# 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, 3 December 2025 at 1:00 pm

2 December 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 nonpecuniary interest)

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

## **Agenda**

5. Next Meeting

1.	Apol	ogies and Leave of Absence	
2.	Minu	ites of Meeting	
	Lismo	ore Flood Risk Management Committee held 3 September, 2025	15
3.	Disc	losure of Interest	
4.	Busi	ness	
	4.1	Update on Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Risk Management	7
	4.2	Update on Lismore Levee Pumps	8
	4.3	Update on Flood Risk Management Plan	9
	4.4	2026 Flood Risk Management Committee (FRMC) meetings	14

Subject Update on Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Risk

Management

**TRIM Record No** BP25/852:EF19/237-7

Prepared by Senior Strategic Planner

**Reason** To provide the Committee with an overview of the pilot project 'Nature-based

Solutions: Building Flood Resilience in the Lismore Catchment'

Strategic Theme Environment

**Strategy** Value and protect local biodiversity, natural landscapes and waterways, and

strengthen resilience to natural hazards

**Action** Work with partners to protect natural habitats, waterways and catchments to

maintain ecosystem integrity and biological diversity

#### **Executive Summary**

Richmond Landcare Incorporated (RLI) will present on the *Nature-Based Solutions: Building Flood Resilience in the Lismore Catchment* project, a \$5.6 million pilot initiative funded through the National Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Ready Fund and administered by the NSW Reconstruction Authority. The project aims to reduce flood and erosion risk in the Lismore catchment by protecting, rehabilitating, and emulating natural functions of catchments, floodplains, and rivers. Focusing on the upper Wilsons River sub-catchments, the initiative will use revegetation of riparian zones and floodplains to slow, hold, and store water, thereby reducing flow volume, velocity, and sedimentation during flood events.

#### Recommendation

That the Committee note the presentation.

#### **Information**

Louissa Rogers from Richmond Landcare Incorporated will present to the Committee.

Further background information is available:

Richmond Landcare Incorporated

#### Attachment/s

Subject Update on Lismore Levee Pumps

**TRIM Record No** BP25/865:EF19/237-7

Prepared by Senior Strategic Planner

**Reason** To provide an update on the status of the Lismore levee pumps, in particular

Browns Creek pump Station

Strategic Theme Environment

**Strategy** Value and protect local biodiversity, natural landscapes and waterways, and

strengthen resilience to natural hazards

Action Facilitate increased resilience to natural hazards and disasters

#### **Executive Summary**

An update on the status of the Lismore levee pumps, particularly Browns Creek Pump Station, will be provided, covering replacement, resilience measures, design and location, power redundancy, communication resilience, supplier reliability, and operational contingencies.

#### Recommendation

That the Committee notes the update.

#### Information

At the request of committee member William Moorhouse, Council officer Garon Clough (Director- Waste and Resilience) will present an update on the levee pumps.

#### Attachment/s

Subject Update on Flood Risk Management Plan

**TRIM Record No** BP25/853:EF19/237-7

Prepared by Senior Strategic Planner

**Reason** To provide the Committee with an update on the implementation status of the

11 flood risk management measures in the Lismore Flood Risk Management

Plan.

Strategic Theme Environment

**Strategy** Value and protect local biodiversity, natural landscapes and waterways, and

strengthen resilience to natural hazards

Action Facilitate increased resilience to natural hazards and disasters

#### **Executive Summary**

The Lismore Flood Risk Management Plan (the Plan), adopted in November 2024, outlines 11 key implementation measures identified through the Flood Risk Management Study. An update on the implementation status of each measure has been provided to support ongoing monitoring, accountability, and prioritisation of flood risk management efforts.

#### Recommendation

That the Committee note the report.

#### **Background**

#### Flood Risk Management Plan

The purpose of a Flood Risk Management Plan, as outlined in the NSW Government's *Flood Risk Management Manual*, is to guide local councils in developing and implementing sustainable strategies for managing flood-prone land.

Specifically, it aims to:

- Support informed land use planning by identifying flood risks and constraints.
- Evaluate and recommend mitigation strategies that balance social, economic, ecological, and cultural factors.
- Enhance community safety and resilience through better understanding and management of flood risks.
- Ensure community aspirations for the use of flood-prone land are considered in planning decisions.

This framework helps Council make strategic, evidence-based decisions to reduce flood impacts and improve long-term resilience. The adopted Lismore Flood Risk Management Plan can be viewed <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

#### **Implementation Measures**

The Flood Risk Management Implementation Plan identifies a series of actions Council can pursue across three key categories: property modification measures, response modification measures, and flood behavior modification measures. Table 1 below outlines the 11 prioritised actions, with accompanying comments from Council officers detailing how each measure is being addressed.

Table 1: Flood Risk Management Implementation Plan - December 2025 Update

FRM Measure	Action	Status
ID		
PM01	Zoning and Development Control A review of the Lismore LEP and DCP is currently being completed by LCC, utilising detailed information and recommendations provided in the Lismore Floodplain Risk Management Plan – Land Use Planning and Development Control document (Engeny, 2023) and the Update on Addressing Flood Risk in Planning Decisions Planning Circular (NSW Government, 2024).	<b>Update:</b> A draft of Chapter 8 Flood Prone Lands is being prepared and is awaiting finalisation of other DCP chapters to ensure alignment across statutory documents.
PM02	Voluntary House Purchase (VHP) It is recommended that dependent on available funding, extension of the Reconstruction Authority (RA) Resilient Homes Program (RHP) VHP program is extended by Council to include more properties in Lismore.  Additionally, it is also recommended that LCC work closely with the RA to identify suitable flood-free land to assist with relocation of flood-affected properties at a price that is affordable to those seeking relocation.	The FRMP recommends the following timing: 'Following RHP cessation'  Update: The RHP is currently still in progress. This measure will be further considered, in consultation with NSW Reconstruction Authority, once RHP funding for the Lismore LGA concludes.  Opportunity: Future Lands precinct planning will commence in 2026. NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) and Lismore City Council (LCC) will explore future uses for the vacant land purchased under the \$880 million Resilient Homes Program (RHP). These areas are no longer suitable for residential use due to extreme flood risk. Community input will guide decisions on zoning, ownership and land and this may be an opportunity to identify additional properties to be prioritised for VHP or VHP.
PM03	Voluntary House Raising (VHR) and Retrofitting It is recommended that dependent on available funding, extension of the RA RHP VHR program is extended by Council to include more properties in Lismore.	The FRMP recommends the following timing:  Following RHP cessation  Update: The RHP is currently still in progress. This measure will be further considered, in consultation with NSW Reconstruction Authority, once RHP funding for the Lismore LGA concludes.  Opportunity: Refer to VHP above.
RM01	Community Flood Awareness Readiness Programs Continuation of education and increase to local community awareness through regular business functions (i.e. development assessment, etc.) as well as developing a community awareness strategy to disseminate the latest flood information.	Campaign Update Prepare Together: Stronger Than Ever Developed by the NSW Reconstruction Authority with the State Emergency Service, to help communities across the Northern Rivers to prepare for future floods during 'blue sky times'.  Key Features of the Campaign

- Centralised Resources: New <u>SES</u> landing page with a flood risk assessment tool, emergency planning tool, and catchment-specific videos, including <u>Richmond Valley Catchment</u>: How the Rivers Work.
- Targeted Messaging: "When we prepare together, we're stronger than ever" promoted across radio, print, outdoor, social media, and online.
- Local Focus: Campaign imagery and videos feature Northern Rivers communities.
- Research Insights: 89% of residents expect future floods, yet one in three feel unprepared and almost half have taken no action.

### Council's Role in Supporting the Campaign

Rather than running a separate Flood Awareness readiness program, Council is aligning with this regional campaign to amplify its reach and impact. Our focus is on encouraging practical steps such as:

- Knowing your flood risk
- Understanding local warnings
- Making a household emergency plan
- Looking out for one another

#### **Community Engagement Event**

On Wednesday, 3 December, Council will host a community event at Lismore Library alongside NSW Reconstruction Authority, NSW SES, and Red Cross:

- 10:30-11:30am Storytime
- 12:00–1:00pm Flood Preparedness Presentation

Residents will receive localised information, hands-on help with emergency apps, and guidance on available resources to better prepare for floods.

#### **RM02**

#### Improve Flood Predictions and Warning

It is recommended that Council consider utilising the flood results from the FRMS to further identify localities for passive and active flood warning signs. It is noted that since the 2022 flood events, additional signage has already been placed at Wyrallah Road, Boatharbour Road, and Nimbin Road.

A \$15M program led by DCCEEW is underway to develop a Richmond and Wilsons Valleys Flood Warning System. Dependent on the outcomes from this project there could be scope for Council to further expand upon the system within the Wilsons River catchment, utilising

In 2024, three cameras were installed at key creek and river locations to assist with monitoring water levels:

- Wyrallah Rd, Monaltrie (Gundurimba Creek)
- Boatharbour Rd, Boat Harbour (Wilsons River)
- Nimbin Rd, Coffee Camp (Goolmangar Creek)

		Dusiriess
	the URBS and TUFLOW models developed for the FRMS.	Update: Council staff are in the final stage of making images from these cameras available on the Lismore City Council website.  Once completed, a link will be provided and promoted through a communication campaign to the broader community, ensuring residents know how to access this important resource.
		•
RM04	Floor Level Survey Extension of floor level surveys for any properties not included in the NRRRP regional program so that Council has floor level data for all properties within the PMF extent.	Update: Following the completion of the northern extension of the Lismore flood model (to model our rural areas), a review will be undertaken of properties within the updated flood planning area to identify those that do not have a floor level survey. This will enable LCC to determine the extent of assessments required and estimate the potential costs involved.  An update will be provided to the Committee once this review has been completed.
RM07	Review of Design Flood Levels Review of design flood levels and reflection of updated information in the FRMP and Local Flood Plan.	The FRMP recommends the following timing: Ongoing, depending on funding availability  Update: There have not yet been any funding opportunities to pursue this action.
FB06	Nature Based Solutions for Flood Risk Management Depending on the outcomes from the "Heal the Rivers" Flood Recovery and Landscape Restoration and Resilience in the Lismore Catchment projects, and available funding, Council should consider further expanding the application of NBS in the Wilsons River catchment.	<b>Update:</b> Projects are currently underway and scheduled for completion in 2026. A presentation by Richmond Landcare Inc. on <i>Nature-Based Solutions: Building Flood Resilience in the Lismore Catchment</i> will be included in the December agenda for the Committee's consideration.
FB01 / FB10 / FB13 / FB14	Raise CBD Levee to Provide 5% or 1% AEP flood immunity, in possible conjunction with Leycester Creek Bypass Channel Further hydraulic assessment and feasibility assessment should be undertaken to determine the cost-benefit proposition of raising of the CBD levee to provide either 5% AEP or 1% AEP flood immunity. Further consideration of the Leycester Creek Bypass Channel, either in isolation or in conjunction with the CBD levee raise should also be undertaken.	The FRMP recommends the following timing: Following CSIRO flood mitigation options report, dependent on funding.  Update: The mitigation scenarios selected for the NRRI project did not include modelling the raising of any Lismore levees or the Leycester Creek Bypass Channel.  Recommendation: Once the final NRRI report and its recommendations on future flood mitigation options for the Richmond River catchment are released, the Committee should review the findings and then provide a recommendation to Council regarding the

		undertaking of a hydraulic assessment and feasibility assessment of this FRMP implementation measure.
FB02 / FB10 / FB11 / FB12	Raise South Lismore Levee to Provide 5% or 1% AEP flood immunity, in possible conjunction with Leycester Creek Bypass Channel Further hydraulic assessment and feasibility assessment should be undertaken to determine the cost-benefit proposition of raising of the South Lismore levee to provide either 5% AEP or 1% AEP flood immunity. Further consideration of the Leycester Creek Bypass Channel, either in isolation or in conjunction with the CBD levee raise should also be undertaken	The FRMP recommends the following timing: Following CSIRO flood mitigation options report, dependent on funding.  Update & Recommendation: Refer to FB01/FB10/FB13/FB14 above.
FB07	East Lismore Flood Defence at Monaltrie Road  Further hydraulic assessment and feasibility assessment should be undertaken to determine the cost-benefit proposition of constructing a levee at Monaltrie Road, to provide flood protection to the Sewerage Treatment Plant, Wilson Park School, and East Lismore.	The FRMP recommends the following timing: Following CSIRO flood mitigation options report, dependent on funding  Update & Recommendation: Refer to FB01/FB10/FB13/FB14 above.

#### Floodplain Management - Strategic Updates

#### Northern extension of the Lismore Flood Model - Project Update

The Northern Extension of the Lismore Flood Model aims to provide Lismore City Council with flood modelling for the northern and rural areas of our local government area (LGA). The completion of the northern extension of the Lismore flood model, originally planned for mid-October, has been delayed due to challenges during the calibration process. Engeny has advised that they are now focused on confirming the model can accurately represent major flood events and that the design flows are reliable.

#### Floodplain Management Grant 2025

The NSW Floodplain Management Program provides funding to help councils reduce flood risk and improve community resilience through studies, planning, and mitigation measures. Councils can receive up to 67% of project costs, with the remainder funded locally.

In May 2025, Council submitted three grant applications under this program, with notification of successful projects expected before the end of 2025. These projects aim to strengthen flood preparedness and planning across the Lismore area:

- Project 1 Lismore Rural Flood Risk Management Study and Plan: A comprehensive study to assess flood risks in rural areas, identify mitigation strategies, and support emergency planning.
- Project 2 Lismore Urban Overland Flood Study: Focused on overland flooding and drainage issues in urban Lismore, this study will guide infrastructure upgrades and planning controls.
- Project 3 Lismore Flood Prediction and Warning System Review: An LGA-wide review of the current flood warning system to improve prediction accuracy, communication, and community preparedness.

#### Attachment/s

Subject 2026 Flood Risk Management Committee (FRMC)

meetings

**TRIM Record No** BP25/866:EF19/237-7

Prepared by Senior Strategic Planner

**Reason** To proivde the Committee with the proposed dates for the 2026 FRMC

meetings

Strategic Theme Leadership

**Strategy** Ensure effective governance, advocacy, engagement and partnerships with a

focus on long-term financial sustainability

**Action** Embed a customer-centric approach with effective engagement,

communication and service delivery

#### **Executive Summary**

The Flood Risk Management Committee is asked to note the proposed 2026 meeting schedule, with quarterly meetings set for 4 March, 3 June, 2 September, and 2 December.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Committee note the meeting dates for the 2026 as 4 March, 3 June, 2 September and 2 December.

#### **Information**

The Flood Risk Management Committee meets quarterly to review progress on floodplain management initiatives, provide strategic guidance, and consider emerging issues. To ensure continuity and allow members to plan ahead, proposed meeting dates for 2026 have been scheduled in alignment with the Committee's usual meeting cycle.

The recommended dates are:

- Wednesday, 4 March 2026 1pm 4pm
- Wednesday, 3 June 2026 1pm 4pm
- Wednesday, 2 September 2026 1pm 4pm
- Wednesday, 2 December 2026 1pm 4pm

These dates have been selected to maintain consistency with previous years and to allow sufficient time between meetings for the progression of actions and reporting.

#### Attachment/s

# Lismore Flood Risk Management Committee Minutes 3 September 2025

MINUTES OF THE LISMORE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 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

Councillors Rob (Chair), Jensen (audio visual), Knight-Smith (audio visual) Waters and together with Mr Graham Askey, Mr Col Baker, Ms Demi Flynn (left at 2.45 pm and joined at 3.00 pm via audio-visual), Mr Bradley Herd, Mr Andrew Logan (arrived at 1.23 pm), Mr Bill Moorhouse, Ms Helen Robinson, Mr Alex Rubin, Mr Toong Chin (audio visual), Mr Mark Tirris and Mr Blake Williamson.

#### In Attendance

LCC Officers: Ms Van Iersel, Acting Head Planning & Environment; Ms Longstaff, Senior Strategic Planner; Mr Pilling, Flood Restoration Surveillance Officer (audiovisual), Ms Anderson, Emergency Management Coordinator, Ms Hull, Executive Assistant.

Presenters: Ms Catherine Knight, Ms Karen McPaul, Ms Angela Jones, Mr Stephen Yeo (audio-visual) and Ms Holly Langers

Observers: Beth Trevan (audio-visual), Richard Trevan (audio-visual) Rosslyn Martens, Luke Robinson and Ross Davies

#### **Apologies**

Michael Ackrell

#### Non Attendance

Councillor Harper Dalton-Earls

#### Confirmation of Minutes

**RESOLVED** that the minutes from the meeting dated 4 June 2025 be confirmed

(Member Robinson / Councillor Rob)

# Lismore Flood Risk Management Committee Minutes 3 September 2025

Voting For: Councillors Rob, Jensen, Waters, Knight-Smith, Members: Askey,

Baker, Flynn, Herd, Logan, Moorhouse, Robinson, Rubin and Tirris.

Voting Against: Nil

#### Disclosure of Interest

Mr Col Baker disclosed he owns two houses that were flood effected in South Lismore. Mr Bradley Herd disclosed that through his work he has been involved in modelling options which may be a conflict of interest.

#### 4.1 Update from the NSW Reconstruction Authority

**RESOLVED** that the Committee note the update.

(Members Askey / Robinson)

Voting For: Councillors Rob, Jensen, Waters, Knight-Smith, Members: Askey,

Baker, Flynn, Herd, Logan, Moorhouse, Robinson, Rubin and Tirris.

Voting Against: Nil

#### 4.2 Update from Council's Emergency Management Coordinator

**RESOLVED** that the Committee note Council's progress across multiple flood preparedness initiatives, including:

- Installation of flood monitoring cameras and signage, future expansion planning (subject to funding opportunities), development of a draft webpage and supporting Flood Monitoring Policy;
- Integration of the Browns Creek Pump Station overtopping display into the Disaster Dashboard;
- Participation in the national Flood Warning Infrastructure Network (FWIN) Program;
   and
- Planning for Flood Awareness Week 2025.

(Member Herd / Councillor Waters)

Voting For: Councillors Rob, Jensen, Waters, Knight-Smith, Members: Askey,

Baker, Flynn, Herd, Logan, Moorhouse, Robinson, Rubin and Tirris.

Voting Against: Nil

# Lismore Flood Risk Management Committee Minutes 3 September 2025

#### 4.3 Update on Flood Risk Management Plan

**RESOLVED** that the Committee note the report.

(Members Herd / Robinson)

Voting For: Councillors Rob, Jensen, Waters, Knight-Smith, Members: Askey,

Baker, Flynn, Herd, Logan, Moorhouse, Robinson, Rubin and Tirris

Voting Against: Nil

#### 4.4 Flood Risk Management Plan - consultant

**RESOLVED** that the Committee recommend Council staff send an enquiry to CSIRO seeking confirmation on whether they can do a Flood Risk Management Plan and if so, will it be in compliance with the NSW flood risk management manual and if they can provide a cost estimate.

(Councillor Rob / Member Rubin)

Voting For: Councillors Rob, Jensen, Waters, Knight-Smith, Members: Askey,

Baker, Flynn, Herd, Logan, Moorhouse, Robinson, Rubin and Tirris

Voting Against: Nil

#### 4.5 Update on Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative

**DEFEATED** that the committee recommend that Council write to NEMA and CSIRO advocating improved community engagement with more information on suggested mitigation measures that be considered by the NRRI project. It is requested that the scope and suggested mitigation measures be more clearly and visually stepped out to better enable the community to make involved submissions.

(Councillor Waters / Member Herd)

Voting For: Cr Waters, Ms Robinson, Mr Herd

Voting Against: Councillors Rob, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Members: Askey, Baker, Logan,

Moorhouse, Rubin, Tirris and Flynn

#### 4.6 3D Renders - Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (NRRI)

### Lismore Flood Risk Management Committee Minutes 3 September 2025

That the committee recommend that Council write to NEMA and CSIRO requesting the shortlisted mitigation interventions as part of the NRRI project be recreated in 3D renders for use in community engagement

(Member Herd / Councillor Rob)

Voting For: Councillors Rob, Jensen, Waters, Knight-Smith, Members: Askey,

Baker, Flynn, Herd, Logan, Moorhouse, Robinson, Rubin and Tirris

Voting Against: Nil

#### Closure

This concluded the business and the meeting terminated at 4.17 pm.