

To those that attended the Public Meeting on Monday 11 September— thank you for Speaking Up. Your concerns have been heard and we are listening.

This brochure has been put together to explain the regulatory framework and process Moree Plains Shire Council is required to follow in relation to floodplain management in New South Wales. This is applied to all councils across the State.

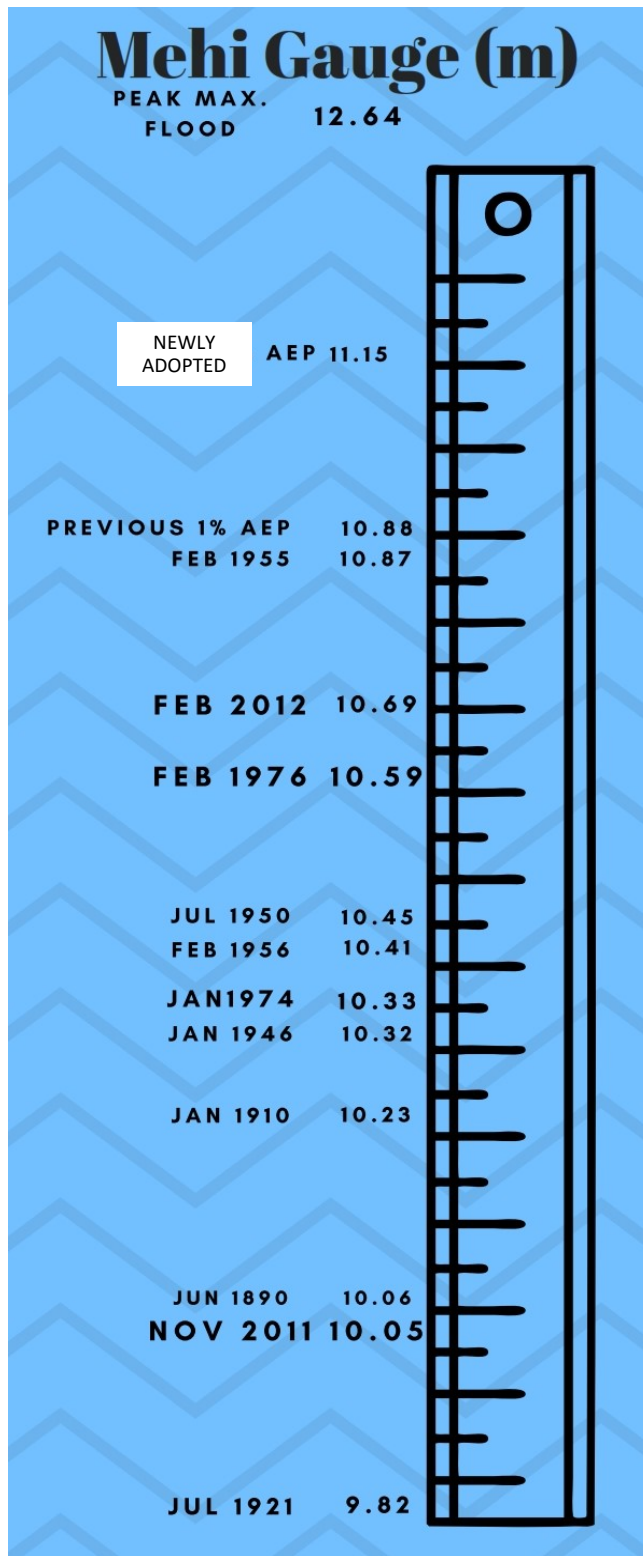
The Floodplain Risk Management Study adopted by Council on 11 August 2017 is an important part of the process. The Study gives us all the technical information and modelling about flooding in and around Moree. For example, we now have maps that indicate the flood depth for a variety of flood events; Council staff are available to discuss your flood risk at any time. Please contact our Customer Service Centre on (02) 6757 3222 to arrange an appointment.

I understand there's a lot of concern in the community about the implications of this Study (and in particular, the proposed feasibility study into the construction of a levee around Moree) and I want to make it crystal clear – Council has NOT YET changed its policy in response to this Study.

A number of recommendations have been made as part of the Study – it's now for us and community members to come together and formulate a policy that balances the risk to people and property in the Shire with a reasonable and sensible approach for our community, making sure we discharge our regulatory obligations as set out in the NSW Government Floodplain Development Manual.

While Council has an obligation to investigate all of the mitigation options proposed in the recommendations in this Study, I want to assure all community members that community consultation in this process is imperative, ongoing and will have genuine influence on Council policy.

Mayor, Cr Katrina Humphries



Floodplain Risk Management for Moree and surrounds

Frequently asked questions
October 2017



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Why is Council concerning itself with flooding?

Under the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy, councils across the State are responsible for the management of flood liable land.

We have a responsibility to manage floodplains to ensure that any:

- new development will not experience undue flood risk; and
- existing development will not be adversely flood affected through increased damage or hazard as a result of any new development.

How is this managed in practice?

Like other local governments across NSW, Council needs to have a **policy** with respect to controlling development on flood prone land and in doing so, be satisfied that all new development **adequately minimises the risk to human life and damage to property**, and avoids significant adverse impacts on flood behaviour and the environment.

Currently, Council's adopted **policy** includes:

- Moree and Environs Flood Risk Management Plan 2008 (**2008 Plan**);
- Moree Plains Local Environmental Plan 2011;
- Moree Plains Development Control Plan 2013; and
- some interim controls on development in some areas, which need to be read together.

Why not keep the current policy?

There is a chance that floods of any size will occur in the future. Because rare types of floods have not occurred for over a century, the height of future floods is predicted using computer models. Given the importance of accurately predicting flood levels, we engage experts to establish and operate these models. Following the major flooding event in February 2012, Council was obliged to review the 2008 Plan to reconsider the flood risks confronting Moree and surrounds and re-evaluate (as necessary) options to reduce future risks.

This review must be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines provided in the NSW Government Floodplain Development Manual (**Manual**).

What is the process for this review?

In accordance with the Manual, the Flood Risk Management Process entails four sequential stages:

- Stage 1: Flood Study
- Stage 2: Floodplain Risk Management Study
- Stage 3: Floodplain Risk Management Plan
- Stage 4: Implementation of Plan

What Stage are we up to?

- Stage 1: Flood Study

We have received a revised Flood Study of Moree and Environs (this includes the Bendygett, Stonnington, Yarraman and Gwydirfield areas). Council has adopted the results of the Flood Study including the revised Flood Planning level which is based on the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability.

FAST FACT

What is the Annual Exceedance Probability?

The **Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)** is the chance of a flood of a given or larger size occurring in any one year, usually expressed as a percentage.

The 1% AEP is also known as the 1 in 100 year flood event. This is a large flood that has a 1% chance of occurring in a given year. This does not mean that a flood of this size will only occur once every 100 years. If you have experienced a 1 in 100 year flood, it would be unwise to think you will need to wait another 99 years before the next flood of that size occurs. Floods do not happen like that; some parts of Australia have received multiple 1 in 100 year floods within a single decade.

Based on the Flood Study, the new 1% AEP is 11.15 metres at the Mehi River Gauge - Moree; 27mm above the previous 1% AEP. *See overleaf for further details.*

FAST FACT Why is the 1% AEP significant?

The 1% AEP is used to determine Flood Planning levels—new residential floor levels must be built 500mm above the 1% AEP level.

This, in turn, is used to determine heights for electrical isolation switches as well as heights and locations for essential infrastructure such as power, transformers and pump stations.

Stage 2: Floodplain Risk Management Study

At an Ordinary Council Meeting on 10 August 2017, we adopted the Floodplain Risk Management Study (Volume 2). *A copy of this Study can be found on Council's website.*

This Study was adopted noting that a further report would be brought back to Council responding to the recommendations in the Study. At the same time, Council committed to undertaking further community consultation.

This Study identified a range of risk management measures that would help mitigate flooding to reduce existing and future flood damage in Moree. The recommendations included undertaking a feasibility study into the construction of a flood protection levee around Moree. However, other recommendations were made, assuming the levee did not proceed including (amongst other measures) maintaining the voluntary house raising scheme and potentially raising key urban causeways and a bridge approach.

To consider the recommendations of the Floodplain Risk Management Study, we are seeking to establish a Community Reference Group which will be made up of affected residents, affected businesses, developers and professionals. This Community Reference Group will assist Councillors in formulating the Council's policy response to the Floodplain Risk Management Study. Membership on the Community Reference Group will be determined through an expression of interest process. *Details of the expression of interest process and application form can be found on Council's website.*

What lies ahead?

- Stage 3: Floodplain Risk Management Plan
- Stage 4: Implementation of Plan

Council now has a draft Floodplain Risk Management Plan. Before adopting and implementing this Plan, community input is necessary. While community members who are part of the Community Reference Group will help shape the Plan, there will be occasions for other community members to review and provide input.

Please register your interest to keep involved by emailing speakupmoree@mpsc.nsw.gov.au.