



Wagga Wagga
City Council

Flood Futures

MINUTES: Oura Community Information Session

Main City and North Wagga Levee Upgrade Project- detailed design and options for North Wagga

Date: 10 March 2015

Location: Oura Community Hall

In attendance

10 community members

Councillors: Councillor Alan Brown, Councillor Gary Hiscock

Council Staff: General Manager Phil Pinyon (Facilitator), Director Corporate Services Craig Richardson, Director Infrastructure Heinz Kausche, Manager Engineering Alex Fenwick, Project Engineer Bryan Short, Project Coordinator Kym Holbrook, Acting Manager Corporate Strategy Governance & Communications Nicole Johnson, Strategic Partner, Corporate Strategy & Communications Brett Koschel, Community Engagement Officer Lauren Fitzgerald, Business Support Infrastructure Jessica Crawford

State Emergency Service (SES): Deputy Regional Controller Jon Gregory, Community Engagement Coordinator Ian Leckie

NSW Public Works: Manager Clients and Project Delivery Fred Spain

Apologies Mayor Rod Kendall, Deputy Mayor Dallas Tout, Councillor Andrew Negline, Councillor Kerry Pascoe, Councillor Yvonne Braid, Councillor Paul Funnell, Councillor Kevin Poynter, Councillor Julian McLaren

Comments, Statements, Questions and Answers

Q. What do you base the information on that the 1:20 North Wagga levee will cause no change to water levels at Oura? Do you actually make a model?

RESPONSE: The levels are predicted through a computer modelling process, not an old school model. This is a complicated process that involves obtaining a lot of data and imputing it. The modelling can take 3-5 days to run to get the result.

Q. You said that it would slow the flow?

RESPONSE: Yes, somewhat. The depth would increase, and where the land goes from a narrow area to a wider area there would be a 'choking up' of the water causing it to flow slower.

Q. Will the flood water take longer to get out of Oura? It took 6-12 hours last time.

RESPONSE: Council will have to confirm with consultants WMA Water who did the original modelling

Q. The community has concerns regarding the Harness Racing Development. Has Council assessed the impact of the track?

RESPONSE: Yes. It has been assessed as part of the Development Track. The impact adjacent to the Track will be an increase in water level of 10mm.

Q. How do you calculate the dollar figures in the Average Annual Damages (AAD)?

RESPONSE: The figures come from studies that have been done Australia wide, that record costs when properties are damaged.

Q. The AAD for one option is \$20M every 'how many' years for the benefit of North Wagga only?

RESPONSE: Yes that is correct

RESIDENT COMMENT: I think you should reference that 'rate payers' will have to fork out this money for damages

RESIDENT COMMENT: Rather than displaying 1 in 20 for the North Wagga levee, can you show the actual heights in metres

Q. I'd like to discuss equity. You're here showing us all these options for North Wagga, why are you not looking at Oura? And considering the same options such as raising houses / moving etc for Oura?

RESPONSE: the brief we were given from Council was to look at North Wagga options. Council resolution was to look at the Main City Levee and North Wagga options. However we understand that Flood Management across the whole Local Government Area (LGA) is important. The next phase is updating the Floodplain Risk Management Plan and taking into account all the LGA.

RESIDENT COMMENT: It's not that difficult to do the same across the other communities. All I ask is that you consider options for all other areas as well please.

RESIDENT COMMENT: I think pushing North Wagga options and saying 'sorry Oura it won't affect you' is a political issue

Q. Have you allowed for the school in your figures for North Wagga?

RESPONSE: No, only private property / homes have been included.

RESIDENT COMMENT: I think you should include the school; it's an important part of the community.

RESPONSE: Noted

Q. Why have you included East and Mill Streets as separate options?

RESPONSE: This area has a separate levee

Q. How is North Wagga defined?

RESPONSE: Houses inside the levee

Q: If you're talking about houses inside the levee, what about equity and those outside the levee?

RESPONSE: Those properties are not included in the report or these presentations.

RESIDENT COMMENT: These properties should be in the presentation. If Council is prepared to do it for North Wagga, they should be prepared to do it for other areas.

RESPONSE: Noted

Q. The AAD costs you are presenting are not accurate. Council always over spends on projects

RESPONSE: The costs are accurate, a lot of preparation has gone into these costs.

RESIDENT COMMENT: A benefit to the people of North Wagga would be that they would be protected by a levee, and able to obtain cheaper insurance etc. There is no equity when other rate payers are afforded no protection, and still have to pay. Why not charge those who are impacted and protected, such as the CBD?

RESPONSE: There is a loud case of equity coming through tonight. We appreciate your comments, and have noted them.

RESIDENT COMMENT: I have concerns that a small amount of people (eg. business owners in the CBD) have a big say.

RESPONSE: that's why we're doing community consultations. So that everybody whether directly impacted or not, can have input and make comment.

COUNCILLOR BROWN COMMENT: I have to say as a farmer at Borambola, I won't personally benefit from any levee upgrades or other options. But I am more than happy to be a part of something that protects the CBD, and all the assets Council has there.

RESIDENT COMMENT: Why is Council doing the presentations and asking for input without having a budget. It seems odd.

Q. With the voluntary purchase option, how would the school, hall, pub etc fit in? They need to be considered.

RESPONSE: This would need to be investigated more thoroughly if Council decides to go down the path of voluntary purchase.

Q. On one slide you have \$6.18M on the other \$6.81M, that's \$700k difference.

RESPONSE: Noted –Typing error. Correct figure is \$6.81M

Q. Does Council have a preferred option?

RESPONSE: No. Council staff will present a report to Council in July with all the options and community input. Councillors will then make a decision

Q. In other towns such as Tamworth and over in Europe, the towns have a better connection with the river. Eg: Temp flood barriers. It would be good if you presented some more 'nice' ideas that could potentially pay for a levee bank. I'd like to see more planning and social ideas, not just engineering.

RESPONSE: The State and Federal Governments who are Council funding partners, are not willing and don't particularly like innovative ideas. They could be good suggestions for the future.

Q. If Oura was flooded tomorrow, where would the residents go? The church is currently for sale, and during the 2012 floods was the only property that remained out of the water. Perhaps Council could purchase it as an evacuation centre. I think you'd get it \$100k.

RESPONSE: Have you considered applying for any grants to purchase it?

RESIDENT RESPONSE: Yes