

Fact Sheet

BURNETT RIVER FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN September, 2013

The development of the Burnett River Floodplain Management Action Plan will confirm the top five floodplain management options and strategies to improve the region's flood resilience and preparedness.

The development of the Action Plan follows the completion of a comprehensive two-year flood modelling and mapping study of the Burnett River floodplain located between Paradise Dam and the river mouth.

What's already happened – the Flood Study

Bundaberg Regional Council and GHD are close to completing the two-year study of the region's flooding behaviour to gain a comprehensive understanding of the cause, effects, severity and frequency of recent and future Burnett River flood events.

The flood study provides vital information to underpin the development of the Burnett River Floodplain Management Action Plan.

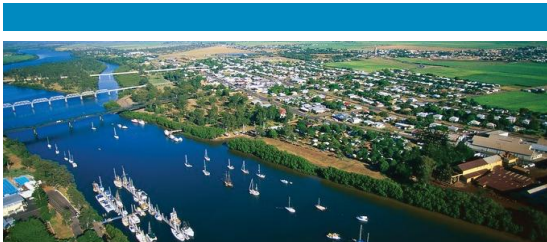
It provides a solid and detailed account of what may happen during a flood and provides Council with:

- Calibrated flood models
- Flood inundation maps for a range of flood events that indicate the potential flood extents, levels, depths, velocity and flood hazard for the floodplain located between Paradise Dam and the river mouth
- An improved understanding of the behaviour of flooding across the floodplain
- An improved understanding of the impact of infrastructure such as dams and hydraulic structures on river flow rates and flood levels; and
- An improved understanding of flood warning times.

What's next – development of the Burnett River Floodplain Management Action Plan

The Action Plan is the next step in the process and will use the technical and scientific data from the flood study to develop a range of floodplain management options that aim to reduce the potentially devastating impacts of future flooding in the Bundaberg region.

The process will be informed by consultation with the community and technical representatives to identify and confirm the top five floodplain management options and strategies.



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The Action Plan will be informed by:

- Two years' of data from the Flood Study Report
- An independently-facilitated Community Reference Group
- Technical Working Group meetings
- Feedback and ideas through public consultation program; and
- Discussions with industry and business stakeholders.

Public and technical ideas collection

Council is seeking ideas and feedback from members of the community to better understand what options and strategies they would like Council to consider as part of the project.

The project team is looking for ideas that fall within the following three areas:

1. Property and planning

Options may include re-zoning, house raising, building and development controls and flood proofing buildings.

2. Community emergency preparedness

Options may include improving community awareness, improving flood warning systems, and updating local flood and evacuation plans.

3. Structural projects

Options may include levees, river dredging and vegetation removal.

The Council will develop two reference groups to guide the development of the Action Plan – a Technical Working Group comprising Government and technical engineering professionals; and a Community Reference Group (CRG) representing a diverse cross-section of the community.

How will community feedback and ideas be filtered into feasible options?

The ideas and feedback from the public, CRG members, and the Technical Working Group representatives will be collated and fed into a Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) process later in the year.

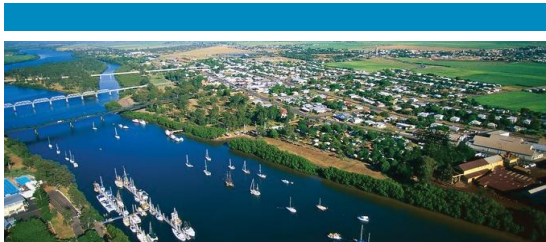
How you can give us your ideas

Email:

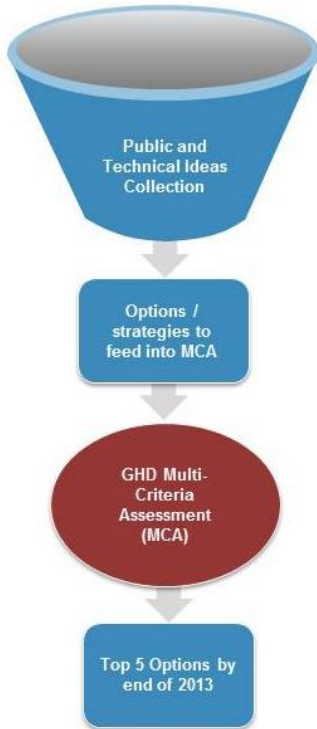
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The MCA process will objectively consider options based on the feasibility, effectiveness, social, environmental and economic advantages and disadvantages of each. The CRG will assist in weighting the criteria before it's fed into the MCA process. The MCA will determine the top five options that will undergo further engineering assessment before being determined for incorporation into the Floodplain Management Action Plan.

Next steps

Based on the outcomes of the MCA process, five floodplain 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 Burnett River Floodplain Action Plan due for completion by mid-2014.

Burnett River Floodplain Management Action Plan key milestones

September

- Establishment of the Community Reference Group and Technical Working Group
- Commence community information sessions

October

- Collation of suggestions by the CRG

November

- Technical Working Group and Community Reference Group to develop a set of floodplain management options to be fed into the MCA process

December

- Completion of the MCA process and identification of the top five floodplain management options to take forward.

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