

9.2. Middleton Stormwater Management Plan

Moved Cr Peter Oliver seconded Cr Sue Miller

That Council:

- 1. Consider as part of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget process the development of a district wide Alexandrina Stormwater Management Plan Review.**
- 2. Do not progress the development of a Middleton Stormwater Management Plan, pending consideration of the Alexandrina Stormwater Management Plan Review as part of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget process.**

With consent of the mover and seconder Cr Milli Livingston sought and was granted leave of the meeting to vary the motion as follows:

C034/02/25

Moved Cr Peter Oliver seconded Cr Sue Miller

That Council: *(as varied)*

- 1. Consider as part of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget process the development of a district wide Alexandrina Stormwater Management Plan Review.**
- 2. Do not progress the development of a Middleton Stormwater Management Plan, pending consideration of the Alexandrina Stormwater Management Plan Review as part of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget process.**

3. That Council communicates with the Middleton Community and provide an update on actions taken in relation to the mitigation measures set out in Item 9.1 of this agenda, and ensure the community in expanding the scope of the Stormwater Management Plan, there will be no impact on actions being undertaken.

CARRIED

9.2. Middleton Stormwater Management Plan

Decision Report

Responsible Officer: Alan Harvey - General Manager Infrastructure

Report Author: Mark Tate - Team Leader Civil and Transport Assets

Previous Decisions: September 24 C24440

Report Purpose

To provide Council with relevant information for developing a Stormwater Management Authority approved Stormwater Management Plan for the Middleton community as per resolution C24440.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Consider as part of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget process the development of a district wide Alexandrina Stormwater Management Plan Review.
2. Do not progress the development of a Middleton Stormwater Management Plan, pending consideration of the Alexandrina Stormwater Management Plan Review as part of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget process.

Background

On 12 November 2022, South Australia experienced a major storm event which included widespread impacts, disruption and damage across the greater Adelaide and regional areas.

Flooding occurred within the township of Middleton which affected a large portion of the town with at least 28 properties and businesses significantly affected with approximately 80 properties impacted. Many of the properties and businesses affected, experienced a rapid on set of running water, with many suffering inundation to various degrees. At the peak of the flood, inundation caused residents to rapidly evacuate their properties and businesses, causing blocking of roads and damage to community assets and infrastructure.

Through discussions with the community and learnings of the flood behaviour on the 12 November 2022, it was clear that several independent elements of work could be investigated and potentially implemented. These were reported to Council on 15 July 2024 along with details of the event and other recommendations to assist with flood mitigation and ongoing storm water management.

One of those resolved recommendations was the development of an integrated Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) which could be approved by the Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) to assist Council in the management of stormwater planning and infrastructure. Having an SMA approved SMP also provides access to the Stormwater Management Fund that has been set up to support Local Governments with stormwater planning and infrastructure co-contribution funding.

The development of a Stormwater Management Plan is an extensive piece of work requiring specialist skills, knowledge and experience that is not available within the Council's resources.

As such a suitably qualified consultant was engaged to provide Council with detailed information on the development of a SMP for Middleton. The results of that engagement are summarised below, along with points of consideration.

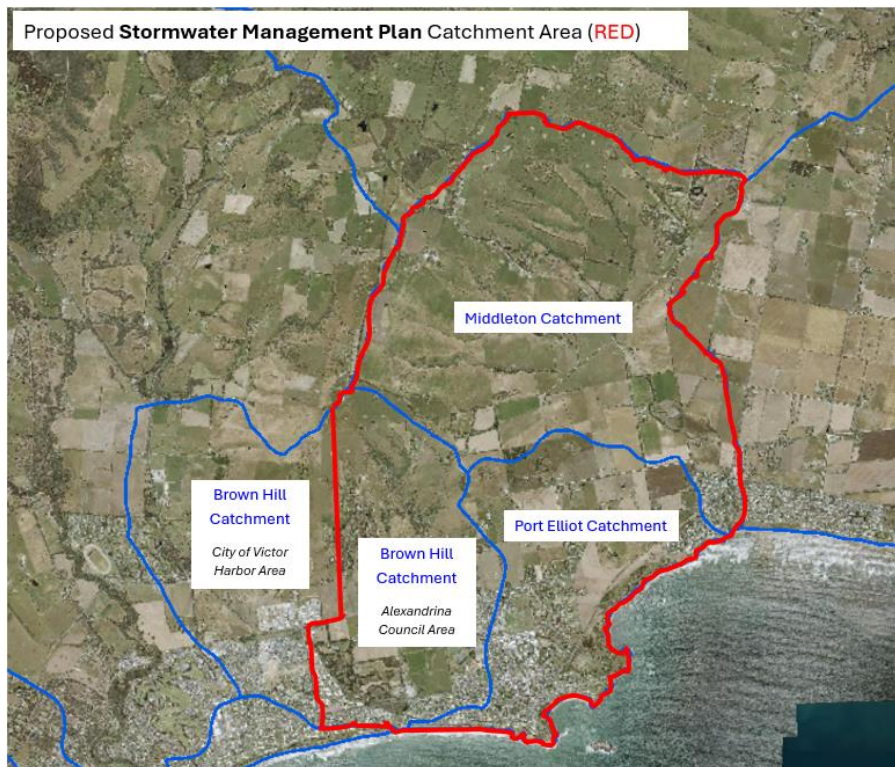
Discussion

The Key Points from the consultant are provided below -

- A SMP (that could be approved by the SMA) for Middleton will require an investment of approximately \$270,000 and take around 2 years to complete. This covers the following stages through a suitably experienced and qualified consultant -

- Stage 1: Information Compilation and Review: This involves collecting and reviewing all relevant background information, including existing data and studies, plans and policies, infrastructure standards and asset data.
- Stage 2: Assessment of the Catchment: This stage involves establishing a comprehensive understanding of the catchment's current condition. This includes understanding its physical characteristics, climate and hydrology. Analysis of the catchment is Water Demand and Supply, Stormwater Network and Asset Management, development Policy and climate change impacts
- Stage 3: Modelling and Analysis to Identify Stormwater Risks and Issues: This stage involves utilising hydrological, hydraulic, and water quality models to simulate drainage performance and assess water quality discharge into sensitive environments. Key deliverables for this stage include flood mapping of the catchment area to identify flood-prone areas, flood depths, and flow velocities. This information is used to conduct a comprehensive risk assessment of the catchment.
- Stage 4: 'State of the Catchment' Report: This report consolidates the findings from the previous stages, providing a comprehensive overview of the catchment's current condition, identified risks and issues, and a preliminary assessment of management priorities.
- Stage 5: Stormwater Management Objectives and Targets: This stage involves establishing specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound objectives and targets that reflect the desired outcomes for stormwater management in the catchment. Objectives and targets can address flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, environmental protection, and water conservation.
- Stage 6: Identifying and Assessing Options for Management Responses: Based on the identified risks, objectives, and targets, a range of potential management responses are developed, including
 - Structural measures (i.e. physical infrastructure modifications, such as upgrading drainage systems, constructing wetlands, etc); and
 - Non-structural measures (i.e. policy changes, planning regulations, public education campaigns, and community-based initiatives).
- Stage 7: Selecting the Preferred Management Responses and Developing an Implementation Plan: This stage involves selecting a subset of the most feasible and effective management responses for adoption into the SMP.
- Stage 8: Preparation of the Draft and Final Stormwater Management Plan (Including Peer Review): The final stage involves compiling all findings, analyses, and plans into a comprehensive SMP document. The draft SMP is then subjected to peer review by qualified experts to ensure technical accuracy, completeness, and adherence to best practices.
- Upon SMP approval by the Stormwater Management Authority (SMA), up to 50% co-contribution (Grant) funding is available for the development of the SMP and for further Community Development and Infrastructure
 - Category A Applications: Stormwater Management Plans and Other Studies
 - Category B Applications: Knowledge, Capability and Capacity Building
 - Category C Applications: Capital Works
- All grant applications are as per the SMA Grant application process and available SMA funds each financial year and do not allow for "In-Kind" contributions.
 - Applications for funding in Category A or Category B can be submitted at any time.
 - Applications for Category C funding will generally be made in May and November each year.

- Based on the initially assessed small size of the Middleton Catchment area, and as per the SA Government Surface Catchment modelling, grant funding success in Category A is considered low.
- To enable greater success for Grant Funding, it is suggested a better option would be to increase the Catchment area to include Port Elliot & Chiton environs i.e.
 - Middleton and Port Elliot Catchments
 - A portion of the Brown Hill Catchment, East side of Ocean Road, Hayborough. Noting that the City of Victor Harbor have completed a SMP for their Brown Hill Catchment Council Area.
- Additional cost to expand the SMP area to include Port Elliot/Chiton environs is \$250,000 bringing the total cost to develop a credible SMP to in excess of \$500,000.



- In 2022, a review of Stormwater Management Priorities in South Australia by the SMA was undertaken, where the state was reviewed for Stormwater Flooding and other stormwater management elements. A copy of this report can be viewed on the SMA website at this [LINK](#). Both Middleton and Port Elliot were deemed too small in area to be ranked and did not make the SMA Priorities Report. Goolwa, Mt Compass and Strathalbyn were listed in the report, Goolwa having an overall high priority (second highest priority), with Strathalbyn being a medium priority and Mount Compass a very low priority.

Based on the consultant's advice and the 2022 SMA report, Administration recommends that instead of progressing a SMP for Middleton / Port Elliot / Chiton, Council consider funding a new initiative in the draft 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget to undertake a holistic "*District Wide*" Alexandrina Stormwater Management Review to determine Council priorities in creating future Stormwater Management Plans. The estimated cost of this work is \$20,000 and would include the following approach -

- Identify catchment areas for SMP development using available hydrological data and Lidar mapping;
- Prioritise each of the Catchment areas using assessment criteria such as:
 - Council Risk Matrix
 - Stormwater Management Risk Identification Tools - flooding hot spots/issues/risks
 - Previous Event historical data and flood mapping (Frequency vs Impact)

- Town size and Populations
- Developmental pressures/future planning
- Link the SMP Review priorities to annual budget planning processes for inclusion as potential new initiatives.

This approach would provide the following benefits -

- Identify and prioritise the key Stormwater Management risks and SMP needs across all of Council
- Provides a strategic and equitable direction for stormwater management across the district.
- Considers Climate Change stormwater impacts (Changes since previous reports completed)
- Some of the hydrology work has been completed by Department of Environment and Water (DEW)
 - Langhorne Creek & Surrounds (DEW)
 - Strathalbyn & Surrounds (DEW)
 - Goolwa to Victor Harbor (DEW)
 - Middleton (DEW + AC Detailed Review)
 - Chiton (DEW + AC Detailed Review)
 - Ashbourne (AC Detailed Review)

Financial Implications

In accordance with the Alexandrina Council's Adopted Budget / Long Term Financial Plan, the financial implications of adopting this recommendation are considered low, as this recommendation may be submitted for consideration as part of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget development process.

Risk Implications

In accordance with Alexandrina Council's Risk Assessment Matrix, the risk of adopting this recommendation has been assessed as moderate, due to potentially not meeting the expectations of some community members. However, the risk of not undertaking a district wide Alexandrina Stormwater Management Plan Review is also considered moderate due to the value of completing a SMP and not understanding the priority for this across the district.

Attachments

Nil