Minutes

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| Title: | Meeting 3 – 2019 Koo Wee Rup Longwarry Flood Protection District Advisory Committee |
| Meeting date: | Thursday, 14 November 2019 |
| Meeting time: | 1.00pm – 3.00pm |
| Location: | Melbourne Water offices, 334 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup |
| Chairperson: | Bruce Turner |
| Attendees: | Bruce Turner, Con Raffa, Jo Fontana, Frank Rovers, Robert Mure, Ian Anderson, Susan Anderson, John Hobson, Kevin Carlisle Stapleton (CSC), Teena Mathew (BBSC), Sarah Eggleton (MW), Tom Le Cerf (MW), Cate Shaw (MW), Georgina Downey (MW), Stuart Cochrane (MW), |
| Apologies: | Matthew Coleman, Mark Howard (CSC), Cr Ray Brown (CSC), Clive Brooker (BBSC), Kevin Alexander (CSC) |
| Note taker: | Georgina Downey |

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| Agenda item | **1. Welcome & apologies and items for General Business** | | Presenter | | Bruce Turner |
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| Agenda item | **2. Actions from previous meetings** | | Presenter | |  |
| Discussion | **Action 12.1**: re Moody Street Drain. Kevin undertook to followup with the aim of getting advice in writing from Kevin Alexander which could be circulated between meetings –**ACTION OUTSTANDING**  **Action 2.1**: MW to investigate the reported choke points on Seven Mile Road, Meeting with Ian Anderson to be a part of this.  Tom went out with Ian to look at the situation, culverts being created causing flooding in the area. Issue is that culverts are put in instead of bridges. Ian cited one which was timber and floated before being concreted and increasing the blockage  to the point where downstream flows are only at 40% capacity. Tom said there is no simple solution and this would be one of 100 such crossings across the district – he suggested this be listed as an agenda item for the Action Plan to be revisited at the next meeting.  Frank commented that this raised the broader issue of how to control and enforce what is installed. Kevin responded that they should be subject to a planning permit so people should notify Council if this has not occurred.  **Action 2.2:** Briefing for Jo. It was noted that there is an SES plan for Longwarry which could be shared as part of this **- ACTION OUTSTANDING**  **Action 2.3:** Cardinia Creek site inspection  Tom went out to site with John. Sand mining is no longer undertaken on Cardinia Creek so there is a build-up of sediment. It is assumed that higher flows will clear this, but is it effective? Tom undertook to find the relevant expert in MW to review the situation. **ACTION IN PROGRESS – UPDATE NEXT MEETING**  John expressed concern regarding fill put in along the creek, with limited access available to clear as it is private property. John undertook to identify the exact location so additional investigation can be undertaken. (incorporated as part of Action 2.3 followup)  Stuart advised that there is a work order to remove the trees in the Cardinia Creek at Ballarto Road (2.5 km stretch). Due January 2020. Stuart said this is the second stage, the first stage involved one side and the access track repair. Tom cited this as another example of the broader issue of instream sediment/ flow management (affecting Bunyip River as well as Cardinia Ck) that would be useful to get the Committee’s feedback on what works to prioritise in the Action Plan (to be refreshed at February 2020 meeting)  **Action 2.4:** Performance of fencing at Cora Lynn Ford  Tom has spoken with Keith Boniface (Flood Engineer) who does not believe that there is any major issue with the fencing. Frank commented that every time it floods mud deposits in the narrowing part of the Yallock Outfall. Tom said it may be that survey frequency needed to be increased (eg every 1-2 years) Will look for further advice from Keith. Need base data. The hydraulic performance at the Yallock Outfall (silt and fencing) should be looked at as part of the review/ refresh of the Action Plan at the February 2020 meeting. **ACTION IN PROGRESS** | | | | |
| Agenda item | **3. Pricing Submission and Levels of Service** | | Presenters | | Michael Matusiak Tom Le Cerf |
| Discussion | Michael presented an overview of the Pricing Submission process. Tom explained what is and what is not funded by the Waterways and Drainage Charge (WDC) and Precept rate.  **Committee prioritisation of service areas:**  The Committee were asked to look at levels of service for the different service streams, e.g. grass cutting, desilting, tree works etc. and asked to rate requirements on a sliding scale from much less (1) to much more (5).  The figure below collates the individual feedback from members. The level of service was assessed as being generally adequate, however additional weed control, tree work and desilting were identified as priorities. Also a need for the consideration of climate change and preparation for more extreme storm events was discussed.  cid:image001.png@01D5A4FF.4E430B10  **Discussion on above results:**  *Grass cutting*- Fire risk of drains was discussed as being low – grass cutting is needed for maintenance access- Bunyip Main Drain good example. Good inside drain but Committee questioned the value of mowing outside of drain. Melbourne Water noted the grass cutting also reduced the need for weed control. Current program to be reviewed following research review of chemicals and renewal of grass cutting contract. Discussion re purpose of Council’s roadside mowing program – Kevin said it was largely for amenity. Frank queried why landowners were required to mow 10m inside fences if only for amenity. Kevin said the policy had changed and Council will only be enforcing such mowing on ‘lifestyle’ properties.  *Stabilisation* - Committee noted that a focus on stability, not bank reinforcement, would be beneficial.  *Weed control* – This was rated as the highest priority for more effort. The Committee noted the desire to remove just weed and not all the grasses. MW’s lack of management of blackberry was highlighted as an issue causing problems on private land. Tom commented that these are prioritised on MW’s land, otherwise grants could be looked at to support better management.  *Flood mapping* – Ian expressed his view that information is key - flood events are different today, so a lot more effort is required in this area. Question on how flood mapping can provide additional information for community. Others were of the view that about the same level of service in this area would be adequate.  *Asset investigations* – Some desire for asset investigations  *Additional service suggestion*  Climate change - preparation for extreme storm events  **Willingness to pay**  The current level of the charge was rated on the follow scale (Less -1, The Same-2, More-3, A lot More-4)  Community rated this at an average of 2.86 indicating there was some appetite to pay more. They felt payments up to $300 per person would be reasonable. It was noted that good communications alongside such a proposal would be needed to explain what services are covered.  **Current scenarios**  The additional scenarios to be tested were also discussed and an average rating of 2.6 indicated a desire for the scenarios to be more ambitious.  It was recorded against the following criteria (A greater focus should be placed on savings-1, The scenarios seem about right-2, The scenarios should be more ambitious-3). In the light of this feedback, Tom undertook to update the scenarios to be a little more ambitious.  **Community engagement**  Kevin offered Council’s experience that texting a link to YourSay can be a really effective way to get more people to review and comment. He offered Council’s social media as an avenue to promote the consultation on the Pricing Submission. Local media and other social media were noted as useful avenues too. | | | | |
| Agenda item | **4. Action Plan update** | | Presenter | | Tom Le Cerf |
| Discussion See table below for record of update. | | | | | |
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| Agenda item | **5. Capital works & Maintenance** | | | | |
| Discussion | Maintenance Update – Maintenance program progressing well focus is on tree work currently  Capital Update – Upcoming waterways project on the area near the inlets | | | | |
| Agenda item | **6. Community Feedback** | Presenter | | ALL | |
| Discussion | Con Raffa enquired on behalf of local vegetable growers Ricky Cammerano, Alex Motta and Peter Hobson - all raised concerns regarding why there are no flood gates installed at the west end of Island Road drain and Deep Creek catch drain as well as Hagelthornes drain and Deep Creek catch drain.  Their properties have no protection from high water levels in the Deep Creek catch which flows back in the two respective drains potentially flooding their properties  **New Action 3.2:** MW to investigate - SC | | | | |

**Meeting closed:** 3.00pm

**Next meeting**: Thursday 13 February 1.00pm-3.00pm – to refresh the Action/ Strategic Plan and review the draft Customer Charter

The possibility of a special meeting in April (or instead of the May meeting) was flagged for the Committee to review feedback on the Pricing Submission and Customer Charter.

**Action Plan – Bold indicates changes**

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| **#** | **Action Item** | | **Lead** | | | **Priority** | **Status** | | **Comments** | |
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| **(1= 6 months, 2= 6 – 12 months , 3= 1 year +)** |
| **The area boundaries** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Explore the opportunity to review (external provider) the KWR district boundary to ensure catchment and hydrology are equitable and climate change are taken into consideration. | | Sarah | | | 1 | Consultation to commence around pricing submission shortly chance to get issue on MW agenda here. | | **Briefing by Trent Griffins at most recent meeting** | |
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| **Flood protection / improved flows** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Investigate the potential removal of pylons under the historic railway bridge crossing at Bunyip River to assist in flood conveyance | | TL | | | 1 | Feedback from Council heritage constraints on Bunyip River Bridge sought. | | **Survey received preliminary assessment to be completed** | |
| Looking to initiate investigation into risk of blockage, funding will be required. McDonalds Drain also to be considered | |
| 3 | Improve management of Bunyip Main Drain | | TL | | | 2 | New PM's to be set up for grooming of Melaleuca.  Additional works planned for levees. Investigation underway for how to improve the environmental management of the area. | | Ongoing improvements | |
| 4 | Are we getting development right? | |  | | | 2 | Key developments to be discussed as a part of this action item:  South Gippsland Railway Duplication Meeting attended Aurecon/Jacobs/McDonald together working on project. Many EPBC concerns with rail alignment - bandicoot, Grayling, Strzelecki Gum etc - concept design - then onto detailed design. MW confident that they will satisfy Commonwealth and State Depts and will take on comments from Project Group. Not anticipating objection. Further engagement needed during construction phase. | | | |
| 5 | Strategic land use planning – (Use of roads as drains is inappropriate in flood prone townships) | | TL | | | 2 | We need further information to improve understanding locally. Information to be shared with flood committee. | | KWR development guidelines to be completed will be forwarded once complete. | |
| 6 | Increase the coverage in monitoring flood protection | | TL | | | 2 | Hydro graphics team to presented in July key questions answered. | | Closed | |
| **Efficiencies** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Provide greater clarity around ownership of drainage maintenance responsibilities between council, MW and private properties | | TL | | | 3 | One pager to be developed. Key information within customer charter. | | Cardinia Shire Weed Strategy also referenced as a key document. | |
| 8 | Explore the potential to improve work efficiency and work practices (i.e. spreading of silt), include efficiency reporting as a part of this | |  | | | 1 | Doing trial around works methods in Lower Bunyip to look at removing woody vegetation from within waterways. Packaging of desilt works Consider multiple machine desilts? One to dig and one to spread. | | Ongoing part of practices. | |
| **Communications and Technology** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Continue the annual committee bus tour of the KWR district | |  | | | 1 | Complete | |  | |
| 10 | Melbourne Water to improve knowledge sharing to the Advisory committee through guest speakers, subject matter experts on key topics with further input from Council. | |  | | | 1 | Complete | |  | |
| 11 | Reduce the use of paper based newsletters and communicate through other effective approaches (i.e. use of MW KWR committee webpage or email based) | | Georgina | | | 2 | Complete | |  | |
| 12 | Coordinate with the MW customer call centre to actively ensure that issues/concerns are managed appropriately – tracking and escalation process | | Sarah | | | 1 | Complete | |  | |
| 12 | Technologies to improve Advisory Committee communication in between meetings – e.g. access to website/portal that everyone can access | |  | | | 3 | Complete | |  | |
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| **Habitat/environmental management** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Investigate blackberries/ weeds in areas across the flood district | | TL | | | 1 | Yallock No. 4 Drain to begin as pilot area.  Vegetation studies/management plans underway at Lower Bunyip and Yallock Outfall available shortly | | **Additional feedback at to be provided at next meeting** | |
| 13 | Investigate the opportunity to create a corridor for nature and public use along Yallock outfall (eg bike path network) | | Council | | | 3 | Complete | | Not considered viable by Council | |
| 14 | Engage an ecologist/ specialist to provide advice on the management of blackberry (staged approach) to reduce the impact on Southern Brown Bandicoot (SBB) habitat and provide a monitoring program | | Stu | | | 1 | Complete | |  | |
| 15 | Monitor the effectiveness of the fox and cat control program through a program of works | | Stu | | | 2 | Complete | |  | |
| 16 | Improve management of litter within drains | | TL | | | 1 | Current policy is to only remove blockages, hesitant to divert resources away from primary purpose of drainage levee. Acknowledgement of larger issue. | | | |
| **Collaboration** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Ensure effective coordination of programs across organisations | | TL | | | 2 | Relationship between councils being strengthened. Recent collaboration around councils biolinks and weed management plan. | | Need for ongoing communication identified due to officer change over. | |
| 18 | Explore opportunities to work together with councils on drainage infrastructure projects | | Sarah | | | 2 | Living Rivers existing projects | | Complete | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | | Closed | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | | Underway | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | | Not progressing | |