

Flood Risk Management Policy

Policy Statement

The Flood Risk Management Policy (the Policy) establishes the flood risk management approach within the Northern Beaches Council Local Government Area (LGA).

Through strategic and operational outcomes, Council aims to reduce the impact of flooding and reduce private and public losses resulting from floods.

Principles

The objectives of this Policy are:

- (a) To ensure a sustainable and holistic catchment wide approach is taken to development, of both private land uses and public facilities, on flood prone land;
- (b) To increase public awareness of the hazard and extent of land affected by all potential floods, including floods greater than the 1% AEP flood;
- (c) To ensure the flood risk associated with development is minimised;
- (d) To manage the risk to life, damage to property and impacts on the natural environment caused by flooding and inundation by controlling development on flood prone land;
- (e) To ensure the development is compatible with the flood risk through the application of risk-based controls that take into account social, economic, ecological and design considerations;
- (f) To ensure that proposed development does not expose existing development to increased risks associated with flooding;
- (g) To ensure that effective development controls apply so that development is carried out in accordance with these objectives and the requirements of this policy;
- (h) To ensure that the preparation of flood related information required to be lodged under this Plan are carried out by *suitably qualified professionals* with appropriate expertise in the applicable areas of engineering.

Scope & Application

Council manages flood prone land in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Process as outlined in the NSW Government Floodplain Development Manual, 2005 with the aim of producing Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the LGA.

Council undertakes both strategic and operational actions in the management of the floodplain.

At the **strategic** level Council undertakes the following actions:

Risk Assessment and Management

Council will identify, map and manage flood prone land in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Process. This involves undertaking Flood Studies, Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Plans with the aim of adopting and implementing plans for the entire LGA. Recommended floodplain management options will be investigated in detail and implemented in a priority order in accordance with available resources.

Land Use Planning

Council will maintain a framework of Local Environmental Plans and Development Control Plans to provide appropriate flood risk protection measures. The flood related development controls will

contain provisions to manage the flood risk to both life and property. Planning proposals seeking to rezone land will be assessed in accordance with Section 117 Direction 4.3 Flood Prone Land and must demonstrate that the flood risk to future occupants and structures can be appropriately managed through the available legislative framework.

Combat Agencies

Communication and relationships with relevant combat agencies will be fostered and strengthened through the sharing of flood intelligence, establishment of partnership projects and informing the development of Local Flood Plans and other emergency incident management plans. Strategies for improvement in incident response and shared incident response methodologies will be implemented where relevant.

Climate Change

The Northern Beaches is expected to be particularly affected by the impacts of climate change. Council recognises the importance of climate change adaptation and will investigate the impacts of climate change in flood risk projects in accordance with the best available data, science and policy. Changes to climate change policy or practice will be implemented on an iterative basis to reflect the current best advice/information.

Community Engagement

Council recognises the importance of community engagement in achieving good governance and well understood and accepted outcomes. Engagement on flood risk projects will be undertaken in accordance with the Northern Beaches Council Community Engagement Policy and Matrix. Public exhibitions of Flood Studies will be accompanied by opportunities to meet with staff on a personal level to discuss issues. Flood risk awareness through engagement is recognised as a strategic priority.

Flood Monitoring Program

Effective flood warning and response can reduce the impacts of flooding. Council operates a series of flood monitoring stations and a publicly accessible flood warning webpage known as the Northern Beaches Flood Information Network. Council proactively monitors weather and potential flooding conditions. Council will continue to investigate and implement improvements to the flood warning system to better prepare for and respond to flood events.

At the **operational** level Council undertakes the following actions:

Risk Response

Council undertakes a number of risk response measures to reduce the impacts of flooding. This includes mechanically opening the entrances of Manly, Curl Curl, Dee Why and Narrabeen Lagoons at defined trigger levels. Council also maintains the water level of Manly Dam at 34.1m AHD to provide flood storage during severe storms.

Education

Council in conjunction with the NSW SES will prepare and implement education strategies. to build community resilience to flood and coastal storms. Such strategies will improve the capacity of the Northern Beaches community to prepare, respond and recover from major flood and storm events and learn from their experiences to improve future preparedness.

Mitigation Works

Floodplain Risk Management Plans will investigate a range of floodplain management options to reduce the impacts of flooding in individual catchments. This may include property modification options such as development controls, voluntary purchase or voluntary house raising however often a Plan may recommend the delivery of flood mitigation works. Council will investigate and

implement mitigation works in accordance with the Floodplain Risk Management Process and priority rankings. Council undertakes the Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Clearance Works on a 3-5 year schedule to promote an increase in the duration in which Narrabeen Lagoon is open and to reduce the severity of flooding impacts.

Development Applications

Applications for development on flood prone land will be assessed according to the legislative framework of Local Environment Plans, Development Control Plans and any supporting documentation including policies. Appropriate controls will be applied to ensure that future occupants of the floodplain are not subject to an unacceptable level of flood risk.

Section 149 certificates

Question 7A of a Section 149(2) certificate identifies whether flood related development controls apply to individual properties. Following the release of publicly available flood information, the answer to Question 7A will be amended to reflect whether flood related development controls now apply to subject properties. Section 149 (5) certificates will be amended to reflect when flood studies are in progress but not yet adopted by Council.

References and related documents

- Manly Local Environmental Plan (2013)
- Warringah Local Environmental Plan (2011)
- Warringah Local Environmental Plan (2000)
- Pittwater Local Environmental Plan (2014)
- Manly Development Control Plan (2013)
- Warringah Development Control Plan (2011)
- Warringah Development Control Plan (2000)
- Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan (2015)
- Floodplain Development Manual: the management of flood liable land, 2005, NSW Government

Responsible Officer

Executive Manager – Natural Environment & Climate Change

Review Date

At least every four years or as required.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Change	HPE CM Ref
1	26/07/2017	Policy established	2017/095452
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