

Lismore Flood Risk Management Committee

Meeting Notice

Lismore City Council acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation, traditional custodians of the land on which we meet.

MEMBERS are requested to attend.

Members of the public will be welcomed to meetings of the Committee but shall not vote on matters before the Committee.

A meeting of the Flood Risk Management Committee will be held at the Council Chambers on Wednesday, 4 June 2025 at 1:00 pm.

28 May 2025



ETHICAL DECISION MAKING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A guiding checklist for councillors, staff and community committees

Ethical decision making

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with government policy, Council's objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Do you stand to gain personally at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. There are two types of conflict:

- Pecuniary – an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to yourself or another person or entity defined in part 4 of the Lismore City Council Code of Conduct with whom you are associated.
- Non-pecuniary – a private or personal interest that you have that does not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Lismore City Council Code of Conduct. These commonly arise out of family or personal relationships, or out of involvement in sporting, social, religious or other cultural groups and associations, and may include an interest of a financial nature.

The test for conflict of interest

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of "corruption" – using public office for private gain.
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest.

Identifying problems

- Do I have private interests affected by a matter I am officially involved in?
- Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?
- Do my private interests' conflict with my official role?

Disclosure and participation in meetings

- A councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Council or Committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.
- The councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the Council or Committee:
 - a. at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or Committee, or
 - b. at any time during which the Council or Committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

No Knowledge - a person does not breach this clause if the person did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

Non-pecuniary Interests - Must be disclosed in meetings.

There are a broad range of options available for managing conflicts & the option chosen will depend on an assessment of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the significance of the issue being dealt with. Non-pecuniary conflicts of interests must be dealt with in at least one of the following ways:

- It may be appropriate that no action be taken where the potential for conflict is minimal. However, councillors should consider providing an explanation of why they consider a conflict does not exist.
- Limit involvement if practical (eg. participate in discussion but not in decision making or vice versa). Care needs to be taken when exercising this option.
- Remove the source of the conflict (eg. relinquishing or divesting the personal interest that creates the conflict)
- Have no involvement by absenting yourself from and not taking part in any debate or voting on the issue as of the provisions in the Code of Conduct (particularly if you have a significant non-pecuniary interest)

Whilst seeking advice is generally useful, the ultimate decision rests with the person concerned.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

2. Apologies and Leave of Absence

3. Confirmation of Minutes

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4. Disclosure of Interest

5. Business

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6. Next Meeting

Business



Business

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Subject | To provide an update on the NRRRP projects |
| TRIM Record No | BP25/342:EF19/237-7 |
| Prepared by | Director - Waste & Resilience |
| Reason | To provide an update to the committee |
| Strategic Theme | An inclusive and healthy community |
| Strategy | Our community is safe, happy and healthy. |
| Action | Provide responsive emergency management and emergency prevention services. |

Executive Summary

The Flood Resilience Program is predominantly funded through the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program. The report provides information on program objectives and current status for each project within the program. The report also identifies a potential initiative regarding the Lismore Levee spillway at Browns Creek.

Recommendation

That:

1. the Committee notes the progress and outcomes of the Northern Rivers Reconstruction and Resilience Program (NRRRP) projects and acknowledges their alignment with the objectives of the Lismore Flood Risk Management Plan to ensure an integrated approach to flood resilience.

Information

The Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program is delivering upgrades to parts of Lismore's urban stormwater and pump stations associated with the Lismore Levee System. The program aims to integrate with the existing urban stormwater and levee systems to provide more reliable, resilient infrastructure and target opportunities to improve stormwater management during intense rainfall and flood events.

The program consists of 14 discrete projects. These projects are summarized in the table below, with key objectives listed in each project. Contribution of funding from Lismore City Council extends the scope of some projects to achieve additional functions beyond the available grant-funded scope.

Project Summary

| Project ID | Description of project | Objectives |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| 01 Strategic Planning | Develop an urban stormwater hydraulic model and flood damage impact assessment to assess the potential for pump upgrades and inform hydraulic performance at each location. Undertake investigations – Survey, Geotech, environmental assessment, to inform design progression | Decide opportunities to improve the level of service to the community in delivering resilient projects |
| 02 Browns Creek Pump Station | Upgrade the pump station (new pump station next to the existing one). Significantly increase | Increase capacity and reliability |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| | hydraulic capacity. Configure the pump station to improve screens and reduce debris impact | |
| 03 CBD Pump | Install a new pump station adjacent to the existing, increase flow rate, install a screen in existing chamber, new switchboard above the 2022 flood level | Remove operator intervention from pump operations, provide protection in screens and multiple pumps |
| 04 Hollingsworth Pump Station | Raise the mechanical plant room above the 2022 flood height. Improved screening for pump protection, fix failed retaining walls, and potential for a second pump if funding is sufficient | Protect the pump infrastructure from damage and improve the reliability of the pumps. |
| 05 Gasworks Pump Station | Raise the mechanical plant room above the 2022 flood height. Provide improved screening for pump protection. | Protect the pump infrastructure from damage and improve the reliability of the pumps. |
| 06 Snow St Three Chains Rd | Install a new pump station on Snow Street and provide stormwater upgrades to Snow Street and Three Chain Road. | Provide stormwater management for an isolated local catchment. |
| 07 Hollingsworth Gate | Install a new switchboard and refurbish the flood gate. | Remove operator intervention and allow for remote control and monitoring of the gate |
| 08 Fibre Connect | Install 10.5km of conduit and Fibre optic network to connect flood pump stations with a high-speed communications network. | Improve visibility of the sites and enable additional monitoring and control of the flood pump stations |
| 09/10/11 Trash Racks | Install pump asset protection screens at three major pump stations. | Reduce pump damage during operation. Increase the reliability of major pumps. Be designed in a way to not cause localized stormwater issues. |
| 12 East Drains Extension | Extend the major East Lismore Stormwater drain to the Rous Council Floodway. | Improve the conveyance of stormwater flows from East Lismore. |
| 13 Brewster Street Culvert | Improve stormwater conveyance through Browns Creek at Brewster Street | Reduce the frequency and severity of road inundation. |
| 14 Community Drains Cleaning | Remove debris from local stormwater drains. | Improve local stormwater function. |

Program-wide objectives also include:

- The provision of reliable power supplies to all sites.
- The provision of suitable maintenance access to ensure reliable and safe operations during and immediately following a flood event

Project Status

| Project ID | Project Status | Project Timing |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| 01 Strategic Planning | Hydraulic options assessment and investigation activities are complete. Ongoing hydraulic assessment of preferred options to inform design optimisation. | Ongoing through pump station design process. |
| 02 Browns Creek Pump Station | Preferred hydraulic sizing of the pump station confirmed, construction options and configuration under assessment. | Concept design complete in mid-2025. Procurement of pumps in late 2025, construction throughout 2026. |
| 03 CBD Pump | Hydraulic sizing increased, and pump selection confirmed. Concept design complete, procurement of construction underway. | Construction of pump Station late 2025 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 04 Hollingsworth Pump Station | Concept design for mechanical plant room protection complete. Options assessed for additional pump configuration. Pending funding assessment. | Design Complete late 2025. Construction to commence in 2026 |
| 05 Gasworks Pump Station | Detailed design is complete for the mechanical plant raising. Procurement is underway for construction. | Construction 2025 |
| 06 Snow St Three Chains Rd | Concept design complete, further design underway to integrate stormwater into new pump station. | Construction late 2025 |
| 07 Hollingsworth Gate | Construction awarded. Offsite fabrication. | Project finalized mid-2025. |
| 08 Fibre Connect | Construction awarded and site works underway. | Project finalized mid 2025 |
| 09/10/11 Trash Racks | Incorporated into pump stations projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasworks detailed design • Browns Creek – concept design • Hollingsworth – hold until project direction confirmed. | Delivered in parallel with each pump station upgrades |
| 12 East Drains Extension | Project Complete | Project Complete |
| 13 Brewster Street Culvert | Options assessment ongoing. Services relocation awarded and underway. | Construction early 2026 |
| 14 Community Drains Cleaning | Project Complete | Project Complete |

Opportunities

Browns Creek Pump Station is a significant investment and construction project. The most suitable location for a new pump station of this scale is adjacent to the existing pump station where the lowest section of the levee wall exists. This engineered spillway will need to be removed and reconstructed throughout the delivery of the pump station upgrade. The height of the levee at this location is RL10.95m and represents the lowest elevation along the entire length of the CBD levee. In parallel with pump station design, initial investigations into reconstructing this section of the levee at a higher level are being undertaken to inform potential options.

Increasing the height of the spillway at Browns Creek Pump Station could increase the flood immunity of the CBD and be delivered within the scope of the current project. Consideration of potential adverse impacts is being investigated, and any recommendation to raise or retain the spillway height will be brought to this forum prior to delivery of the initiative.

Attachment/s

There are no attachments for this report.

Business

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Subject | Update from the NSW Reconstruction Authority. |
| TRIM Record No | BP25/340:EF19/237-7 |
| Prepared by | Senior Strategic Planner |
| Reason | To provide the Committee with an update on the Northern Rivers Disaster Adaptation Plan. |
| Strategic Theme | Leadership and participation |
| Strategy | We collaborate with other agencies to achieve great outcomes. |
| Action | Develop working relationships with government, non-government, private sector and community-based agencies. |

Executive Summary

The NSW Reconstruction Authority will provide an update to the Committee on the Northern Rivers Disaster Adaptation Plan. The NSW Reconstruction Authority is developing a high-priority regional Disaster Adaptation Plan to address natural hazard risks in the Northern Rivers.

Recommendation

That the Committee note the presentation.

Information

Nerrida Buckley and Catherine Knight from the NSW Reconstruction Authority will provide an update to the Committee on the Northern Rivers Disaster Adaptation Plan (DAP).

Background information regarding the Northern Rivers DAP can also be found here: [Northern Rivers DAP](#)

Attachment/s

There are no attachments for this report.

Business

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Subject | Update from the NSW SES |
| TRIM Record No | BP25/292:EF19/237-7 |
| Prepared by | Senior Strategic Planner |
| Reason | To provide the Committee with an update from the NSW SES. |
| Strategic Theme | An inclusive and healthy community |
| Strategy | Our community is safe, happy and healthy. |
| Action | Provide responsive emergency management and emergency prevention services. |

Executive Summary

The NSW SES will provide the Committee with an overview of the severe weather and flood event that occurred from Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Recommendation

That the Committee note the update.

Information

Between March 6 and 10, 2025, Tropical Cyclone (TC) Alfred brought heavy rainfall to the Lismore Local Government Area (LGA), causing the Wilsons River to peak at 9.31m ('moderate' flood level). The State Emergency Service (SES) Deputy Zone Commander/TC Alfred Incident Controller, Joanna Jones, and Acting Coordinator Planning, Elena Palamara, will present the Committee with:

- an overview of the key operational decision points in the lead up to, during and following TC Alfred;
- provide an opportunity to discuss the lessons learnt from this severe weather event, to enable the SES and Committee to disseminate the latest flood learnings and filter this knowledge back to the community.

Attachment/s

There are no attachments for this report.

Business

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Subject | Update from Council's LEMO |
| TRIM Record No | BP25/339:EF19/237-7 |
| Prepared by | Senior Strategic Planner |
| Reason | To provide an update from Council's Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO). |
| Strategic Theme | An inclusive and healthy community |
| Strategy | Our community is safe, happy and healthy. |
| Action | Provide responsive emergency management and emergency prevention services. |

Executive Summary

The Northern Rivers Local Emergency Management Committee (NR LEMC), supported by Lismore City Council, oversees emergency planning across three LGAs and is updating its Northern Rivers Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) following recent audits and events.

In response to Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, Council has initiated a comprehensive review process to capture lessons learned and improve future emergency preparedness through both procedural and infrastructure enhancements.

Recommendation

That the Committee note the update.

Information

The Northern Rivers Local Emergency Management Committee (NR LEMC) is convened and exercises its legislative functions under the provisions of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 (SERM Act), not the Local Government Act (1993) and, as such, is not a committee of Council.

The NR LEMC operates across the combined Local Government Areas of Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley Council, and Kyogle Council and is responsible for developing and maintaining the Northern Rivers Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN). The EMPLAN addresses the prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from emergencies within the combined LGAs.

The EMPLAN is reviewed every three years, or following any:

- Activation of the Plan in response to an emergency,
- Legislative changes affecting the Plan; and
- Exercises conducted to test all or part of the Plan.

Members of the NR LEMC conducted an audit of the evacuation centres in December 2024. Once the audit report has been finalised and endorsed, this information will go into an updated EMPLAN. Additionally, members of the NR LEMC, led by the deputy LEOCON, are a preliminary review of potential evacuation centres across the North Coast, assessing 'what we have versus what we need'. This information will also be integrated into the EMPLAN review. Lismore City Council does not have delegation to designate or authorise evacuation centres prior to or during an event.

The Deputy LEOCON has advised that, due to the sensitive nature of some of the information contained in the EMPLAN, it is not publicly available and cannot be shared outside of the NR LEMC. However, both the State and Regional EMPLAN's can be accessed through the NSW government: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/rescue-and-emergency-management>.

Lismore City Council continues to provide executive support to all subcommittees of the NR LEMC. The next NR LEMC meeting will be Tuesday 1 July where both the Emergency Management Coordinator and Lismore City Council Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) will be in attendance.

In the aftermath of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, Lismore City Council has commenced a structured 'Lessons Learned' process to enhance our future response capability and ensure continuous improvement in emergency management preparedness and response coordination.

Key Activities to Date:

The LEMO has actively participated in a series of operational and community based After Action Reviews to capture feedback and improve Lismore City Councils organisational preparedness and response activities. These included:

- Emergency Operation Centre After Action Review
- Resilience and Recovery Sub Committee After Action Review
- Disaster Waste Management Sub Committee After Action Review
- Community Resilience Network (CRN) After Action Review
- Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group community meeting

Lismore City Council is compiling a comprehensive review, incorporating over 60 improvement items identified by the LEMO during the operation, alongside insights provided by staff via an online survey, asking:

- "What went well?"
- "What didn't go as expected?"
- "Why didn't things go as expected?"
- "Lessons learned/suggestions for next event?"

Next steps

Following the collection and analysis of this data, the next phase will involve prioritising and implementing treatments to address the issues identified. These are expected to include both engineering solutions and procedural improvements to improve response operations.

Attachment/s

There are no attachments for this report.

Business

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Subject | Update from CSIRO on Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative |
| TRIM Record No | BP25/306:EF19/237-7 |
| Prepared by | Senior Strategic Planner |
| Reason | CSIRO Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative ((NRRI) project leader Dr Jai Vaze has provided an update on NRRI |
| Strategic Theme | Leadership and participation |
| Strategy | We collaborate with other agencies to achieve great outcomes. |
| Action | Develop working relationships with government, non-government, private sector and community-based agencies. |

Executive Summary

An update is provided by CSIRO Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (NRRI) project leader Dr Jai Vaze for the Committee's information.

Recommendation

That the Committee note the update.

Information

Unable to attend the 4 June 2025 Committee meeting, CSIRO Senior Principal Research Scientist (Hydrologist) Dr Jai Vaze has provided a brief update, confirming that the NRRI project is still on track to meet the 30 June 2025, with 'in person' stakeholder consultation to occur in the region after this time.

More details are available at [Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative - CSIRO](#) and [Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative | National Emergency Management Agency \(nema.gov.au\)](#).

Attachment/s

There are no attachments for this report.

Lismore Flood Risk Management Committee Minutes

10 April 2025

MINUTES OF THE LISMORE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY, 10 APRIL 2025 AT 1:00 PM

Please note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next Council meeting. Decisions recorded in the draft minutes are subject to the Council's Code of Meeting Practice in relation to rescinding decisions.

Present

Cr Rob (Chair), Cr Knight-Smith (audio-visual), Mr Toong Chin, Mr Graham Askey, Mr Col Baker, Mr Bill Moorhouse (audio-visual), Mr Alexander Rubin, Ms Demi Flynn, Mr Bradley Herd, Ms Helen Robinson, Mr Mark Tirris, Mr Michael Ackrell

In Attendance

LCC Officers: Ms Longstaff, Senior Strategic Planner, Ms Cotterill, Governance & Risk Manager (*left at 1.30 pm*), Miss Hull, Executive Assistant to Chief Corporate & Community Officer,

Presenters: Mr Timms (audio-visual)

Observers: Beth Trevan (audio-visual), Roslynn Martens (gallery)

Apologies

Cr Waters, Mr Andrew Logan, Mr Peter Cinque

Non Attendance

Cr Dalton-Earls, Cr Jensen,

Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes from the meeting dated 4 December 2024 were confirmed.

(Members Askey/Baker)

Voting for: Councillor Rob; Members: Askey, Baker, Moorhouse,
Voting Against: Nil

Disclosure of Interest

Lismore Flood Risk Management Committee Minutes

10 April 2025

No disclosures

5.1 Induction on the Code of Conduct for Committee Members

RESOLVED that the committee notes that members have been provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisers 2023 which sets out their obligations.

(Members Herd/Ackrell)

Voting for: Councillors Knight-Smith and Rob; Members Askey, Baker, Moorhouse, Rubin, Flynn, Herd, Robinson, Tirris and Ackrell
Voting Against: Nil

5.2 Flood Risk Management Committee Terms of Reference

RESOLVED that each Committee member acknowledges they have received a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Flood Risk Management Committee (as amended 26 March 2025) and understands the scope and limitations of the Committee.

(Members Askey/Ackrell)

Voting for: Councillors Knight-Smith and Rob; Members Askey, Baker, Moorhouse, Rubin, Flynn, Herd, Robinson, Tirris and Ackrell
Voting Against: Nil

5.3 Update from NSW Reconstruction Authority

RESOLVED that the Committee note the presentation.

(Members Rubin/Askey)

Voting for: Councillors Knight-Smith and Rob; Members Askey, Baker, Moorhouse, Rubin, Flynn, Herd, Robinson, Tirris and Ackrell
Voting Against: Nil

5.4 Update - current projects being undertaken by DCCEW

RESOLVED that the Committee note the presentation.

(Members Robinson/Ackrell)

Voting for: Councillors Knight-Smith and Rob; Members Askey, Baker, Moorhouse, Rubin, Flynn, Herd, Robinson, Tirris and Ackrell
Voting Against: Nil

5.5 Update from CSIRO Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative

RESOLVED That the Committee note the update.

(Members Robinson/Flynn)

Voting for: Councillors Knight-Smith and Rob; Members Askey, Baker, Moorhouse, Rubin, Flynn, Herd, Robinson, Tirris and Ackrell

Voting Against: Nil

5.6 Lismore flood information graphics

RESOLVED that the committee notes the Lismore Flood Levels and History of Lismore Flood Events graphics have been updated to include the peak flood level of 9.31m that occurred on 8 March 2025 during the Tropical Cyclone Alfred weather event.

(Members Ackrell/Herd)

Voting for: Councillors Knight-Smith and Rob; Members Askey, Baker, Moorhouse, Rubin, Flynn, Herd, Robinson, Tirris and Ackrell

Voting Against: Nil

5.7 Update - Last Roads Out Map

MOTION moved that the Committee recommend Council consider publishing a Highest Roads Out map on the LCC Website until such time that SES update a Last Roads Out map on their website.

(Members Moorhouse/Baker)

Voting for: Councillors Knight-Smith and Rob; Members Askey, Baker, Moorhouse, Rubin, Flynn, Herd, Robinson, Tirris and Ackrell

Voting Against: Nil

Closure

This concluded the business and the meeting terminated at 3.08 pm.