

COOTAMUNDRA FLOOD STUDY

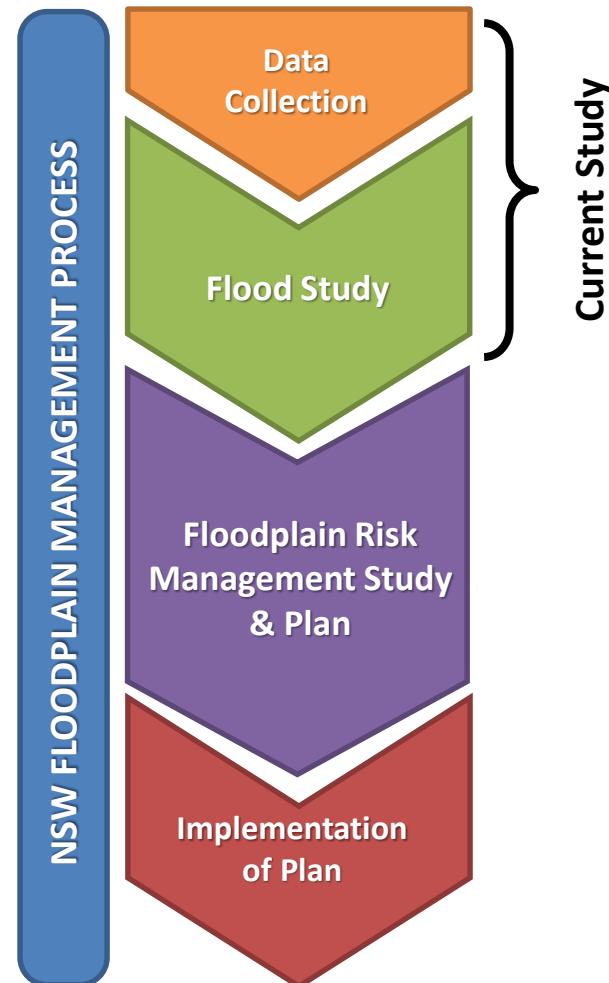
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council has appointed WMAwater to undertake a detailed Flood Study for Cootamundra. Once completed, the Cootamundra Flood Study will give Council a better understanding of the current flood risk to the community and support a range of Council functions including development, planning, community education and mitigation works.

The Floodplain Management Process

This project is supported by the NSW Government's Floodplain Management Program which aims to reduce the impacts of flooding and flood liability on individual owners and occupiers, and to minimise private and public losses resulting from flooding. Under the Program, local government is responsible for managing flood liable land.

The Program, through the Floodplain Management Process, encourages the development of solutions to existing flood problems in developed areas, and strategies for ensuring that new development:

- is compatible with the flood hazard, and
- does not create additional flooding problems in existing developed areas.



Aims of the Flood Study

The Flood Study aims to understand and determine the nature and extent of potential flooding from Muttama, Jindalee and Cootamundry Creeks (mainstream flooding), and local stormwater runoff that drains to these creeks (overland flow). The first stage of the Flood Study will collect, compile and review all available information, including valuable community knowledge and experiences.

As part of the study, computer models will be established to determine the extent and nature of flooding in Cootamundra. To ensure the flood models are as accurate as possible, historical data such as observations and photos of flooding behaviour from the community are required.



Flooding in Cootamundra, September 2016

The Floodplain Management Committee

The Cootamundra Flood Study, and subsequent studies in the NSW Floodplain Management Process, is driven by the Floodplain Management Committee (FMC). The FMC includes Council staff, Councillors, community representatives, and NSW government agencies, including the SES and Office of Environment and Heritage, and provides a forum for discussion of the differing viewpoints within the Study Area.

Cootamundra's Flood History

Major floods occurred in the Cootamundra area in 1885, 1903, 1919, 1952, 1956, 1974, 1983, 1984 and more recently in September 2016.

The September 2016 flood resulted in evacuations of some properties located along Muttama Creek through town. It was reported that approximately twelve (12) properties experienced overfloor flooding during this event which indicates that this event could have been larger than the 1974 event.

What are Flood Marks?

Flood marks physically show the height a flood rose to, or how far the floodwaters extended. Flood marks can include mud or debris lines on buildings or fences, or depth markers or signposts on inundated roads for example.

Flood marks are essential to flood engineers! Flood marks are measured or surveyed, and are used to make sure flood models are able to reproduce real flood behavior as accurately as possible. This is called 'model calibration'.

We are specifically interested in collecting records of flooding such as photographs of flood marks or observations of flood behaviour you may have witnessed. We're interested in recent floods (e.g. January 2018, September 2016), as well as earlier floods (e.g. in the 70s, 80s and earlier).

Do you have any photos of flood marks on your property? Show us!



How can I contribute?

1. Take a moment to complete the attached questionnaire
2. Share your flood photos with us! Please provide details for each photo including the time, date, and location at which they were taken.

Completed questionnaires and photos can be emailed to cootamundraflood@wmawater.com.au or dropped off at Council.

Council is also accepting flood photos - bring a USB stick to Council and upload them in person!

Thankyou for your input!

Cootamundra Council Office:
81 Wallendoon Street,
Cootamundra
Postal Address:
PO Box 420 Cootamundra
NSW 2590