

# Fact Sheet

## **Burnett River Floodplain Action Plan**

### ***The Multi-Criteria Assessment process***

The Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) process will give Council a solid plan to assist in reducing the devastating effects of flooding to the region.

This high level, technical analysis will determine the top five options that will undergo further engineering assessment before being determined for incorporation into a floodplain management action plan.

The MCA will objectively consider options based on the feasibility, effectiveness, social, environmental and economic advantages and disadvantages of each. The Community Reference Group will help determine how much weight is given to each of these criteria before it is fed into the MCA process.

By the end of the year, once the options have gone through the Multi-Criteria Assessment, Council will have identified the top five floodplain management options and strategies to take forward.

### ***Is this the best approach?***

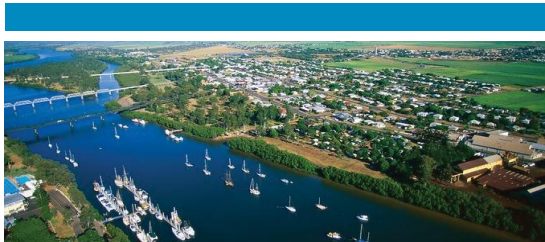
The main function and benefit of implementing this approach is that it provides a robust and transparent tool in which options can be measured and if not viable, can be discounted so that Council can explore the more viable options in a more comprehensive and timely manner.

This is an interactive approach which, with input from Council and relevant stakeholders, will provide a holistic understanding of constraints and opportunities.

### ***What options will be fed into the MCA process?***

The floodplain management options relate to three areas:

- **Property Modification Measures**
  - This relates to modifications to existing buildings to remove them from flooding.
  - Options could include re-zoning and house raising.
  
- **Response Modification Measures**
  - This is aimed at increasing the ability of people to respond appropriately in times of flood and/or enhancing the flood warning and evacuation procedures in an area.
  - Options may include improving community awareness, improving flood warning systems, and updating local flood and evacuation plans.



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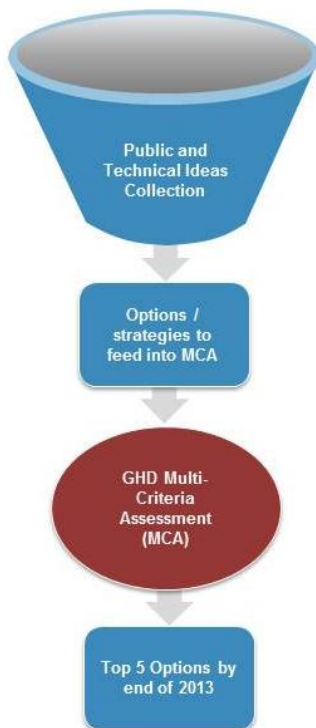
- **Flood Modification Measures**

- This relates to the designing measures to alter the behaviour of the flood itself by reducing flood levels and/or velocities or by excluding flood waters from areas at risk.
- Options may include levees, river dredging and vegetation removal.

Ideas and feedback on these options will be sought from the public, Community Reference Group members, and Technical Working Group representatives and then a refined set of options will be fed into the MCA process to be assessed on the following criteria:

- Feasibility
- Effectiveness
- Social
- Environmental and
- Economic

The Community Reference Group and Technical Working Group will help determine how much weight is given to each of these criteria before it is fed into the MCA and then once the process is complete in November 2013, the top five options for Council to take forward will be determined.



### **Next Steps**

Based on the outcomes of the MCA process, five flood risk management options will be identified for funding purposes by December 2013 and undergo additional detailed assessment.

These options will form part of a range of other initiatives to be developed as part of the Floodplain Action Plan due for completion by mid-2014.

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