

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to the provisions of section 83(2) of the
Local Government Act 1999

The Special Meeting of the



will be held in

**Council Chamber
Redbanks Road
Mallala**

on

Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 11.30am

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Miller".

James Miller

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

INDEX

1 ATTENDANCE RECORD

2 ADJOURNED BUSINESS


Nil

3 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

4 ITEM FOR DECISION

- 4.1 Gawler River Floodplain Management Projects – State Government Budget 3
Commitment: Four “No Regrets” Projects

5 CLOSURE

 Adelaide Plains Council	4.1	Gawler River Floodplain Management Projects – State Government Budget Commitment: Four “No Regrets” Projects
	Department:	Governance and Executive Office
	Report Author:	Chief Executive Officer
Date: 10 February 2021	Document Ref:	D21/6530

OVERVIEW

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Elected Body of a funding commitment by the State Government to inject \$9 million into supporting four “no regrets” projects to improve flood management for the Gawler River and in doing so, obtain a policy position from Council in relation to same.

Background

The Chief Executive Officer was invited to a meeting on Thursday 26 November 2020 with a number of State Government Agency departmental heads, neighbouring council CEOs and the Chair and Executive Officer of the GRFMA to hear first-hand what Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is proposing by way of a funding stimulus package aimed at improving flood management for the Gawler River.

Provided for as **Attachment 1** is a copy of the resultant correspondence from Mr John Schultz, CEO of DEW, together with the PowerPoint presentation delivered to delegates at the meeting.

As the correspondence and PowerPoint discloses, DEW has proposed four “no regrets” projects which consists of a \$9 million funding package across the following platforms:

- Removal of trees following the Hillier bushfires
- Construction of a drainage system for Virginia
- New control structures and flood warning infrastructure
- Northern Floodway early works: existing levee banks and survey works

Discussion

Members will note from reading the attached correspondence that DEW have suggested that “...*this funding forms part of the State government’s economic stimulus package. It requires co-contribution commitment from relevant councils and needs to be delivered on ground over two years.*”

While the CEO acknowledges the State Government’s position that it is playing a leadership role in facilitating the delivery of funding to advance on-ground works, APC GRFMA Board Members, in consideration of DEW’s proposal, have raised a number of valid points requiring clarification, namely:

- How were these projects arrived at, what consultation occurred to arrive at these projects and do they provide the ‘best bang for buck’ by comparison to other potential projects?
- The co-contribution mandate spelled out in the letter and what this means for APC?
- Is this \$9 million stimulus package now the capped financial contribution by State Government to all GRFMA-related investigations and on-ground deliverables associated with the Northern Floodway?

Further clarification is therefore needed so as to determine what projects the GRFMA would be responsible for (and in turn APC be expected to contribute 28.91% towards) versus what projects would remain as a sole partnership between DEW and the respective council. Amongst the suite of projects put forward by Government include some that appear localised in nature, an example of which includes the proposed construction of a drainage system for Virginia (Carmelo and Park Road drain). In a discussion with Southfront Engineers recently, it would appear as though the proposed works fall out of the Smith Creek Stormwater Management Plan and therefore has no direct linkage with the activities of the GRFMA.

Further guidance on this issue, together with further debate on the projects identified by DEW, will occur at the GRFMA meeting scheduled for 11 February 2021. Provided for as **Attachment 2** is a copy of the relevant report being presented to the GRFMA Board Meeting for Members’ interest.

Conclusion

A meeting was convened on Tuesday 9 February 2021 with APC GRFMA Board Members, Mayor Wasley, Audit Committee Chair Alan Rushbrook, Michael Kelledy of Kelledy Jones Lawyers and Drew Jacobi of Southfront Engineers to discuss an appropriate strategy going forward. The below recommendation stems from the meeting and, if adopted, will provided APC’s formal position to the State Government, the GRFMA as well as all constituent councils.

RECOMMENDATION

“that Council, having considered Item 4.1 – *Gawler River Floodplain Management Projects – State Government Budget Commitment: Four “No Regrets” Projects*, dated 10 February 2021, receives and notes the report and in doing so:-

- 1. Acknowledges the State Government’s proposal to pledge \$9 million to support four “no regrets” projects to improve flood management for the Gawler River, premised upon “...the need for co-contributions [by member councils]”.**
- 2. Notes that no consultation was undertaken by the State Government prior to arriving at the four nominated projects.**
- 3. Expresses concern that a number of the projects put forward are localised in nature and therefore any co-contribution should sit with the respective affiliate council, not the GRFMA itself.**
- 4. Notes that the Stormwater Management Plan is yet to be completed and questions whether these projects are the highest priority to apportion funds.**
- 5. In consideration of 1-4 above, resolves to not support any co-contribution model that is premised on the delivery of the four “no regrets” projects.”**

Attachments

1. Letter from Department for Environment and Water Chief Executive, Mr John Schutz dated 31 December 2020 and accompanying PowerPoint presentation
2. Report 8.4 – Gawler River Flood Mitigation from the 11 February 2021 Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority Board Meeting Agenda.



DEW-D0010879

31 December 2020

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Mr James Miller
Chief Executive Officer
Adelaide Plains Council

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Dear Mr Miller

Thank you for your attendance and contribution at the recent Gawler River Flood Management Meeting.

Management of the flood risk from the Gawler River is a complex and multi-faceted issue with no simple solution. The Department for Environment and Water as the Flood Hazard Leader in South Australia, has taken a leadership role garnering collaboration and co-ordination across agencies, local government, industry and the Commonwealth Government to better manage the flood risk on the Gawler River floodplain.

The \$9 million supports four “no regrets” projects to improve flood management for the Gawler River. The details of the projects nominated are outlined in more detail in the PowerPoint presentation enclosed with this letter. This funding forms part of the State government’s economic stimulus package. It requires co-contribution commitment from relevant councils and needs to be delivered on ground over two years.

At the recent meeting you attended with the GRFMA and state agencies there was general support for the State government’s leadership and approach.

At the meeting a leadership role by DEW was welcomed. There was also support for the four projects nominated for immediate work and acknowledgement of the need for co-contributions to ensure the funding can leverage further work towards long-term solutions. It was agreed by attendees to form a Gawler River Flood Management Steering Committee to provide strategic and co-ordinated leadership across state and local government. It was further agreed to form two sub groups:

- a Project Delivery Group to oversee the delivery of the four no regrets projects
- a Business Case Group to oversee the development of the longer term solutions for flood mitigation.

As your council is critical to the future upgrade and ongoing management of the Gawler River and associated flood and waterway infrastructure, I would appreciate a nomination

from your council for membership of these two groups by 15 January 2021 to Ms Khanh Nguyen via email (Khanh.Nguyen2@sa.gov.au). Both groups will report back to the Gawler River Flood Management Steering Committee.

The development of a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP), which is already in scoping phase, and further design work on the larger scale flood mitigation options are also important. Any business case will need to focus on the investment necessary to investigate and agree on the long term flood mitigation.

For further information regarding this matter, please contact Cate Hart, Executive Director Environment, Heritage and Sustainability within the Department for Environment and Water on cate.hart@sa.gov.au or (08) 8463 3497.

Yours sincerely



JOHN SCHUTZ
Chief Executive, Department for Environment and Water

Encl: 1. PowerPoint Presentation Gawler River Flood Management Projects

Gawler River Flood Management projects

State Government Budget Commitment



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

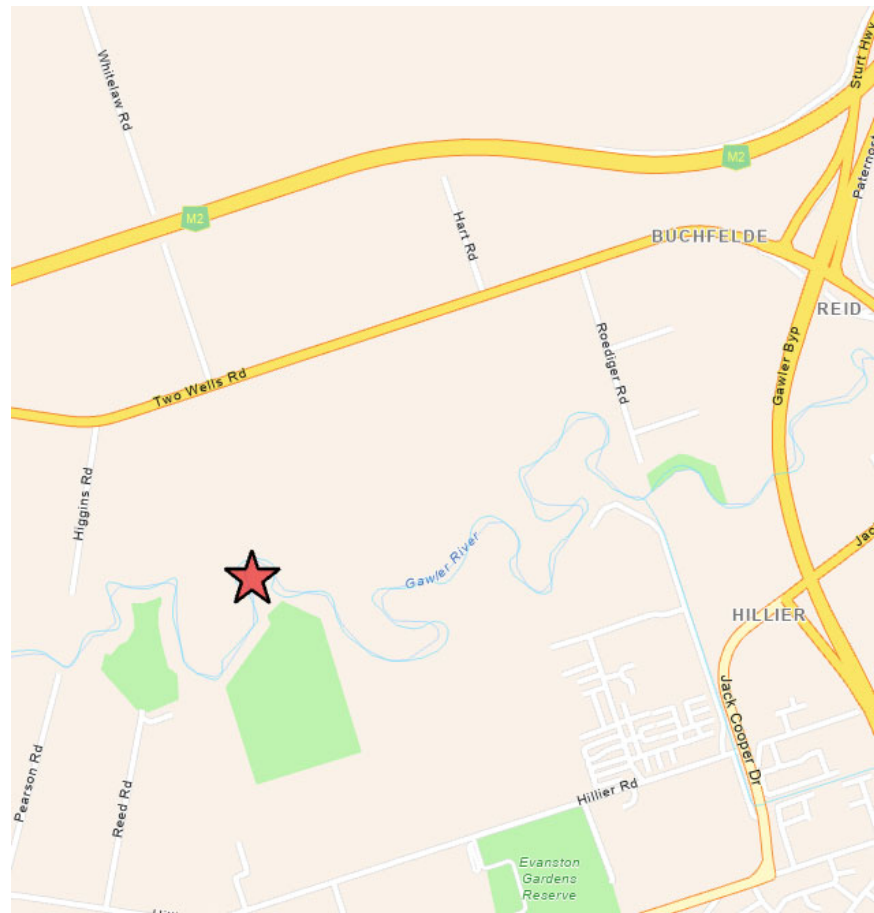
State Government Budget Allocation

- \$ 9 million over three years
- Operating expenditure (grant)
- Delivered through Stormwater Management Fund
- Local government co-contribution details to be determined
- Any infrastructure constructed or upgraded to be owned by GRFMA or constituent council
- DEW to recruit dedicated project manager



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Removal of trees following the Hillier bushfire



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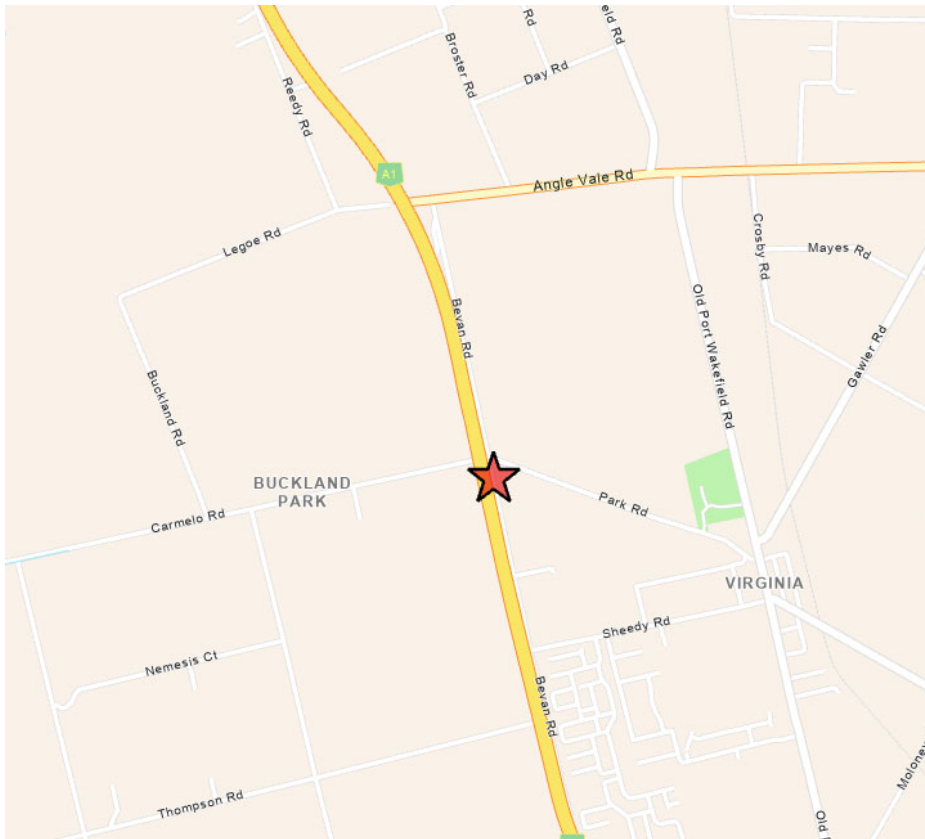
Removal of trees following the Hillier bushfire

- Large amount of trees and debris resulting from the fire
- Posing a risk of creating a blockage and causing flooding upstream or, if moved with flood waters, significantly impacting on infrastructure downstream.
- Cost is estimated to be between \$350 000 and \$370 000
- Work proposed to be undertaken in partnership with the Town of Gawler over a six month period.



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Construction of a drainage system for Virginia (Carmelo and Park Road drain)



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Construction of a drainage system for Virginia (Carmelo and Park Road drain)

- Drainage system will protect housing in Virginia from flooding and shorten the duration that horticultural land is inundated
- The quicker the flood waters can subside, the greater the chance that inundated crops will survive.
- The drainage system has a Cost Benefit Ratio of 1.8 as identified in the draft Smith Creek Stormwater Management Plan.
- The project is estimated to cost \$3.8 million
- Proposed to be delivered in partnership with the City of Playford over a period of 18 months.



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New control structures (weirs) and flood warning infrastructure and review of flood warning levels



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New control structures (weirs) and flood warning infrastructure and review of flood warning levels

- Bureau of Meteorology's forecasting and warning service limited by the lack of adequate flood warning infrastructure.
- New control structures will ensure a more reliable relationship between flow and depth for a gauge (Gawler-West and Nuriootpa)
- Gauging of tributary of North Para river
- Improve the timeliness and accuracy of flood forecasting and warnings.
- Ensure that warnings are relevant and understood by their audience.
- The project is estimated to cost \$1 million
- Delivered in partnership with GRFMA, SASES and the Bureau of Meteorology over 18 months



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Northern Floodway early works: existing levee banks and river survey and works



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Northern Floodway early works: existing levee banks and river survey and works

- River condition works such as vegetation clearance, silt removal and revegetation where this is considered beneficial,
- Levee repair works, focus remediation on significant low points, existing failures and obvious defects.
- Does also not include the cost of easements or land acquisition to ensure ongoing maintenance can occur.
- Needs to be complemented by a full levee bank survey and development of a levee bank database and stakeholder engagement as outlined in the Improved Levee Bank Management Position paper
- Estimated to cost \$3.8 million, including project management costs, based on the estimates in the Northern Floodway prospectus
- Need to be delivered in partnership with GRFMA, DEW, DIT and Northern and Yorke Landscape Board/Green Adelaide over 2 years.



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**Government
of South Australia**

Department for
Environment and Water

Agenda Item:	8.4
Committee:	Board
Meeting Date:	11 February 2021
Title:	Gawler River Flood Mitigation

Recommendation:

That the GRFMA:

1. **Receives the report; and**
 2. **Further discusses matters relating to State Government funding for Gawler River Flood Mitigation initiatives, particularly in relation to GRFMA and local government co-contribution and ownership of any infrastructure constructed or upgraded.**
-

Gawler River Flood Mitigation

The 2020-21 State Government Budget has allocated \$9 Million for Gawler River flood mitigation works.

Budget extract – This initiative provides \$ 9 Million over the three years 2022-23 for a range of Gawler River projects aimed at reducing flood risks across the Northern Adelaide Plains. It is envisaged that these projects will deliver new infrastructure to improve flood preparedness as well as reduce the risk and impact of flood damage to assets. The government will partner with local councils to deliver the full scope of works.

State Government Budget Allocation:

- \$9 Million over three years.
- Operating expenditure (grant).
- Delivered through the Storm Water Management Fund.
- Local government co-contribution details to be determined.
- Any infrastructure constructed or upgraded to be owned by GRFMA or constituent council.
- DEW to recruit a dedicated project manager.

Key projects and partnerships:

- Removal of trees following Hillier bushfire, \$350k - \$370k (Town of Gawler/Light Regional Council)
- Construction of a drainage system for Virginia, Carmelo and Park Road drain, \$3.8 Mil (City of Playford).
- New control structures (Gawler West, North Para, Nuriootpa), flood warning infrastructure, flood warning levels, \$1Mil (GRFMA).
- Northern Floodway early works, existing levee banks, river survey and works. \$3.8 Mil (GRFMA, DEW, DIT, Landscape Boards).

A Gawler River Floodplain Management Program Steering Committee has been established by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to develop agreed outcomes for the Gawler River Floodplain Management Program and ensure delivery of practical actions and long-term strategies for improved flood risk management in the Gawler River catchment. The Steering Committee is subject to direction by the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and/or the Minister for Environment and Water (MEW).

The Steering Committee will:

- Provide strategic direction and garner high-level stakeholder buy-in to develop and implement a holistic, integrated, partnership approach to flood risk mitigation and hazard management in the Gawler River catchment.
- Develop a shared vision and set of objectives to improve flood mitigation and management for the Gawler River catchment.
- Lead the development of an agreed Action Plan to deliver on the shared vision and objectives, including:
 - Identification of short-, medium- and long-term actions;
 - Identification of and advocacy for potential partnership approaches and sources of funding.
- Oversee implementation of the Program, including the agreed Action Plan.

GRFMA Chair Mr. Ian Baldwin is the GRFMA representative on the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will have two sub-committees:

- a Project Delivery Group to oversee the delivery of the four “no regrets” projects; and
- a Business Case Group to oversee the development of the longer term solutions for flood mitigation in the Gawler River.

The GRFMA and constituent councils have been invited to nominate relevant representation to the subgroups. It is understood DEW has placed priority in establishing the subgroups so as to initiate actions to deliver the works in a timely manner.

Following discussion with the GRFMA Chair, Mr Ian Baldwin, GRFMA representation has been identified as:

- Project Delivery Group – Mr. David Hitchcock, GRFMA Executive Officer
- Business Case Group – Mr. Ian Baldwin and Mr. David Hitchcock

In announcing the \$9 Million funding the State Government clearly identified the following two key provisos:

- Local government co-contribution details to be determined.
- Any infrastructure constructed or upgraded to be owned by GRFMA or constituent council.

It is suggested the GRFMA should further discuss and consider these provisos, particularly in relation to its policy on co-contribution: and further engagement with constituent councils on how they are proposing to participate and what their policy might be on any co-contributions.

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

On the 14 January 2021, GRFMA Chair, Mr Ian Baldwin, received a telephone call from a representative of the Department for Water and Environment (DEW), seeking assistance from the GRFMA in advising of any projects that may be shovel ready and that meet guidelines for funding under the \$50Million National Food Mitigation Infrastructure Fund which was then open for application.

It was noted that DEW intended to collate and prioritise all applicable SA State and Local Government applications into one single SA submission to the National Food Mitigation Infrastructure Fund program.

The program will contribute to, or pay for, the improvement or construction of flood mitigation infrastructure to support local communities mitigate their priority flood risks and reduce the impact of flood events. Applications for the program opened on 21 December 2020, and close(d) at 5pm AEST on 12 February 2021.

Following discussion by Mr. Baldwin and the GRFMA Executive officer it was decided to seek feedback from constituent council staff to understand if councils might have any suitable shovel ready projects. The view on taking this approach was to then collate any council submissions into a GRFMA application as a regional and Gawler River Catchment flood mitigation approach.

With exception of Adelaide Plains Council, responses from constituent council staff indicated that councils did not have suitable shovel ready projects to submit.

The GRFMA Executive Officer and Adelaide Plains Council management subsequently lodged a funding submission of \$1.66 Mill to DEW for delivery of the Two Wells levee. The GRFMA does not have any funding contribution requirement with this submission.

It is understood successful applicants to the National Food Mitigation Infrastructure Fund will be advised in due course.