

9.3. Middleton Floods Update

C248/07/25

Moved Cr Michael Scott seconded Cr Milli Livingston

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the contents of the report titled Middleton Floods Update.**
- 2. Note the inclusion in the *Annual Community Plan 2025/26* and the *Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035* for the implementation of capital works associated with stormwater expansion within Flagstaff Hill and Mill Terrace, Middleton.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3. Middleton Floods Update

Information Report

Responsible Officer: Alan Harvey (General Manager Infrastructure)

Report Author: Alan Harvey (General Manager Infrastructure)

Previous Decisions: July 24 - C24356, August 24 - C24400 & C24401, September 24 - C24440 & C24441, C034/02/25, C196/06/25.

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a further update on the progress of the resolved outcomes from the Middleton Floods Council report on the 15 July 2024, building on the updates provided in October 2024 and February 2025.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the contents of the report titled Middleton Floods Update.**
- 2. Note the inclusion in the *Annual Community Plan 2025/26* and the *Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035* for the implementation of capital works associated with stormwater expansion within Flagstaff Hill and Mill Terrace, Middleton.**

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 onset of running water, with many experiencing 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.

Discussion

The resolutions from the 15 July 2024 meeting are provided below with an update on their progress, noting the updates build on those provided in October 2024 and February 2025.

In summary the Administration, across various teams has continued to work on these actions, especially where Council has control and influence over the outcomes. On those actions where Council does not have control and influence, advocacy has been and continues to be made on behalf of the community.

Resolution	Progression	Budget	Next steps
Develop a high- level Alexandrina Community Recovery and Resilience Plan. Ensuring that Council draws on sector	Ongoing (Community Connections Team) Funding approved at Q1 budget review in November 24.	\$5,000 (Opex 24/25)	Scope recommendations received from Consultant in June 2025.

Resolution	Progression	Budget	Next steps
experience and best practice	Consultant engaged to develop a project scope and/or framework.		Reporting to Council if additional budget is required to progress.
Engage with and seek support from other organisations to offer emergency management, recovery and resilience training to Council staff and the Alexandrina community.	Ongoing business as usual (Multiple teams). SES Catchment response plan for Middleton Creek. SES Community resilience sessions - 30 July 2024 Victor Harbor. Highlighted hazard for Zone Emergency Management Committee.	Nil	Continue to work with hazard leaders as part of business as usual on Community preparedness and resilience to natural hazards and events.
Scoping, resourcing and budget required to develop a Stormwater Management Plan that builds on the work that has been undertaken, includes the Middleton township and advises the opportunities for support from the State Government.	Ongoing (Assets Team). Scoping report provided at the February 2025 Council Meeting. Council resolved to (C034/02/25) - <i>Consider as part of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget process the development of a district wide Alexandrina Stormwater Management Plan Review.</i> <i>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.</i>	\$5,000 (Opex 24/25) \$20,000 (Opex project 25/26)	Operating project within the <i>Annual Community Plan 2025/26</i> (\$20,000)

Resolution	Progression	Budget	Next steps
	3. <i>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.</i>		
Investigate the possibility of a new BOM weather station, providing sub daily weather data within the region's coastal area.	Ongoing (Assets Team). In Partnership with the F&H Landscape Board, we have submitted an EOI for Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) grant money for Middleton, which is a 50% Co-contribution Grant. The EOI includes the Stream Level Gauge Station, Early Warning / Community Preparedness and Green Infrastructure, such as small catchment ponds and vegetation, with the aim of slowing down the stormwater flows to provide larger Advanced Warning time. The Green infrastructure will also further help protect the water course embankments and existing land areas.	Nil	Announcement of Grant Funding in Sep/Oct 25. Council contribution mostly in kind and within <i>Annual Community Plan 2025/26</i> operational budgets.
Investigate the possibility of a level gauge within the	As above	Nil	As above

Resolution	Progression	Budget	Next steps
Middleton Creek, to provide more localised data on water levels.			
Write to the H&F Landscape Board to progress the opportunity to collaborate with private landowners on inspection and clearing of the creek line and explore a more structured approach to the ongoing management of the creek. Write to Crown Lands, with a view to working with them on the clearing of the creek within the vicinity of the railway line embankment crossing	Communications actioned. As above	Nil	As above
Write to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and request the enlargement or replacement of culverts that cross the Goolwa Road within the Middleton township.	Completed. Verbal discussions have taken place with the Minister around the integration of stormwater management within any future Middletown Bypass i.e. retention dams. Formal response received February 25 from DIT advising that the Department for Infrastructure and Transport that the Goolwa Road culvert meets the required level of service.	Nil	No further action
Write to SteamRanger and request the enlargement of or increased number of stormwater pipes and culverts under the SteamRanger railway embankment adjacent to the Middleton township.	Completed. Letter sent to Department of Infrastructure and Transport and awaiting a formal response, however verbal discussions have taken place around the integration of	Nil	Response being followed up with the DIT CEO

Resolution	Progression	Budget	Next steps
	stormwater management within any future Middleton Bypass i.e. retention dams.		
Engage specialist consultants to deliver a concept design and high-level costings for a new stormwater system along Mill Terrace from the Goolwa Road to the creek.	Ongoing (Assets Team). Consultant engaged for both Mill Terrace and Flagstaff Hill.	\$55,000 (Capex 24/25) \$1,000,000 part (Capex 25/26)	Expected to be delivered in July 2025. Capital project within the <i>Annual Community Plan 2025/26</i> (\$1,000,000) and <i>Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035</i>
Engage specialist consultants to deliver a concept design and high-level costings on improvements in the stormwater system along Flagstaff Hill.	As above	\$85,000 (Capex 24/25) \$1,000,000 part (Capex 25/26)	As above

At its 16 June 2025 Council Meeting, Council resolved -

8.1. Cr Peter Oliver - Middleton Stormwater Upgrades and Flood Mitigation Actions

C196/06/25

Moved Cr Peter Oliver seconded Cr Bill Coomans

- 1. That Council, as part of the Annual Community Plan 2025/26 community feedback process:**
 - **Considers as a matter of priority bringing forward the Middleton Stormwater Upgrades and Flood Mitigation Actions into the 2025/26 Financial Year.**
 - **Considers deferring or removing other capital projects in the draft 2025/26 budget to allow the allocation of funds (up to \$1 million) to support the necessary works.**
 - **Considers prioritising the agreed works ahead of planning and implementing longer-term infrastructure strategies.**
 - **Incorporates appropriate community consultation and involvement in the agreed Middleton Stormwater Upgrades and Flood Mitigation Actions.**
- 2. That Council, investigates opportunities for emergency accommodation assistance across the district that can be activated in the event of a major disaster.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the 23 June 2025 Council held a public Information Session on the progression of the above actions and also to workshop the 16 June 2025 resolution. At that Information Session the Council Members discussed bringing forward the capital funding within the then draft Annual Community Plan 2025/26 and draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 for the earlier then proposed construction of the Flagstaff Hill and Mill Terrace stormwater projects. At the Special Council meeting on the 7 July 2025 the *Annual Community Plan 2025/26* and the *Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035* were adopted, including the provision for the delivery of the Flagstaff Hill and Mill Terrace, Middleton stormwater projects over the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years. Further reporting to Council will occur on the Flagstaff Hill and Mill Terrace stormwater projects to specify the extent of works.

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 is an information report and all budgets are within the adopted *Annual Community Plan 2025/26*.

Risk Implications

In accordance with Alexandrina Council's Risk Assessment Matrix, the risk of adopting this recommendation is considered low as this is an information report.

Attachments

Nil