

Draft minutes

Title:	Koo Wee Rup Longwarry Flood Protection District Advisory Committee (#4) – Meeting No 3
Meeting date:	Thursday, 14 March 2024
Meeting time:	1.00 – 3.00 pm
Location:	Zoom
Attendees:	Bruce Turner, Garry Oates, Ian Nicolson, Ian Anderson, Matthew Coleman, Frank Rovers, Susan Anderson, Kate Yeowart, Con Raffa, Angela Farnell (Baw Baw SC), Teena Mathew (Baw Baw SC), Ben Lamont (Cardinia SC), Wayne O’Hara (for Brendan Nunn) (Cardinia SC), Paul Bucys (Casey), and Kuan Yeoh (Casey), Paul Rees (MW), Stuart Cochrane (MW), Adam Ryan (MW), Tom le Cerf (MW), Andy Clark (MW), Olivia Tattam and Tiffany Scott (MW Comms & Engagement), Apologies: Brendan Nunn
Chairperson:	Bruce Turner
Note takers:	Paul, Tom and Bruce

1. Welcome, apologies		Presenter
1.00	1.1 Welcome & apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne O’Hara attending for Brendan Nunn, Cardinia SC Angela Farnell (Coordinator, Civil Asset Planning) attending as another representative for Baw Baw SC Adam Ryan moving overseas, Andy Clark is taking over as the Waterways and Land Officer for the area. 	Bruce Turner (Chair)
2. Communications & Engagement Plan		Presenter/ status
2.1	Presentation on and discussion of plans for refreshing engagement with the wider community in the district (see associated presentation) Feedback on communication and engagement proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What level of interest in the Eastern Treatment Plant ‘Let’s Talk’ page – only released last month, growing slowly. The Western Treatment Plant pages has more followers (~300). Would expect this area to have more interest, given it is in and around where people live. Good to present contrasting pictures of the district, cleared drains vs. those with vegetation; before and after photos are a powerful way to show the outcome of works. How will people find the Let’s Talk page? Local newspaper articles, advertisements could be good. It is likely a mixture of approaches will have the greatest reach. Good to use the comms tools that are available – community newsletters and having Committee members share to groups on social media. There are some very complex issues which have been persistent and do not seem to be easily resolved. Good opportunity to build on the work done for the previous pricing submission and sense-check whether it is all still correct (e.g. cost of maintenance has increased significantly since then). 	Olivia and Tiffany

- The increasing value of horticulture in the district should be included in the cost/benefit analysis and business cases for funding; remember the purpose of the drains is foremost to protect farming activity
- Raise awareness of who does/is responsible for what in the district.

Olivia and Tiffany will share involvement with the committee moving forward and will attend all future meetings.

ACTION 3.1 – Can Councils (Baw Baw, Casey and Cardinia) please share the contacts for their communication and engagement teams with Olivia and Tiffany.

3. Actions from previous meetings		Presenter/ status
1.30	3.1	MW
	<p>See two Action and Issues lists (Precept Rate-related and non-Precept Rate-related) and Actions in minutes of previous meeting; all circulated prior to meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 2.1 – complete • Action 2.2 – <i>map of area south of the District showing MW assets</i> – in progress (Andy Clark) • Action 2.3 – <i>MW team to advocate for greater proportion of funds to be applied to carrier drain works (and for boundary review to incorporate properties which should be part of district)</i> – has been raised, formal response to be provided • Action 2.4 – <i>Discuss with MW flood team the use of value of horticulture in assessment/ cost benefit of works</i> – this will be captured in the flood study. Input of any data or anecdotal information that landowners have is being sought (see request circulated following this meeting). Action complete (ongoing reporting of flood study scope and progress will occur) • Action 2.5 – <i>is precept rate charged by title or by property?</i> Tom advised it is per title, but it is possible to consolidate multiple titles into a single title and pay only one charge. • Action 2.6 – <i>Tom to confirm bottom level at Cora Lynn Ford</i> – Tom & Andy currently getting levels re-surveyed. The invert level will be the low point of the road. Melbourne Water will commit to maintain the debris and build up either side of the road to an appropriate level. • (KWR-P1) Cora Lynn Ford Management, Ben Lamont (Cardinia) is trying to get a response from the Cardinia Traffic team re new signage/ ford upgrade. • (KWR-P2) Charter Refresh - Tom will do minor changes for now. Then pricing submission and new flood modelling will force another review. Will send out track change version soon for feedback. • Bunyip Railway Crossing – VicTrack and Council previously had discussions. Ben Lamont (Cardinia Council) indicated 	

they have told VicTrack they are not interested in taking over the land or bridge.

ACTION 3.2 – Tom to follow up with VicTrack about removal of the Bunyip Railway bridge. *Tom has already actioned this 14-Mar-24.*

4. MW Works update		Presenter
4.1	<p>Current (maintenance, capital) and future precept works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cora Lynn Ford desilt works are slightly delayed • Opportunity to improve management of suckers coming up. <p>ACTION 3.3 – Andy to ensure MW recurring maintenance (PMs) include management of suckers in their scope.</p>	MW
4.2	<p>Flood Modelling Study update – invitation for members to provide anecdotal info (as referred to in relation to Action 2.4 above)</p> <p>Planning has started on a project from Melbourne Water’s asset management team looking at large scale vegetation clearance on the levees. Discussions have begun with the team to help them understand constraints and sensitive sites.</p>	
4.3	<p>Demonstration of map under development – by Paul</p> <p>Map currently only accessible to MW but could be made available to the Committee. And there could also be a version on the Let’s Talk page. Andy to make last few tweaks to ensure accuracy. It will be possible to show who’s doing what/ who’s responsible.</p> <p>The map received very positive feedback from members who saw great potential in it.</p>	

5. Stakeholder feedback/ general business		Presenter
5.1	<p>New feedback / AOB</p> <p>NEW ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teena – Wiltshire Road Upgrade, Thompsons Drain downstream of culvert (Wiltshire Road, Longwarry North). Some vegetation work has already been completed in the drain. Stu to ascertain whether any further works possible downstream to improve capacity and reduce flooding of the road. (ACTION 3.4) • Kate – Erosion issue, Chambers Road, No. 6 Drain. Unclear whether Council or MW issue. Andy and Baw Baw Council to investigate. (ACTION 3.5) • Sue - Enticott Drain. Small amount of rain causes water over the road. New house with culvert which is not big enough. Also weeds. Andy to investigate. MW gives feedback on what size culvert to use. Will be a few steps to go through. (KWR-P19) • Sue/Frank/Ian – Bunyip River erosion issue downstream of the freeway. Highly erosion prone area, combined with MW Works, high rainfall means erosion has increased. MW are aware of the issue, currently a geomorphology study is occurring, this will help inform any future actions. Andy is leading the response. (ACTION 3.6) 	MW

OFFICIAL

- Angela (Baw Baw) – Erosion Issue, Cook Road, Longwarry.
Andy to work with **Baw Baw** to assess. **(ACTION 3.7)**

COMMENTS / DISCUSSION

- Ian A and Con raised questions about early Jan rainfall/flood event. Was system performing as expected? 60mm across most of the district, with over 100mm in parts. King Parrot Creek had a significant amount of rain, which resulted in a lot in Murray Drain and Yallock No. 4 Drain as they drain all of that catchment.
- Con asserted that no works have been completed on the main drains south of Ballarto Road. Adam advised this is not correct; Cardinia Creek was desilted north of Manks Road in 2022-2023 for the entire north-south section. Most of the section of Cardinia Creek between Ballarto Road and the north-south section was desilted in 2021-22. The area is planned for a vegetation survey in 2024 which will inform larger scale works.

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT / COLLABORATION

- Teena – Baw Baw SC is currently doing a Longwarry Flood Study, opportunity for feedback and public consultations, details to be provided.
- Sue – Multiple Landcare groups are coming together to look at weed control, revegetation and biolinks across the district.

(Both undertook to provide details which Bruce circulated to members after the meeting.)

6. Next meeting			Presenter
2.55	6.1	Thursday 1 August 2024 (members to be consulted on preferences for face-to-face vs virtual for this one)	Bruce Turner
[Meeting and district tour proposed for mid-late November 2024]			