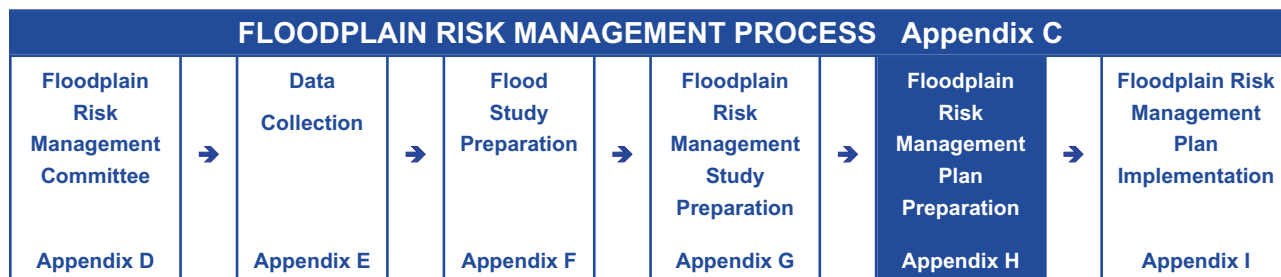


# APPENDIX H FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION



TECHNICAL SUPPORT APPENDICES (Those directly supporting this Appendix are highlighted)								
Floodplain Risk Management Measures Appendix J		Flood Planning Levels Appendix K		Hydraulic & Hazard Categorisation Appendix L		Flood Damages Appendix M		Emergency Response Planning for Floods Appendix N

## H1 Introduction

A floodplain risk management plan is the formalisation of an effective floodplain risk management process. It is based on a comprehensive and detailed evaluation of all factors that affect and are affected by the use of flood prone land. It represents the considered opinion of the local community on how to best manage its flood risk and its flood prone land. It also provides a long-term path for the future development of the community. The management plan may apply to the whole local government area or a specific area of the floodplain. Therefore different management plans may apply in different parts of a local government area.

The floodplain risk management study and plan are integrally linked. The study provides for the assessment of options that form the basis for the considerations and decisions in the management plan. The management study and the plan (usually draft) are often completed in one consultancy. This appendix:

- describes the objectives of the floodplain risk management plan;
- indicates the issues to be considered in plan preparation;
- discusses community involvement in review of the management plan; and
- discusses preparation of the plan and its adoption.

Appendix G details the studies and management option assessments completed as part of the management study leading to the decisions in the plan. Details on plan implementation are discussed in Appendix I.

## H2 Objectives

Management plan objectives are to:

- to meet the objectives of the process, outlined in Appendix C, from the findings of the management study.

The management plan will consist of a coordinated mix of measures that address existing, future and continuing risks. It should describe and discuss the various issues, problems, special features and values of the area, along with specific management measures. It is to include information describing how flood risk in specific areas is to be managed to achieve objectives in both written and diagrammatic form;

- ensure the management plan is fully integrated with the local flood and catchment plans, council’s existing corporate, business and strategic plans, existing and proposed planning instruments and meets council’s obligations under the LG Act.

The management plan is linked to other plans, especially the local flood plan. Both the floodplain risk management

and local flood plans share a broad range of flood information, are dynamic rather than static, and activities under one plan have implications for the other. It is emphasised that neither plan can be developed in isolation, and that the optimal result is obtained when both plans are developed and implemented in partnership.

The management plan is also to be integrated with the other planning instruments, policies and strategic, corporate and business plans of council. The proposed inclusions in these planning instruments, policies and plans are to be detailed in the management plan along with an implementation plan.

Recommendations in the management plan should be checked for consistency against council's statutory powers and obligations before adoption;

- ensure that the management plan has the support of the local community.

Local community support can be gathered by an inclusive process with input into the decision making process. This should be undertaken throughout the preparation of the management study (Section G5.1) and plan (Section H4);

- ensure actions arising out of the management plan are sustainable in social, environmental, environmental, cultural and economic terms and maximise positive and minimise negative impacts.

The management study provides the basis for the preparation of the management plan. Option assessment considers the broad range of issues discussed in Appendix G. This can assist in establishing the preferred management options and their priority order;

- establish a program for management plan implementation and a mechanism for funding the management plan including priorities, staging, funding, responsibilities, constraints, and monitoring.

An implementation program is to be included in the management plan. This is to be prioritised based upon how soon the management measures can

be implemented, what constraints exist, and how effective the measures are. Measures with little cost that can readily be implemented and which are effective in reducing damage or personal danger should have high priority;

- enable effective management of future land use, by providing the relevant inclusions in the management plan which outline:
  - the limits of development due to hazard and adverse impacts upon other properties;
  - the types and scales of development appropriate within these development limits; and
  - the conditions necessary to support the development types and scales outlined.

This, along with recommendations of how to implement these changes forms the basis of changes to council's EPIs and development control plans and policies;

- develop or update a local flood risk management policy for the study area.

The committee should make recommendations to council on its existing or proposed local flood risk management policy. These should reflect the objectives of the management plan and include changes that are necessary to the policy as portions of the management plan are implemented; and

- adopt the management plan.

The committee would make recommendations to council on the draft management plan. Council would then consider whether to adopt the management plan and in what final form. Alterations to the management plan at this stage should reflect council's decision.

A management plan is never truly finalised as discussed in Section H5.

### *H3 Considerations in Plans*

The following major elements need to be considered in the preparation of a management plan, where relevant. These elements are derived through the data collection and studies as part of the management process:

- collection of flood related data;
- extent of flood prone land (as defined by the PMF);
- hydraulic categories;
- hazard assessment and categories;
- social description and analysis;
- environmental impacts and opportunities for enhancement;
- land use, existing and potential;
- development types;
- economic analysis;
- management measures (property, flood, and response modification measures);
- land use and related controls;
- FPLs for differing purposes;
- links with agreed catchment objectives;
- links with other plans, particularly the local flood plan;
- provisions of the EP&A Act, LG Act and other relevant legislation and policies;
- protection of Aboriginal sites and places under Section 90 of the NP&W Act;
- performance measures against which the progress and success of the management plan can be measured and reviewed;
- an implementation strategy including consideration of long term issues such as ongoing community education and awareness; and
- monitoring and review.

#### ***H4 Community Involvement in Management Plan Review***

The community as a whole should be involved in the formulation and implementation of a management plan. Community consultation is a necessary element of the floodplain risk management process (see Figure 2.1).

To conform to the principles of this manual, it is necessary that councils actively involve representatives of the community, particularly owners of flood prone land, in the preparation of the management plan and review of its effectiveness.

Irrespective of any statutory requirements, the management plan should be exhibited and public comment should be sought and taken into account before it is finalised and adopted by council.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that community involvement in all phases of the floodplain risk management process is essential to the development, acceptance and implementation of effective management plans.

In developing management plans, communities should clearly understand that certain areas of land will need to be set aside to facilitate floodplain risk management, for example, as floodways or flood storage areas. These areas can be used for many flood compatible purposes, but should remain capable of fully performing their floodplain management role. Farmland in such areas can usually remain in productive use. In urban areas, such land becomes valuable open space to be used for recreational pursuits and/or environmental enhancement (including wetlands).

It is important to recognise that management plans do not purport to eliminate all flood risk but to ensure that it is effectively managed.

#### ***H5 Finalisation of the Management Plan - 'Adopted Management Plans'***

A management plan is never truly finished. Social and economic circumstances change and flooding behaviour may be substantially altered by future measures adopted in other areas of the catchment. A management plan represents the 'best' appraisal of existing and likely future circumstances at the time it is 'adopted'. For this reason, we do not speak of 'final' but rather of 'adopted' management plans, that is, plans that have been adopted for the immediate future. Management plans should be reviewed regularly (say every 5 years or after each major flood, or where circumstances change that impact on the relevance of the management plan) to ensure that their provisions remain appropriate.

It is essential that the adopted management plan is complementary to the local flood plan. Existing, future and continuing flood risk cannot be effectively dealt with if this does not occur, or if the SES is left out of the overall management process. Review of either plan should not be undertaken without reference to the other plan and the relevant authority. Changes in the floodplain risk management plan should be reflected in the local flood risk management policy.