

Appendix A – Lord Mayor’s Taskforce Terms Of Reference

➤ Lord Mayor’s Taskforce Terms Of Reference

Background

There has been a long history of flood events in Brisbane. Every summer there are a number of severe thunderstorm events that cause local flooding. Some recent flood events occurring across the City include:

- Friday, 9 March 2001 several parts of Brisbane experienced severe flooding from significant thunderstorms. The areas most impacted were Stable Swamp Creek and Norman Creek in Brisbane’s south and Cabbage Tree Creek in the north. At several recording stations, rain intensities in excess of the 100 year average recurrence interval rainfall were recorded.
- Sunday 7 November 2004, another significant storm event focused rain on similar areas in Brisbane’s south with severe flooding occurring again in Stable Swamp Creek and in Bulimba Creek.

Brisbane has not experienced a major river flood event since 1974, but inevitably there will be future potentially damaging river floods.

Affected residents have asked for action to reduce the frequency and impact of flooding on their homes. The Lord Mayor has responded by establishing a taskforce to review the flooding problems in Brisbane after seeking the input of the Establishment and Coordination (E&C) Committee to these Terms of Reference.

The Best Practice Principles and Guidelines for Floodplain Management in Australia identifies three distinct types of flood risk problems. These are:

- **Existing Flood Risk**
 - The risk to existing buildings and developments on flood-prone land.
- **Future Flood Risk**
 - The risk to those buildings and developments that will be built in the future on flood-prone land. Future flood risk does not materialise until these buildings and developments are built. Future developments need to be considered in terms of their cumulative effect on flood behaviour and not in terms of the individual impact, development by development. Flooding is managed through a combination of non-structural (for example, flood education and awareness) and structural means (for example, setting minimum flood immunity levels for new developments; pipes to convey stormwater). Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is an innovative way to manage and incorporate a whole of water cycle approach into urban developments. WSUD provides many benefits in the management of the water cycle, and can contribute to reducing the impacts of flooding.
- **Residual (or Continuing) Flood Risk**
 - Refers to risk of floods generally and in particular to those floods that exceed or overwhelm structural flood management measures already in place. Unless structural measures are designed to withstand the Probable Maximum Flood (and this is generally not cost-effective or socially acceptable) they will be overwhelmed by a sufficiently large flood at some time in the future.

There are six types of flooding events that can occur in Brisbane:

1. Tsunami
2. Dam Break
3. Storm Tide
4. River Flooding
5. Creek/ Waterway Flooding
6. Local Flooding (eg. from overland flow)

The first two types of flooding listed above are extremely rare. Storm tide (associated with tropical lows) and River Flooding occur more regularly than Tsunami and Dam Break. Creek/ Waterway Flooding and Local Flooding are the most common form of flooding in Brisbane. The examples provided in the beginning of this section fit into these flood types.

❖ Role

The role of this taskforce is to examine all possible strategies to reduce the effect of significant rain events on areas of the city prone to flooding. The Taskforce will consider all flooding issues, but will focus on creek/ waterway/ floodplain and local flooding.

❖ Objectives

1. Consider the existing, future and residual flood risks and examine actions to reduce the impact of flood events on residents in flood prone areas.
2. Determine longer-term strategies to reduce the impact of flooding in the city.
3. Evaluate the feasibility and likely costs of the actions and strategies.
4. Provide specific recommendations and create a prioritised list of work to be undertaken.

❖ Outcome sought

It is expected that the taskforce will produce a report providing opinions, recommendations and advice on the strategies and options available to reduce the affects of significant rain events on areas of the city prone to flooding. No option shall be excluded from the review.

Membership of Taskforce:

1. **Chair – Professor Colin Apelt** – Former Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Queensland and Member of the Brisbane River Flood Study Independent Expert Panel;
2. **Cr Helen Abrahams** – Chairperson Environment and Sustainability Committee;
3. **Cr Carol Cashman** – Lord Mayor’s Spokesman on Planning and Development;
4. **Peter Borrows** – CEO SEQ Water and specialist knowledge on flooding in general;
5. **Trevor Bray/ Peter Redshaw** - Community Representative Northside and President of Concerned Residents of Zillman Waterholes - CROZWS;
6. **Wayne Cameron** - Community Representative Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordination Committee (B4C) and President and Manager Southside Catchment and Volunteer Centre;
7. **Tracy Comans** – Community Representative Southside (Rocklea resident);
8. **Upali Jayasinghe** – Department of Natural Resources & Mines (NR&M), State Flood Risk Management Policy, State Government Representative;
9. **Leo Jensen/ Andrew Hall** - Planning Institute of Australia and President PIA (Qld);

10. **Andrew McPhail** – Brown Consulting (QLD) Pty Ltd, Business Representative;
11. **Daniel Musson** - Insurance Australia Group Ltd and Queensland State Manager;
12. **Brian Stewart** - Urban Development Industry Association and Chief Executive Officer (CEO); and
13. **Andrea Young** - Social Planner.

➤ Responsibilities of Members

- To identify key strategies and assess all the options to reduce the impacts of flooding in Brisbane.
- To attend and participate in meetings of the taskforce, including reading briefing materials provided prior to meetings
- To develop a taskforce report to be presented to E&C (Civic Cabinet) by not later than 30 June 2005.

➤ Timing

The taskforce will meet for the first time in January 2005. It will provide a Stage 1 report by the end of February 2005 identifying flooding areas and issues the taskforce will consider. The taskforce is likely to meet on up to six occasions prior to the delivery of the report by 30 June 2005. The taskforce report is to be presented to E&C (Civic Cabinet) by 30 June 2005, and the taskforce will dissolve by the end of 2005. Support in drafting the report can be provided by Council's Water Resources Branch.