

## 3. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

### 3.1 CONSULTATION PROCESS

Community consultation is an important component in the development of a floodplain risk management plan. Consultation provides an opportunity to collect feedback and ideas from the community on problem areas and potential floodplain management measures. It also provides a mechanism to alert the community to the flood risk, and to improve their awareness and readiness for flooding.

Much of the community consultation for the Macquarie Park FRMS&P has been coordinated through the Floodplain Management Committee, including a questionnaire, public display of results from computer modelling of flood behaviour and a dedicated web page on the internet. Public exhibition of the recommended floodplain management study and plan is intended prior to formal consideration by Council.

Elements of the consultation process are discussed further below.

### 3.2 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Macquarie Park Floodplain Management Committee has overseen the preparation of this floodplain management study and plan. The committee comprises representatives from:

- i) City of Ryde;
- ii) Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water;
- iii) State Emergency Service;
- iv) Transport Construction Authority (formerly Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation);
- v) AMP Capital (owners of Macquarie Shopping Centre);
- vi) Macquarie University;
- vii) Macquarie Goodman; and
- viii) a number of community representatives.

The Committee has met regularly to hear progress reports and to provide direction. The main agenda items at each meeting are summarised in **Table 3.1**.

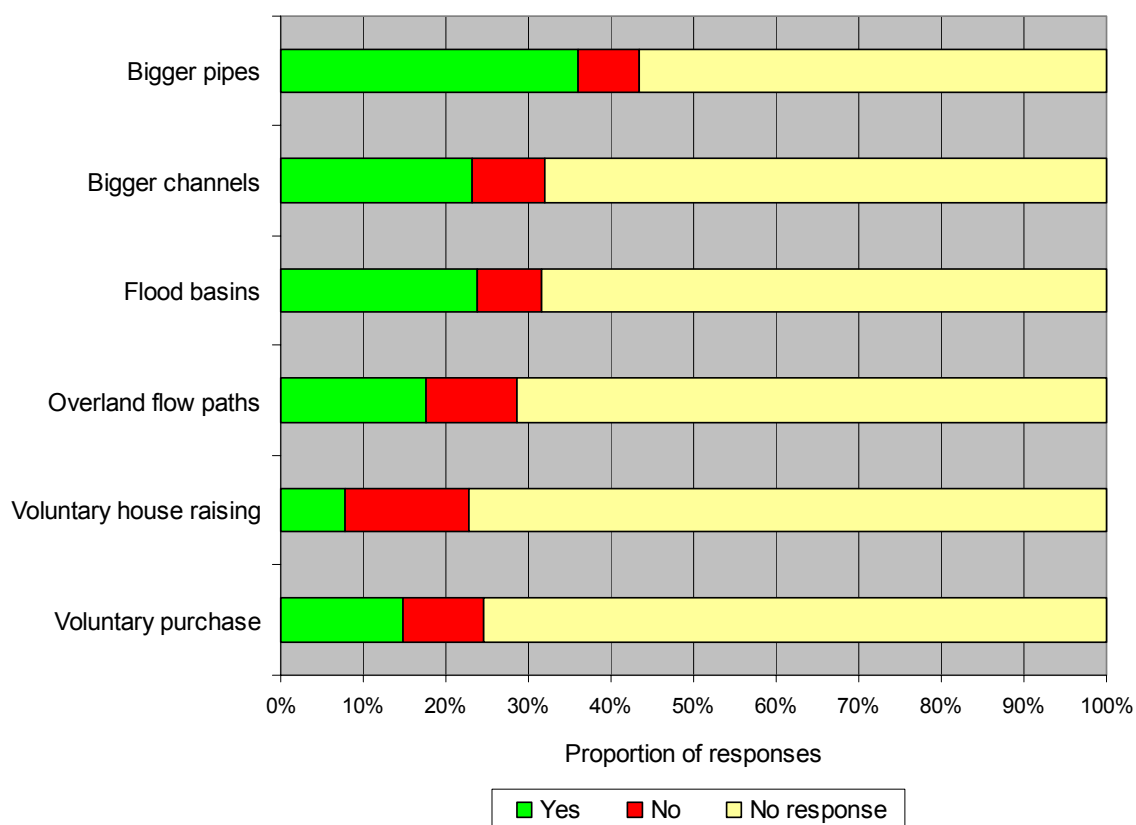
### 3.3 QUESTIONNAIRE

A questionnaire was mailed to 2,800 potentially flood-affected property owners in September 2008, with 272 responses received. The primary purpose of this questionnaire was to collect information about historical floods, which it was hoped could be used in the Flood Study. This information is summarised in **Section 2.2**.

A secondary purpose of the questionnaire was to collect community views on potential floodplain management options. **Figure 3.1** presents answers to a 'closed' question where respondents were asked to indicate whether they supported various general options. Most support was given to providing larger stormwater pipes, whilst there was little support for voluntary house raising or voluntary purchase. There was also reasonably good support for flood detention basins.

**TABLE 3.1 – MEETINGS OF MACQUARIE PARK FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

DATE OF MEETING	MAIN AGENDA ITEMS
22 Mar 2007	Inception meeting
19 Mar 2009	Review of questionnaire used to assess flood history and potential flood works; adoption of blockage factors for design flood modelling
30 Jul 2009	Review of public exhibition of November 1984 and February 1990 inundation maps
22 Apr 2010	Flood Study summary; mapping of inundation areas; identification of floodplain management options for preliminary assessment
16 Sep 2010	Review of draft FRMS&P
9 Dec 2010	Review of public exhibition of draft FRMS&P



**FIGURE 3.1 – COMMUNITY VIEWS OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Many respondents also chose to describe other measures that they wished to see implemented. The most frequently mentioned measure was for clearing and maintenance of creeks and drains to enable the free flow of floodwater. Shrimptons Creek was described as badly overgrown in places. The pipes from Tuckwell Park to the Lane Cove River were of particular concern to residents of townhouses below the park who had experienced over-floor inundation.

Several respondents called for detention basins, water harvesting or the use of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) strategies including subsidised rainwater tanks, in order to reduce peak runoff. The oval adjoining Ryde High School in Smalls Road was proposed as a potential basin site.

Larger drainage infrastructure was requested around townhouses in Durham Close and Tuckwell Place. Related to this was a request for 'much tighter control of site excavation, retaining wall and stormwater drain design and construction, especially in strata plans'. Another suggestion about drainage was for stormwater pipe outlets to be oriented in the direction of flow where they join Shrimptons Creek, rather than at 90 degrees as they are at present.

One respondent requested that consideration be given to filling the land plus a 'low wall' on the southern side of Shrimptons Creek near Zola Avenue, to prevent the creek overflowing.

One respondent requested the removal of existing flood-related development controls on his property, while another suggested that there should be controls on garage floor levels.

Some concern with bank erosion was reported along creeks within Macquarie University and along Shrimptons Creek.

### **3.4 PUBLIC DISPLAY OF INUNDATION MAPS**

The modelled 1984 and 1990 inundation maps were placed on public display at the North Ryde Library and at Ryde Civic Centre in June-July 2009 (and available on the Internet). The same group of landowners who had been issued the questionnaire were formally invited to review them. A broader invitation was also included in the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 issue of *City View*. Council staff and the Consultant attended an afternoon/evening at the library and answered queries from 22 residents.

Feedback forms were available at the display. The main purpose was to collect comments about the modelled inundation maps. Forty responses were received and are summarised in the Flood Study report (Bewsher Consulting, 2010). It was concluded that there were no specific grounds for amending the flood model.

Some respondents also chose to include comments pertaining to management options, which were similar to those included on the questionnaire. Urgent clearing of overgrown sections of Shrimptons Creek was requested by several respondents including the area downstream of the Lucinda Road footbridge and the area upstream of Epping Road. Insufficient clearing of drains and/or debris control was reported around townhouses in Libya Place, Tuckwell Place and the area near Truscott Street School.

Improved drainage infrastructure was called for near the junction of Ford Street and Lane Cove Roads, while other respondents requested investigations of the adequacy of pipe capacities at Herring Road (near No. 22) and the Macquarie Centre. There was another submission relating to inadequate stormwater drainage from Tuckwell Park and the downstream townhouses. The realignment of stormwater drains where they meet Shrimptons Creek near Cook Street was again suggested.

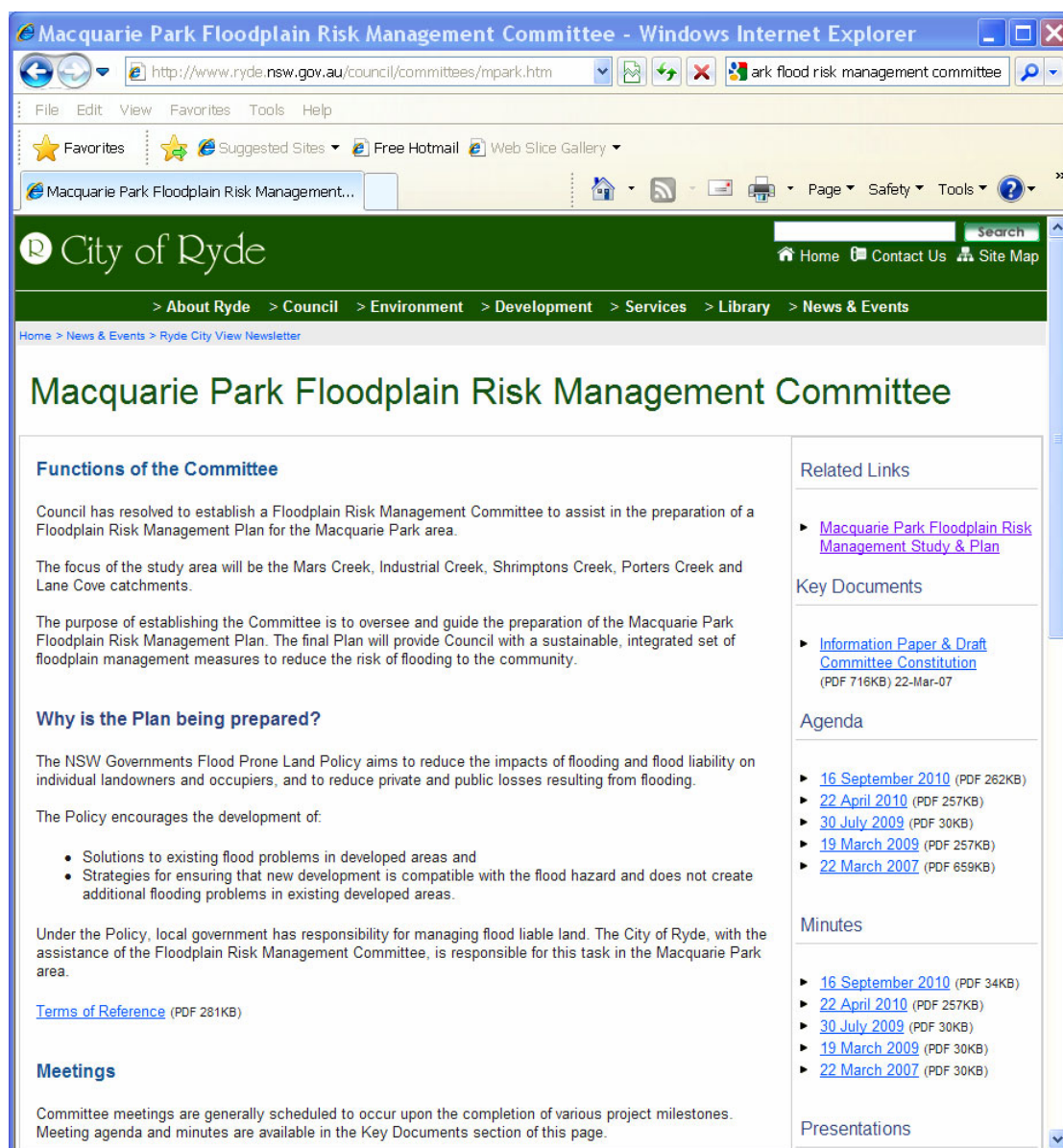
One respondent again requested that consideration be given to a levee on the southern side of Shrimptons Creek near Zola Avenue.

### 3.5 WEB PAGE ON THE INTERNET

The City of Ryde provided a dedicated web page for posting information about the study at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/council/committees/mpark.htm](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/council/committees/mpark.htm). An extract of the web page is illustrated on **Figure 3.2**.

The web page provides details about the study, including:

- i) the function of the floodplain management committee;
- ii) why the Plan is being prepared;
- iii) a map of the study area;
- iv) members on the floodplain management committee;
- v) dates and agendas of upcoming committee meetings;
- vi) minutes of all meetings;
- vii) copies of presentations provided by the consultant; and
- viii) links to draft documents for public exhibition.



**FIGURE 3.2 – MACQUARIE PARK WEB-PAGE**

### 3.6 PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT REPORT

The draft *Macquarie Park Flood Study* and draft *Macquarie Park Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan* (FRMS&P) reports were placed on public exhibition during October-November 2010. Individually addressed letters were sent to all owners within the 100 year flood extent, and the exhibition was also advertised in a local newspaper and on the Internet. Poster displays were presented at the North Ryde Library and the Ryde Civic Centre. Information sessions were held at the North Ryde Library on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 when the Consultant and Council staff were present to answer questions. The Consultant also made a presentation at a meeting of the Macquarie Park forum. A street meeting was also convened in Rocca Street, Ryde. Residents were invited to complete a feedback form on the draft FRMS&P.

Four substantial submissions were received:

1) Two landowners from the small shops in Doig Avenue/Mason Street, Denistone East, described the historical flood problems experienced in their vicinity. They indicated that they do not support a detention basin in the small reserve upslope (as considered in **Section 6.4.3**); nor do they support any kind of flood wall at the rear of their properties on the Mason Street boundary. They requested the draft report be amended to include the following recommendations:

- ▶ Drainage pits be provided on the eastern side of Blaxland Road from Hopetoun Avenue to Kings Road;
- ▶ As a high priority, what they believed to be an as yet unconstructed pipe linking the inlet pits on Little Blaxland Road to the pits on Jackson Crescent be constructed; and
- ▶ Council routinely maintain pits in the area, which often fill with silt or become ineffective due to tree roots raising the gutter so that water cannot access the pit efficiently.

The Consultant and the Floodplain Management Committee considered the submission. Because flood modelling indicates that the existing drainage pipe network in the area is already at capacity in the 5 year event, there would be no benefits to the Doig Avenue shops of providing increased inlet capacity in Blaxland Road without a substantial drainage upgrade over a much larger area. Council engineers confirmed that a 375mm diameter pipe conveys flow from Little Blaxland Road to Jackson Crescent. Amplification of this pipe to a higher standard would be very expensive given the developments on private property above the pipe. Probably more realistic would be constructing a new pipe from Little Blaxland Road to the pipe beginning near the intersection of Cecil Street and Jackson Crescent, via the road reserve. However, all these structural options run into the issue of the limited pipe capacity downstream, meaning that a massive drainage upgrade all the way to the open channel at Santa Rosa Park would be required for works to be effective. Even then, speeding up the delivery of water to the lower parts of Shrimptons Creek could cause additional problems there. Accordingly, the Committee did not concur with the first two suggested amendments. However, a recommendation was added to the draft FRMP in line with the third suggestion about maintenance of drains.

2) Twelve residents from six addresses in Rocca Street, Ryde, indicated their opposition to the proposed formation of an overland flow path through the lower end of the street (as described in **Section 6.4.5**). The owner of the property proposed for voluntary purchase indicated that they were not at all interested in the scheme. The other residents were particularly concerned about the possible opening of a pedestrian link between the street and Santa Rosa Park, which it was believed would lead to: (a) a loss of the community character and safe play area provided by the closed street; (b) parking difficulties when Santa Rosa Park was being used; and (c) increased anti-social behaviour. It was also felt that the infrequency of flooding problems made it difficult to justify the works given the low benefit-cost ratio.

The Consultant and the Floodplain Management Committee considered the submission. It was noted that the proposed works did not require creation of a pedestrian link to Santa Rosa Park, and the formation of a local street park with a suitably designed rear fence to allow transmission of overland flows could actually enhance the amenity of the street. Other options were considered. A drainage upgrade from Quarry Road to the open channel was considered prohibitively expensive. Instead of including the house in a voluntary house purchase (VP) scheme, the owner could be invited to participate in a voluntary house redevelopment (VHR) scheme as described in **Section 6.8.1**, to encourage a smaller building footprint which allowed more space for overland flows. However, this would probably provide lesser opportunity to convey overland flows compared to a vacant block. The Committee considered that the proposed works should remain in the draft FRMP though as a low priority, recognising the current owner's disinterest in a VP scheme.

3) AMP Capital expressed concern about a recommendation that consideration be given to increasing the capacity of conduits through the Macquarie Centre during redevelopment (see **Section 6.4.16**). It was felt that this was an onerous measure and required a clearer definition about the location of any redevelopment that would trigger such consideration. After lengthy discussion, a majority of the Committee agreed to the wording used in this final report. AMP Capital concurred with the report's finding that measures to reduce the potential for blockage of the culverts were important (see **Section 6.4.16**). It also encouraged investigation of measures such as vehicle barriers to prevent floating cars leaving the site, warning systems, evacuation plans and signage, which are discussed in **Section 6.8.5**.

4) DECCW (Environment Protection and Regulation) noted that No. 11 River Avenue, Chatswood West, was already in the ownership of the Minister of the Environment and recommended that it be deleted from the VP Scheme described in the draft report (see **Section 6.7.2**). However, subsequent discussion with DECCW revealed that the building is currently used as staff housing for the Lane Cove National Park. Hence, the desired outcome of the VP Scheme from a flood risk perspective – physical removal of a high flood risk exposure – has yet to be achieved. The Committee recommended an amendment to the draft FRMP to make this desired outcome clear.