

Disaster and Emergency Committee

Date of meeting: 28 May 2024 Location: Council Chambers

Time: 4:00pm

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1. AGENDA

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1. AGENDA

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- 1.2. Apologies
- 1.3. Declaration of Interests

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

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DISASTER AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

1. AGENDA

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1. AGENDA

Welcome

Minutes of the Meeting of the Disaster and Emergency Committee held in the Council Chambers on 26 March 2024, commencing at 4:03pm.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Councillor Sarah McMahon, Mayor

Councillor Barry Calvert, Deputy Mayor

Councillor Patrick Conolly Councillor Shane Djuric Councillor Eddie Dogramaci Councillor Amanda Kotlash Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett Councillor Jill Reardon Councillor Les Sheather Councillor Paul Veigel Councillor Danielle Wheeler Councillor Nathan Zamprogno

Apologies: Mr Kevin Jones, NSW State Emergency Service

Ms Karen Hodges, Rural Fire Service

Mr Andrew Garner, Police NSW In Attendance:

Mr Luc Roberts, Rural Fire Service

Ms Elizabeth Richardson, General Manager Mr Laurie Mifsud, Director Corporate Services Mr Will Barton, Director Infrastructure Services Ms Meagan Ang, Director City Planning

Ms Jackie Carr, Executive Manager Infrastructure Operations

Mr Andrew Kearns, Manager Strategic Planning

Ms Suzanne Stuart, Manager Communications and Events Mr Phillip Bow, Resilience and Emergency Management Officer Ms Colleen Haron, Floodplain Management Officer

Ms Melissa Ryan, Administrative Support Coordinator

Member	26/03/2024
Councillor Sarah McMahon, Mayor	✓
Councillor Barry Calvert, Deputy Mayor	✓
Councillor Patrick Conolly	✓
Councillor Shane Djuric	✓
Councillor Eddie Dogramaci	✓
Councillor Amanda Kotlash	✓
Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett	✓
Councillor Jill Reardon	✓
Councillor Les Sheather	✓
Councillor Paul Veigel	✓
Councillor Danielle Wheeler	✓
Councillor Nathan Zamprogno	✓

Key: A = Formal Apology ü= Present X = Absent - no apology

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DISASTER AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE 1. AGENDA

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

Apologies were received from Mr Kevin Jones, NSW State Emergency Services and Ms Karen Hodges, Rural Fire Service.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Committee resolved on the Motion of Councillor Sheather, seconded by Councillor Veigel, that the Minutes of the Disaster and Emergency Committee meeting held on 27 September 2022 be confirmed.

AGENCY UPDATE - POLICE NSW AND RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Mr Andrew Garner, Police NSW and Mr Luc Roberts, Rural Fire Service provided an agency update.

Councillor Patrick Conolly joined the meeting at 4:13pm. Councillor Nathan Zamprogno joined the meeting at 4:15pm.

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3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

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3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

3.1.1. DE - Update on Hawkesbury Floodplain Management Projects (161821,

124414, 95498, 151940)

Directorate: City Planning

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Disaster and Emergency Management Committee:

- 1. Receive the update on the status of Council's Floodplain Risk Management Projects.
- Note the program of works for Council's Floodplain Risk Management Projects in 2024 (Attachment 17).
- Note that the Macdonald Valley Association representative on the Floodplain Management Sub Committee has changed from Rosemary Scott to Lewis Adey.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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

That the Disaster and Emergency Management Committee:

- 1. Receive the update on the status of Council's Floodplain Risk Management Projects.
- Note the program of works for Council's Floodplain Risk Management Projects in 2024 (Attachment 17).
- 3. Note that the Macdonald Valley Association representative on the Floodplain Management Sub Committee has changed from Rosemary Scott to Lewis Adey.
- 4. Adopt the Minutes of the various Floodplain Management Sub-Committee Meetings as attached to the report then send to Council for adoption.

For the Motion: Councillors McMahon, Calvert, Conolly, Djuric, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Lyons-

Buckett, Reardon, Sheather, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

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3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

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3.1.2. DE - Status Summary on Flood Recovery - (151940, 95495)

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Status Summary on Flood Recovery Report be received and noted.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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

That the Status Summary on Flood Recovery Report be received and noted.

For the Motion: Councillors McMahon, Calvert, Conolly, Djuric, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Lyons-

Buckett, Reardon, Sheather, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

Mr Andrew Kearns, Manager Strategic Planning and Ms Colleen Haron, Floodplain Management Officer left the meeting at 4:46pm.

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3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

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3.1.3. DE - Update on Riverbank Stabilisation Matters - (151940)

Directorate: City Planning

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Disaster and Emergency Committee note Council's attempts to provide a streamlined approach to riverbank stabilisation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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

That the Disaster and Emergency Committee note Council's attempts to provide a streamlined approach to riverbank stabilisation.

For the Motion: Councillors McMahon, Calvert, Conolly, Djuric, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Lyons-

Buckett, Reardon, Sheather, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

Mr Will Barton, Director Infrastructure Services left the meeting at 4:56pm.

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3. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

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3.1.4. DE - Hawkesbury Floodplain Drainage Review - Molino Stewart Study -

(151940)

Directorate: City Planning

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee note the updates Hawkesbury Floodplain Drainage Review - Molino Stewart Study and outstanding resolution actions from past committee meetings.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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

That the Committee note the updates Hawkesbury Floodplain Drainage Review - Molino Stewart Study and outstanding resolution actions from past committee meetings.

For the Motion: Councillors McMahon, Calvert, Conolly, Djuric, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Lyons-

Buckett, Reardon, Sheather, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

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DISASTER AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

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4. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business discussed.

Meeting terminated at 5:17pm.

3. AGENCY UPDATE

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3. AGENCY UPDATE

An opportunity for Agency representatives in attendance to provide an update:

- Police NSW
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- Rural Fire Service
- NSW State Emergency Services

4. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

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4. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

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

Directorate: Infrastructure Service

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.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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 and flash flooding experienced in various locations across the LGA.

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 Event

Heavy and persistent rain fell across large areas of the eastern seaboard and adjoining ranges between Thursday 4 April and the early hours of Saturday 6 April due to a deep trough and low-pressure system off the NSW East Coast. The most intense rainfall across the LGA and Hawkesbury-Nepean River Catchment, including the Lake Burragorang Catchment occurred overnight Friday 5 April into early morning of Saturday 6 April.

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Notable rainfall figures for the 48 hours to 9am Saturday 6 April include:

BOM Station	Rainfall (mm)	
Kurrajong Heights	279.5	
Penrith AWS	251.8	
Bilpin	228.8	
Mt Boyce	219.4	
Colo Heights	215.2	
Richmond	197.0	

River level rises in the Hawkesbury-Nepean were initially relatively minor; at 7pm on Friday 5 April, the Hawkesbury River at Windsor had only risen to 1.32m (below Minor flood level), however the intense rainfall overnight and the commencement of spilling from Warragamba Dam led to rapid river rises. By 7am on Saturday 6 April, the Hawkesbury River at Windsor had risen to 7.66m (exceeding the Moderate flood level and rising 6.34m in 12 hours) and ultimately it peaked at about midnight Saturday 6 April at a height of 9.407m with Moderate flooding.

Along the Hawkesbury, flood levels were comparable to the February 2020 event (this event being approximately 0.1m higher at Windsor) and a summary of flood peaks is presented below:

Gauge location	Flood Peak (m local gauge)	Flood Peak (mAHD)	Flood Peak (date/time)
North Richmond	10.515	11.044	Sat 6 Apr 20:15
Freemans Reach	10.389	10.389	Sat 6 Apr 23:15
Windsor	9.407	9.407	Sun 7 Apr 00:45
Ebenezer	7.57	7.57	Sun 7 Apr 04:30
Sackville	5.542	5.542	Sun 7 Apr 02:15
Colo Junction	4.385	4.385	Sat Apr 6 23:00
Webbs Creek	2.174	2.174	Sun 7 Apr 09:45

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

By 5pm on Monday 8 April, the Hawkesbury River at Windsor had fallen to below the Minor flood level of 5.8m.

River level rises in the Colo River were similarly relatively minor: at 7pm on Friday 5 April, the Colo River at Upper Colo had only risen to 1.23m (below Minor flood level), however the intense rainfall overnight once again led to rapid river rises. By 7am on Saturday 6 April, the Colo River at Upper Colo had risen to 13.087m (exceeding the Moderate flood level and rising 11.86m in 12 hours) and ultimately peaked a little under two hours later at 8:45am at a height of 13.267m, with Moderate flooding.

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Infrastructure Impacts

Bridges

- Yarramundi Bridge was closed and overtopped, closing early morning of Saturday 6 April and reopening on the evening of Monday 8 April. There was no reported damage and relatively little debris impact.
- North Richmond Bridge was closed and overtopped, closing early morning of Saturday 6 April and reopening in the early hours of Monday 8 April, under weight restrictions initially. As has been noted by Council previously, the handrails on the Bridge remained upright and were subsequently damaged. There was a significant debris load on the bridge during the flood and a debris island remains.
- Windsor Bridge remained open throughout the event, with the River reaching the soffit (underside of the bridge) level. There was no reported damage and relatively little debris impact

Road Network

A large number of road closures on the road network occurred as a result of the flash flooding overnight Friday 5 April through to Saturday 6 April. These closures were generally on the local road network as local storm water systems were overwhelmed with the volume of rain runoff.

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.

Of note, road connections to the Windsor Bridge including Wilberforce Road and Gorricks Lane were both impacted by flooding, leaving only Hibberts Lane open to traffic and becoming the only accessible route connecting the either side of the River. This placed an enormous strain on the Lane and ultimately led to traffic control and restrictions being placed on it until Gorricks Lane and then Wilberforce Road were reopened. In developing this approach, Council staff worked very closely with and received a lot of support from NSW Police and the TfNSW Traffic Management Centre. This has been identified as an opportunity to develop a pre-event plan agreed to by Council, NSW Police and TMC.

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 due to the impacts of debris on the cables (and in one instance damage arising from the attempts to clear the debris) and sediment/debris on the approach ramps. Webbs Creek and Wisemans Ferries resumed operations on Monday 9 April (Webbs Creek was taken out of service, while Sackville Ferry was returned to service in the following days.

Electricity Network

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

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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.

This was the first event for which Council's updated Dashboard was available. The updated Dashboard now incorporates as standard the warning polygons produced by the NSW SES, providing the community with a map-based product to convey the often complex information relating to flood warnings, evacuation warnings and evacuation orders.

During the event, roughly from the afternoon of Friday 5 April through to the evening of Sunday 7 April,

- Approximately 9,000 unique users accessed the Dashboard 15,000 time
- Council operated its Call Centre on Saturday 6 April between the hours of 8:30am and 4pm, receiving 42 calls
- Council's Facebook page received 42,000 visits, reached an audience of 155,000 and gained 627 new followers

Unfortunately, there were instances of high profile social media pages posting factually incorrect information regarding the Large Animal Evacuation Centre. This had the potential to lead to undertake certain actions which may have placed lives at risk.

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.

Flood Warning System

This event was the first occasion, for the Hawkesbury Community, that the new nationally consistent Australian Warning System was utilised. This three-tiered system - Advice, Watch and Act & Emergency Warning - is consistent across all hazards and coupled with the map-based products (which were automatically reproduced on Council's Disaster and Emergency Dashboard) represent a significant change to the content of and way warnings had been broadcast.

Flood and Storm Generated Waste

On this occasion, the volume of flood and storm generated waste was much reduced on previous events.

Council resolved, at its Ordinary Meeting of 9 April 2024, to waive tipping fees for storm-generated green waste from residential properties within urban, storm impacted areas of the LGA for a period of

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90 days. As at the date of writing this report, there had been no presentations of storm or flood-generated green waste (although there has been green waste in some mixed loads of flood-waste).

As the event had been declared a natural disaster, provisions for flood-waste cleanup to restore access to or make residential properties safe were eligible activities under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. To support the community Council offered two services, broadly: a collection service (either a skip bin or booked kerb-side collection) and a free drop-off service to the Hawkesbury Waste Management Facility (WMF).

- As of 13 May, there have been 8 skip bin service requests and 3 kerb-side collection service requests received and actioned.
- As at the conclusion of the free drop-off service on Sunday 12 May, 77 residents had dropped off 24.5t of flood-waste at the WMF.

In support of community recovery, the NSW EPA has also waived the waste levy for genuine flood and storm generated waste.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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.

000O END OF REPORT O000

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4.1.2. DE - Endeavour Energy - Electrical Infrastructure Resilience in the

Hawkesbury - (151940)

Directorate: Infrastructure Service

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Endeavour Energy with the opportunity to present to the Disaster and Emergency Management Committee, to discuss electrical infrastructure resilience.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has previously expressed concern at the vulnerability of electrical infrastructure to flooding and through the 27 September 2022 meeting of the Disaster and Emergency Committee, invited Endeavour Energy to address the Committee on the resilience of the electricity grid. This item invites Endeavour Energy to brief the Committee on these matters.

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.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no supporting documents for this report.

000O END OF REPORT O000

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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

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide NSW Ambulance the opportunity to present to the Disaster and Emergency Management Committee, to discuss paramedic numbers in the Hawkesbury local government area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has previously expressed concern at the lack of paramedic services on the western side of the Hawkesbury River. This item invites Ambulance NSW to brief the Committee on this matter.

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.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary meeting held 9 April 2019 Council resolved a matter of things in relation to paramedic numbers in the Hawkesbury. At the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held 17 April 2019 it was resolved that the General Manager arrange for NSW Ambulance be invited to the Committee's next meeting to discuss the provision of critical service to areas west of the Hawkesbury River.

The last remaining resolution ultimately sought to refer the matter to the Disaster and Emergency Committee and seek a briefing from Ambulance NSW. This report responds to that resolution.

In discussing attendance at the Disaster and Emergency Committee Meeting, Ambulance NSW have made it clear that representatives will not be in a position to discuss any detail with respect to paramedic numbers, but will be able to outline:

- how servicing and coverage within the Hawkesbury is consistent with operational doctrine and policy,
- an update on the proposed new Ambulance Station, and
- operational arrangements during natural disasters.

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ATTACHMENTS

There are no supporting documents for this report.

000O END OF REPORT O000

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE 5. GENERAL BUSINESS

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5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Disaster Adaptation Plan:

"To provide an update on the options assessment process for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Disaster Adaptation Plan and a brief overview of the Reconstruction Authority's work on the State Disaster Adaptation Plan and recently updated State Recovery Plan as presented at a workshop 15 April 2024".



Disaster and Emergency Committee Meeting

End of Business Paper

This business paper has been produced electronically to reduce costs, improve efficiency and reduce the use of paper. Internal control systems ensure it is an accurate reproduction of Council's official copy of the business paper.