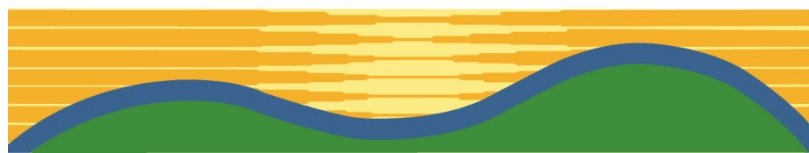


MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



**SPECIAL COMMUNITY
QUESTIONS AND HEARINGS
COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020

3.00pm

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Special Community Questions and Hearings Committee of the Mitchell Shire Council will be held online on **Monday 15 June 2020** commencing at **3.00pm**.

**MARY AGOSTINO
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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1 WELCOME AND GOVERNANCE DECLARATION

The Mayor formally opens the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomes all present.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 79 of the Local Government Act 1989.

4 DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

4.1 SEYMOUR FLOOD LEVEE - FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Author: *Tim Partridge - Manager Engineering and Major Projects*

File No: *WW/11/004*

Attachments: *Nil*

SUMMARY

A flood protection levee for Seymour has been contemplated for many years by the Mitchell Shire Council and its Local Government predecessor as well as the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (SR&WSC), precursor (in part) to the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA).

The ongoing planning and development of the flood levee project will be subject to a future decision by Council after consideration of an officer report that will outline the key issues that surround the project, and documentation of key risks of the project currently known at this stage of the project.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council officers present a report and a recommendation as to whether this project should continue to proceed or not.

BACKGROUND

The Seymour flood levee project has been developed to protect more than 350 properties from a large-scale flood event of the Goulburn River. In addition, a flood levee can also provide flood protection from a large-scale flood event of the Whiteheads Creek for those areas of the Whiteheads Creek floodplain located downstream of the Railway line.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The protection of the township from flooding caused by a large-scale flooding of the Goulburn River would have a positive net cost benefit outcome when the cumulative long-term costs of flood damages to existing buildings are quantified over a long period of time.

The planning controls associated with the flood-prone nature of Seymour are restrictive and result in limitations for land use and result in more costly development outcomes. These limitations arguably make Seymour less desirable for development investment. The removal of these planning controls is only possible only through the elimination of the flood risk.

The elimination of this flood risk has been determined to be physically practical and economically viable through the construction of a physical barrier that eliminates flood inundation to these areas up to the 1% AEP (1 in 100-year) flood event.

SEYMOUR FLOOD LEVEE - FUTURE DIRECTIONS (CONT.)

The project provides rare opportunities to unlock land surrounding the river which may be used for a range of purposes including new and enhanced parks, linear trails and environmental reserves, as well as the potential development of tourism destinations.

The elimination of flood risks to the central business area of Seymour will allow the existing restrictive flood planning controls to be relaxed and will promote the development of previously underutilised parcels of land that will help to promote and define Seymour's next phase of economic growth.

With improvements to the development and redevelopment prospects of all land within the protected zone, the levee could act as the single biggest change factor for a more prosperous economic future for Seymour. An opportunity for such holistic change may not readily present otherwise.

Notwithstanding the above, clearly the implementation of a flood mitigation scheme of this scale on a major waterway like the Goulburn River is a complex undertaking not without significant risk including; financially, in its planning and delivery complexities and operationally for the life of the asset.

CONSULTATION

In July 2019, Council resolved to appoint an independent community engagement consultant to engage the Seymour community about a proposed flood levee to protect parts of Seymour from flooding of the Goulburn River. Council sought feedback to understand the level of community support for the flood levee and to gauge community views on the fairest way to fund the proposed project. The engagement process targeted those landowners who would receive a benefit as the result of a levee being constructed as well as the wider community sentiment towards the proposed levee.

The outcomes of this community engagement process were reported to Council at its meeting on 20 April 2020.

At this meeting, Council noted the outcomes of community engagement process and requested officers prepare a further report outlining the key issues for consideration to determine the most appropriate action required to resolve the Seymour flood levee project.

CONCLUSION

A report is being prepared which will outline the background for the ongoing development of the Seymour Flood Mitigation Levee project and the current commitments that have been made by Council and its funding partners for the detailed planning and design, acquisition of land and the construction of the Seymour flood levee.

What will follow is a detailed history of the project, exploration of key issues that surround the project, and documentation of key risks of the project currently known at this stage of the project.

The intent is to provide clear considerations and a recommendation as to whether this project should continue to proceed or not.

This report is scheduled to be considered by Council at the Council Meeting on 29 June 2020.

5 SUBMISSIONS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORUM

In accordance with Clause 65 of the Meeting Procedure Local Law 2014.

6 QUESTION TIME

7 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Meetings of the Community Questions and Hearings Committee are scheduled for the second Monday of the month. If no submissions are scheduled to be heard at a particular meeting of the Committee, the meeting will be cancelled. The next meeting of the Community Questions and Hearings Committee is scheduled for 7:00pm on Monday 13 July 2020 at 113 High Street, Broadford.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING