

## **Byron Shire Council Flood Inquiry Submission Community Feedback**

### **APOLOGIES**

- Magdalena Gustafsson – Suffolk Park Football Club
- Patrician Warren – Foreshore Protection Group

### **ATTENDING**

- Mayor Michael Lyon (Chair)
- Ian Wills – Ocean Shores Country Club / North Byron Chamber of Commerce
- Ron Priestley – MARRA
- Dale Emerson – Mullumbimby Residents Association
- Donald Maughan – Suffolk Park Progress Association
- Michael Sherrington – New Brighton Residents Association
- Asren Pugh – Byron Shire Councillor
- Wendy Chance – Wategos Protection Society
- Patricia Warren – Foreshore Protection Group
- Sharyn French
- Dale Emerson – Mullumbimby Residents Association
- Cr Alan Hunter
- Cr Sama Balson
- Cr Mark Swivel
- Cr Duncan Dey
- Cr Peter Westheimer
- Mark Arnold
- Michael Lyon
- Shannon Burt
- Es Davis
- Annie Lewis

### **Ian Mills – Ocean Shores Country Club and North Byron Business Chamber**

- GM – Country Club integral part of the community.
- Competing interests – need water to maintain the golf course and have several water storage areas (reservoirs) on the course.
- Questions about impact of the water holding areas on local flooding.
- Flood Management study – concluded that lowering of the tide gates would have net impact of around 10mm.
- Don't believe this really contributes to flooding.
- If gates are removed then this would compromise ability of club to store water.
- Would like club's needs to be considered – need water to irrigate the course.
- Prior to rain events in 2020 – drought – exploring avenues to secure bore water – from one extreme to another.
- North Byron Business Chamber – not a lot of consultation.
- Infrastructure has not been maintained.
- Numerous drains all flow into OSCC and only since post flood have we had contact from council re: managing of drains and removing of silt and debris.

### **Miranda Chance – Wategos Protection Society**

- Regarding floods and issues around the Shire – Wategos issues aren't predominantly as bad as the rest of the Shire.
- Just wants to be a part of the conversation and a new member of the roundtable.

- Miranda to send Councillors a list of actions/concerns of the group (generally).

#### **Dale Emerson – Mullumbimby Residents Association**

- Karl Allen is the specialist. Dale filling in.
- A document has been prepared and will be sent to the roundtable.
- Residents Assoc has a public meeting on Monday 16 May about the floods...where, causes, factors, responses.
- One thing raised is the railway line and blockage and the drainage works.
- Drainage and flood overflow is a major concern.
- Water is coming in but how does it get out as well?
- Response – in Mullumbimby – the whole effort of the volunteers at Civic Hall, MDNHC and RSL – magnificent...also ongoing work of Recovery Centre.
- Residents Association wants to acknowledge the work of locals and the Council for the clean-up, mud army etc.
- Interested in – causes, factors, but looking for feedback to submit to Council re: voluntary house raising scheme...want to look at how Mullum Residents Assoc can have a dynamic, active house-raising scheme.
- Looking at best practice and less red tape and MARA happy to help council with this.
- Water-proofing of houses that can't be raised.
- Voluntary acquisition of houses that can't be raised/waterproofed etc.
- MARA would like to see a vision of where Mullum is going to be at the next flood.
- Communications in relation to the early warning system, evac routes, where to go and where not to go.
- Second flood – people informed to go to Ocean Shores but people couldn't get there.
- Would like an evac centre that is accessible to Mullum residents and Ocean Shores is not.
- Karl sending in more detailed and scientific submission.

#### **Michael Sherrington – New Brighton Village Association**

- Acknowledged the traditional owners.
- Lived in area since 6yrs old. Fair knowledge of area and trained earth scientist.
- We are all different groups – flood drains and flood plains impact all/multiple areas.
- Have compiled historic review of Marshalls Creek – reviewing flood and land form changes from 1947 to recent times which show changes and impacts on drainage systems in area.
- Show changes to drainage patterns that have resulted from development of New Brighton area.
- Allowing excess water from flood inflow to reach the ocean – currently water backfills.
- One member has completed a review of the study and combining the document and happy to share that with Council.
- Group meeting this evening with OS, SGB, NB, Billi – combining to form a single voice for the north of the Shire.
- Location impact of the flood event in relation to NB – has done a prelim model of where the flood heights reached and is getting more information but approx. 60-75cm higher than any previously recorded flood.

- Came across Gaggin St and was touching back foredune of the beachfront.
- Looking at modelling volume of water
- 50% of houses in New Brighton. Similar in SGB. OS as well but more hilly.
- Responses and recovery – response from Council was fantastic.
- Significant amount of rubbish cleaned up within 2 weeks. Very impressed by community initiative.
- Coastal belt – flood response – SES couldn't get to coastal belt.
- Great to have some local infrastructure that could allow/provide immediate support. E.g. UHF radio networks where everyone has frequencies, establish a small SLS-type response ?? in community centre (boat, emergency kit) so people can get out and about help others quickly.

Action – Michael Sherrington to send through document to Councillors and staff.

**Ron Priestley – Main Arm Rural Residents Assoc (as per MARRA submission to Council)**

- 7 issues
  1. Near total failure of comms (phones, landline and mobile, couldn't dial 000)
    - Only comms were through local resident with satellite internet via Starlink.
    - ABC radio does not get down local enough; BayFM has reception and should be used for emergencies.
    - Satellite emergency public phones should be available in flood-prone communities.
  2. Kohinur Hall – scoured foundations.
    - Can Council arrange grant for diverting swift water to protect the hall?
    - Can Council inspect all properties and carry out flood mitigation measures.
  3. Upper Main Arm Public School – is closed but locked and going mouldy.
    - Can Council approach Dept of Education to reactivate this vital entity.
  4. Road paving – Council did magnificent and expensive job in immediate repairs.
    - Concrete roads did not fail but bitumen did. All roads below flood level should be concrete so that they will be there post-flood.
    - Council appears to have abandoned concrete for bitumen
    - Council did not allow highly skilled private operators with excellent local knowledge to help/work on reopening houses
  5. Housing – houses lost due to land slips, not directly by flooding. residents need grants, assistance, and temporary accommodation while they rebuild.
  6. Fire APZ clearing rules lead to bare areas that lead to landslips.
  7. Flood mitigation to reduce flood levels are unlikely to succeed.
  8. Landslips leave bare ground. This is an opportunity to replant with natives rather than let the weeds take over.

**Donald Maughan – Suffolk Park Progress Association**

- Problem with audio. Submission will be sent in.

**Patricia Warren – Foreshore Protection Society**

- Hope floor-space ratios are looked at, especially in Brunswick Heads.
- Michael Lyon – all the grants are assessable income.