



Minutes

Flood Risk Management Committee

Wednesday, 12 November 2025

5:07 PM

Administration Building,
4-20 Eton Street, Sutherland
L2 - Hacking River Room

SUTHERLANDSHIRE

COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Laverty – Chairperson

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Roger Joy – Georges River Catchment; Kevin Peakman – Port Hacking Catchment; Deb Cansdell – Woronora River Catchment; Simon Batch – Botany Bay Catchment; John Gibbons – Hacking River Catchment

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Michelle Whitehurst - Director Infrastructure; Dian He – A/Chief Engineer; Tristan Whitley – A/Strategic Asset Manager; Andrew Reid – Senior Waterways Engineer; Richard Wright – Senior Stormwater Engineer/Analyst; Steven Thane – Waterways Project Manager; David Kelly – Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) and Katie Perkins – Secretariat

EXTERNAL ATTENDEES

Angela Halcrow – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and John Gonzalez – NSW SES Local Commander The Shire Cluster

APOLOGIES

Councillor Mick Maroney – Deputy Chairperson; Councillor Jack Boyd – Mayor; Deputy Mayor Councillor Cowell; Councillor Armstrong; Jim Pullin – SES; Lynda Burrow – SES; Angus Dyson – Port Hacking Catchment; Sharon Davies – Pacific Ocean (Bate Bay) Catchment; Peter Steele – Hacking River Catchment; Samuel Corby – NSW SES Local Deputy Commander The Shire Cluster; Shelly Stingmore – NSW SES Metro Zone; Alan Wing – SES and Beth Morris – Planning and Strategy Manager

OPENING OF MEETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Laverty opened the Meeting at 5:07pm with an Acknowledgement of Country.

QUORUM

At the commencement of the Flood Risk Management Committee meeting, a quorum of voting members was not present as required under the Committee's [Terms of Reference](#). Subsequent to this, the Mayor, who was unable to attend, formally delegated their voting authority to the Director Infrastructure. This delegation resulted in the establishment of a quorum, thereby enabling the meeting to proceed in accordance with the prescribed governance requirements.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

FRMC015-25 Sutherland Shire Overland Flow - Flood Study - November 2025 Update			
Committee Member	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action taken
Councillor Lavery - Chairperson	Not significant non-pecuniary	Property has been notified by Sutherland Shire Council that it is affected by the Sutherland Shire Overland Flow - Flood Study as the study is in draft format the level of conflict at this time is classified as Not significant non-pecuniary interest.	Stayed in the Meeting when the Item was considered.
Deb Cansdell	Not significant non-pecuniary	Owens property located in the Draft Overland Flow - Flood Study Catchment area.	Stayed in the Meeting when the Item was considered.
Kevin Peakman	Not significant non-pecuniary	Owens property located in the Draft Overland Flow – Flood Study Catchment area.	Stayed in the Meeting when the Item was considered.
Roger Joy	Not significant non-pecuniary	Lives in the Draft Overland Flow – Flood Study Catchment area.	Stayed in the Meeting when the Item was considered.
Simon Batch	Not significant non-pecuniary	Owens property located in the Kurnell Flood Risk Management Study & Plan Catchment area	Stayed in the Meeting when the Item was considered.
Steven Thane	Not significant non-pecuniary	Owens property within a complex that has a Building Management Committee (BMC). One of the lots managed by the BMC is located in the Draft Overland Flow - Flood Study Catchment area.	Stayed in the Meeting when the Item was considered.
Michelle Whitehurst	Not significant non-pecuniary	Relative owns property located in the Draft Overland Flow-Flood Study catchment area.	Stayed in the Meeting when the Item was considered.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 27 August 2025 were adopted by Council on [13 October 2025](#).

PUBLIC FORUM

No applications to address the Committee at the Public Forum were received.

FRMC013-25 Woronora River Flood Study - November 2025 Update
File Number: 2024/493484

DECISION: (CANSDELL / GIBBONS)

THAT:

1. The report 'Woronora River Flood Study – November 2025 Update' be received and noted.
2. The consultation documents pertaining to the Woronora River Flood Study should be distributed to all Committee Members for their review and further dissemination.

FRMC014-25 Kurnell Flood Risk Management Study & Plan - November 2025 Update
File Number: 2024/493484

DECISION: (GIBBONS / JOY)

THAT:

1. The report 'Kurnell Flood Risk Management Study & Plan – November 2025 Update' be received and noted.
2. That the Committee endorse the extension of the study area to include all of Captain Cook Drive and Greenhills as outlined in Appendix A of FRMC014-25.
3. That the Committee receive an update from the Director Infrastructure regarding the flooding matter at property 64 Captain Cook Drive, Kurnell.

FRMC015-25 Sutherland Shire Overland Flow - Flood Study - November 2025 Update
File Number: 2024/493484

DECISION: (PEAKMAN / JOY)

THAT:

1. The report 'Sutherland Shire Overland Flow - Flood Study - November 2025 Update' be received and noted.
2. Flood Risk Management Committee members feedback on the draft Community and Engagement Plan be submitted to Council by 5 December 2025.

GENERAL BUSINESS**Catchment & Waterways Strategy Update – Richard Wright**

A presentation was given on the strategy as relevant to the Flood Risk Management Committee by Council's Senior Stormwater Engineer/Analyst, Richard Wright. A copy of this presentation will be circulated to the Committee for their reference along with the draft minutes.

Community Representative of the Hacking River Catchment, Mr Peter Steele Submission to the Flood Risk Management Committee regarding feedback on Agenda Items and Meeting Minutes

The Community Representative was a late decline, and this matter was resolved to be moved to the next meeting under General Business.

ACTIONS ARISING

The following actions arose at the Meeting, with the Director Infrastructure to determine requirements and assign to relevant Council Officer(s), as required. An update will be provided to the next Meeting.

- **FRMC015-25:** Taken on Notice that the Director Infrastructure seek information on Council's membership of Flood Management Australia Documents and enquire whether Committee members can access this information or alternatively, be provided updates by Council staff.
- A request was put forward by Community Representative - Deb Cansdell that the Committee receive key learnings information from SES around the recent flooding event at Kurnell.
- **FRMS014-25:** Director Infrastructure provided a high-level summary of the actions Council has undertaken to date regarding flooding issues in Captain Cook Drive, Kurnell, noting the high level of community interest. Council has received advice from the resident's legal representative providing consent to this information being shared with the public.

The verbal update to the Committee included:

- **Cause of Flooding:** The review of the location identifies that elevated water levels in Marton Park Wetland are due to geomorphological changes within Towra Point Aquatic Reserve. Sedimentation and mangrove growth have disrupted the historical drainage channel, impeding tidal flushing and natural water flow.
- **Council Actions to Date:** Council has undertaken significant maintenance, including removal of ~130 tonnes of debris and detailed surveying. Despite these efforts, water levels remain high.
- **Recommended Solution:** Restoration of the drainage channel through the mangrove die-off zone is proposed, with two options involving deepening and widening to re-establish tidal exchange.
- **Regulatory Requirements:** Any works within Towra Point Aquatic Reserve require approval from the Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries (DPIRD-Fisheries). Commonwealth Government permissions may also be necessary due to the site's international wetland status.

Next steps include meeting with DPIRD-Fisheries to discuss a path forward. Council has stated that we remain committed to resolving the issue but note that the authority to proceed with any works lies with State and Commonwealth agencies.

- **FRMC015-25:** Community Representatives resolved to bring their 5 minute “elevator pitch” on the Sutherland Shire Overland Flow - Flood Study to the next Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, 4 February 2026. This will allow Committee members to workshop their understanding on the Overland Flow-Flood Study and its benefits.

The Meeting closed at 7:04pm.