

# Draft Minutes

<b>Title:</b>	Koo Wee Rup Longwarry Flood Protection District Advisory Committee - No 13
<b>Meeting date:</b>	Thursday, 18 August 2022
<b>Meeting time:</b>	9.50 for 10.00am – 11.00am, followed by tour until 2pm (including lunch)
<b>Location:</b>	Bunyip Hall, followed by tour of district
<b>Attendees:</b>	Bruce Turner, Matthew Coleman, Susan Anderson, Con Raffa, Robert Mure, John Hobson, Teena Mathew (Baw Baw), Kerrie Homan (MW), Stuart Cochrane (MW), Adam Ryan (MW), Tom le Cerf (MW), Michelle Weston (MW), Sophie Kinerman (MW) <b>Apologies:</b> Frank Rovers, Ian Anderson, Jo Fontana, Kuan Yeoh and Paul Bucys (Casey), Olivia Akdeniz (Cardinia)
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Bruce Turner
<b>Note takers:</b>	Kerrie, Tom and Bruce

1. Welcome, apologies and Committee Renewal process			Presenter
10.00	1.1	<b>Welcome &amp; apologies</b>	Bruce Turner (Chair)
	1.2	<b>Committee Renewal process</b> Bruce advised that the Committee was due for a refresh of its membership. He spoke about the potential for a refresh of the Terms of Reference for the Committee, at the same time, given that they currently restrict members to three terms. He said while the aim of refreshing the group periodically was good, it would be a shame to lose long-serving members who were making a valuable contribution, if there were insufficient nominations for membership from new people to completely fill the available places. Kerrie outlined the renewal process to commence with a survey to be sent out to the current members to gain feedback on what they thought has worked well/ been achieved, and what could be improved in future. A question about current members' interest in extending their membership of the Committee would be included as a survey question. MW was aiming to have new committee members appointed by the final meeting of 2022, when there could be a handover/ overlap of the old and new members. <b>ACTION 13.1:</b> Committee survey to be sent out by early September (Michelle, Sophie, Kerrie)	Kerrie and Michelle

2. Actions from previous meetings		Presenter/ status
	<b>Action 4.2 follow up:</b> (re MW guidelines for new culverts) Update on progress with consultant review <b>OPEN</b> Tom reported that the Guideline for Waterway Crossings is currently under review. Melbourne Water has received a consultant report and will be meeting internally in two weeks to consider the approval process and consider whether the guideline should be specific to the KWR+ flood protection district or apply across the whole of Melbourne Water's area of responsibility. Teena said it would be helpful to have a platform where Councils, developers and others could access drainage requirements for	TLC

particular areas. Tom and Kerrie responded that the process to seek this information was to apply online.

**Action 7.7** Adam to report on options considered re alternatives to gates at Cora Lynn **OPEN** AR at Item 4

Adam outlined 3 options being considered for managing the flood risk on the road at Cora Lynn when floodwater from the Bunyip River spills across the road before moving downstream via the Yallock Outfall. From a legal perspective Melbourne Water is not responsible for road reserves. However, MW is looking for a sustainable and cost-effective approach while continuing to manage the risk. Adam indicated that lights (no barrier) seemed the best option and was relatively low cost. Next steps will be to engage with Cardinia Council on the options and ascertain responsibilities (shared)

**Action 9.4:** Sarah to update Charter with AC feedback and circulate draft for comment / **ACTION 11.1:** Re roles & responsibilities one-pager- **ONGOING** MW at Item 3

Michelle and Sophie presented on the ESC determination and the planned approach to engaging across the KWP Precept area at Item 3.

**Action 12.1** – Updates on community feedback from last meeting TLC/ SC/ AR at relevant item

3. Customer Charter Review			Presenter
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10.15	3.1	<p><b>Charter Review</b></p> <p>Michelle provided some background to the Charter Review. She presented on MW's Price Submission for Water Plan 21-26, particularly in reference to the KWP Precept Rate. The Essential Services Commission (ESC) recommended that whilst there was general support for a 13.8% rate increase – and the Advisory Committee supported this approach – the ESC wanted a more thorough communications and engagement approach across the community to better gauge the level of support.</p> <p>The aim is to engage a more diverse range of people in the community and ensure that the increase is affordable in the current climate.</p> <p>Matt asked whether the funds for Communication and Engagement on the Charter come from the Precept Rate. It was clarified that they do <u>not</u> come out of the precept rate funds.</p> <p>Sophie outlined ideas for re-engaging with the community including localised social media, attendance at local markets, forums etc.</p> <p>The potential to send draft survey questions for Precept Ratepayers to the Committee for feedback, prior to the survey going out to the community, was raised.</p> <p>There was general discussion on who should be present at community engagement events (such as markets). It was agreed that having representatives of other agencies such as Councils would be valuable. And having maps of the drainage in the Precept area would assist as well as information on what the Precept rate</p>	Michelle and Sophie
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has been spent on to ensure value. Sue commented that everyone loves a site tour – this could be a way to draw interest.

It was agreed that the engagement process needs to also record people’s concerns. Con said he was aware of people who have been left in limbo, feeling fobbed off by all agencies. Stu commented that MW has done some works in the past that were outside the scope of its role.

**ACTION 13.2:** Charter will be refreshed; draft to be circulated for feedback prior to next meeting in late November.

4. Works update			Presenter
10.25	4.1	<p><b>Capital works</b></p> <p>Final stages of setting up stg 4 – railway line and Princes Hwy – willow removal – weeding along Bunyip to strengthen banks and improve habitat. Coming in to planting season.</p>	AR
	4.2	<p><b>Maintenance works update</b></p> <p>Desilt program – ready to have sites tested. Weeds on levees and MW land – program planning is almost completed for this financial year. Expect to be spending a lot of time, after this rain period, checking reactive maintenance issues</p>	SC
	4.3	<p><b>Future works planning</b></p> <p>Tom gave a verbal budget update. He said there were a few costs at the end of the financial year that had led to a slight overspend. (Figures to be included when these minutes are circulated)</p> <p>Adam reported that ‘What’s happening near me’ website will be updated with planned works, both minor capital and maintenance – will include proposed timing and next scheduled work</p> <p><b>ACTION 13.3:</b> Link to updated map to be circulated when complete.</p>	

5. Focus area updates			Presenter
10.40	5.1	<p>Provide updates on Four focus areas and any works planned or undertaken. Focus on key progress.</p> <p>Bruce commented that he saw an opportunity to review and refresh the Action Plan once the newly constituted Committee was in place (eg early next year).</p> <p><b>Focus Area 1</b> Enhancing and managing the function of drains  <b>Focus area 2</b> Managing impacts of development on flow volumes, amenity etc</p> <p><b>ACTION 13.4:</b> Include update on progress with Healesville to KWR Road upgrade modelling and landowner engagement – next meeting</p> <p>It was noted the Committee had had a presentation regarding the Officer South PSP current flood study which James Hodgins is managing. This included Lower Gum Scrub Creek.</p>	TLC

Tom reported that he had met more recently with John Hobson to discuss the situation where the Aero Club becomes a retarding basin. There will be more to talk about next time. **(ACTION 13.5)**

**Focus Area 3** Disaster management – climate change, climate extremes, contamination, fires across swamp, water pollution event

**Focus area 4** Communication roles and responsibilities – user friendly advice – who’s responsible (see Item 3.1)

Con asked about how the flood modelling study re the performance of drains was going. Tom said the bigger ones are in good condition. Matt commented that it had been useful in the past when the Committee was shown maps of service levels and an assessment of performance of drains against these. Tom said the flood study work was underway and undertook to provide a progress report on this and also the DMOP project which looks at how maintenance will be scheduled based on level of risk.

**(ACTION 13.6: Tom to provide progress reports on flood study and risk-based maintenance project)**

6. Community feedback/ general business			Presenter
10.45	6.1	<p><b>Community feedback</b></p> <p><b>John</b> suggested that the level of vegetation in Cardinia Creek was inappropriate. MW responded that regular maintenance occurs and will continue to be reviewed</p> <p><b>Sue</b> asked about plans for Deep Creek Retarding Basin (near Golf Club Pakenham) – north of railway line and freeway. Query on when this is planned to be constructed and operational – this will need to be confirmed</p> <p><b>Matt</b> asked about Hornbuckle Road extension – MW will seek additional information on this.</p> <p><b>ACTION 13.7: MW responses to Aug’22 community feedback</b></p>	ALL
11.00	6.2	<p>The meeting incorporated a briefing by <b>Mark Coffey</b> (MW’s Major Infrastructure Projects team) on the Gippsland Rail Line upgrade and the incorporation of flooding/ drainage management principles into the design.</p> <p>This was followed by lunch and a District tour focusing on the Bunyip Area, with visits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bunyip Railway Station works (as part of Gippsland Rail upgrade)</li> <li>• Carrier drain No.7/ King Parrot Ck at the cnr of Jeffers Rd and Toner Road, Bayles (illustrating the challenges in balancing maintenance and conservation imperatives)</li> <li>• South Bank Road, Bunyip (willow removal, weed control and revegetation works on the Bunyip River between Cora Lynn Ford and the Princes Hwy)</li> </ul> <p>(see notes on next page for more details)</p>	

- 7.1 **Next meeting** – Thursday 24 November, 1pm – 3pm.  
This meeting will be online

Bruce Turner

## Notes on District Tour Stops

Bunyip Railway Station works (as part of Gippsland Rail upgrade):

- Melbourne Water work closely with the Department of Transport as part of the rail upgrade projects across Bunyip and Longwarry Stations to provide appropriate flood advice
- Advice is given to achieve desired flood mitigation outcomes where risks may arise from upgrade works
- MW works closely with the Bunyip station & Longwarry station upgrade team to ensure our flood mitigation conditions are being met on the ground
- MW's key point of contact for this is Mark Coffey – Senior Liaison Manager for Infrastructure Development

Carrier drain No.7/ King Parrot Ck at the corner of Jeffers Rd and Toner Road, Bayles (illustrating the challenges in balancing maintenance and conservation imperatives)

- Carrier drain No.7 has both erosion issues and bank slumping occurring in certain locations
- MW undertake maintenance for flood management purposes on the No. 7 drain that includes mowing and, where required, vegetation removal
- MW working closely with their asset team to determine best approach moving forward to rectify slumping/erosion issues
- Issues on the No.7 drain most usually arise during high rainfall/flood events

South Bank Road, Bunyip (willow removal, weed control and revegetation works on the Bunyip River between Cora Lynn Ford and the Princes Hwy)

- Successful willow removal works have occurred along the Bunyip River since 2019
- Revegetation works have accompanied willow removal works and blackberry control with very successful results – particularly at Sue Anderson's property (great example of partnership approach with landholders to managing the River)
- The works illustrate the importance of both drainage management and Habitat/River health along the Bunyip River
- Works continue upstream with MW planning to go all the way to the Princes Hwy