732m (peak of 8.657m).

Gauge location	Flood Peak (m local gauge)	Flood Peak (mAHD)	Flood Peak (date/time)
North Richmond	10.144	10.673	Sat 8 June 08:15
Freemans Reach	9.881	9.881	Sat 8 June 12:30
Windsor	8.657	8.657	Sat 8 June 15:30
Ebenezer	6.842	6.842	Sat 8 June 18:00
Sackville	4.663	4.663	Sun 9 June 00:45
Colo Junction	3.03	3.03	Sun 9 June 01:30
Webbs Creek	1.896	1.896	Sun 9 June 00:00

Generally, the flood frequencies were between 1 in 2 and 1 in 5 year recurrence intervals.

By 2am on Monday, 10 June 2024, the Hawkesbury River at Windsor had fallen to below the Minor flood level of 5.8m.

At the time of writing this report, the Hawkesbury LGA had not yet been included in the natural disaster declaration for the event, however indications from NSW Government agencies were that the LGA's inclusion was imminent.

#### Infrastructure Impacts

##### Bridges

- Yarramundi Bridge was closed and overtopped, closing on the morning of Friday, 7 June 2024 and reopening on the evening of Monday, 10 June 2024. There was no reported damage and relatively little debris impact.
- North Richmond Bridge was closed and overtopped, closing on the afternoon of Friday, 7 June 2024 and reopening in the afternoon of Sunday, 9 June 2024, under weight restrictions initially. The handrails had been lowered prior to the bridge being overtopped and only some minor damage was experienced. There was a significant debris load on the bridge during the flood and a debris island remains, albeit reduced from the April 2024 event.
- Windsor Bridge remained open throughout the event. There was no reported damage and relatively little debris impact

##### Road Network

Compared with the April 2024 event, there were far fewer roads impact owing to the absence of any flash flooding. With the exception of Brennans Dam Road and one or two other known hotspots, all road closures occurred as a result of the riverine flooding.

Road closures resulting from riverine flooding (that is flooding of the Hawkesbury River) impacted on the road network as expected, including the State Road Network.



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#### Ferries

The Lower Portland Ferry was out of service for the entire period of this event.

Sackville, Webbs Creek and Wisemans Ferries were all impacted by service closures.

#### Electricity Network

Customer impacts were primarily as a result of services being cut to flood-impacted/inundated areas along the Hawkesbury River. There was no disruption to transmission infrastructure during this event.

#### Flood Gates

While there has not been damage recorded to any of Council's flood gates from this event, staff have engaged with local residents and farmers on the protocol for operating the Argyle Reach Road flood gates. Staff will continue to investigate operating options for a range of flood events, with the prevailing objective of achieving the greatest public good.

### **Community Impacts**

#### Community Information

Council continued with its previous approach to only reproduce content from the combat agency (NSW SES) and other State agencies such as Transport for NSW and NSW Police. This approach is consistent across all emergency management partners and ensures there is consistency in public messaging, unity of information across agencies and government and that the information being shared is credible and can be relied upon.

Primary impacts were on local primary producers (turf and vegetable farmers) along the Hawkesbury River.

#### Evacuation Centres

Throughout the event two evacuation centres operated within the Hawkesbury LGA:

- Richmond Club, Richmond
- Panthers Club, North Richmond

The Large Animal Evacuation Centre at the Castle Hill Showground was also activated for the event and the trial of a new opening protocol (that the Centre is opened earlier, upon the issuing of a flood watch) was determined to be feasible for future events.

#### Damage Assessments

In total, 135 damage assessments were completed by Emergency Services and only one instance of slight damage was recorded to a commercial building.

### **Flood and Storm Generated Waste**

There were no requests for any flood clean ups or flood waste disposals.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The issues raised in this report concern matters which do not require community consultation under Council's Community Engagement Policy.

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**CONFORMANCE TO THE HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2042**

The summary report is consistent with the following Long-Term Community Objectives set out within the CSP.

Great Place to Live

- 1.1 Enable a shared responsibility for community resilience, community safety and disaster management.
- 1.3 Increase the range of local partnerships and plan for the future.

Reliable Council

- 4.1 Provide representative, responsive and accountable governance.
- 4.2 Encourage an informed community.
- 4.3 Build strong financial sustainability for now and future generations.
- 4.4 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There are no financial implications applicable to this report.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no supporting documents for this report.

**oooO END OF REPORT Oooo**

**DISASTER AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

**4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Meeting Date** 30 July 2024

**4. GENERAL BUSINESS**



# Disaster and Emergency Committee Meeting

## End of Business Paper

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