

## **Gawler River Flood Management Business Case Discussion 18/10/2023**

### Present

Mr James Miller, CEO Adelaide Plains Council. Mr David Waters, CEO proxy, Adelaide Hills Council. Mr Martin Mc Carthy, CEO The Barossa Council. Mr Richard Dodson, CEO, Light Regional Council. Mr Henry Inat, CEO, Town of Gawler. Mr Sam Green, CEO, City of Playford. Mr David Hitchcock, EO, GRFMA.

### Background

- DEW have now completed the business case briefings with all councils and landscape boards.
- The business case identifies a suite of flood mitigation options such as a dam raise, strategic levies and community awareness program and collectively is likely to be in the cost order of \$230 mill.
- Both state and local govt will need to understand and reach agreement on what proposals are supported and at what point is any proposal simply too costly to fund.
- It is understood DEW is facilitating a late October early November meeting with the Minister, constituent council Mayors/CEOs and GRFMA as a round table discussion on possible Business Case flood mitigation options and strategies for state and local govt funding.
- Federal funding via the Disaster Ready Fund is up to 50%

### Purpose of the CEOs meeting.

Prior to the proposed round table meeting it would be strategic for the GRFMA Executive and council CEOs to have some understanding on a collective position regarding.

- Which proposals have in principle support.
- At what point or under which conditions is a project considered not achievable and unable to be further supported by GRFMA/councils. A key point” what is the point at which a proposal is simply too costly to fund” and should be shelved. Or held until the next flood disaster ignites unprecedented funding support.
- Triage of the supported proposals on basis, what’s achievable, and conditions to be achievable and supported. (including achievable local government funding contributions)
- GRFMA seek support from DEW to apply the adopted GRFMA funding model, for each option as identified, to provide a first level indication of reflective benefit cost to each council.
- How best to engage councils so they are informed and have the relevant information to consider the above matters: and to understand the time frames available to consider.

Any consideration of the proposed meeting would not be reflective of a formal position of a council or the GRFMA – Rather it is to be a process to establish a collective view of issues prior to meeting with the Minister.

### Key points from the discussion

- It is clear constituent councils and GRFMA do not have capacity to fund such high-cost proposals.
- There is requirement to understand what level of risk priority the State Government holds for periodical Gawler River flooding events.
- It would be beneficial for GRFMA to formally engage with the SA State Government (possibly Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and or Minister for Local Government) to seek understanding of the relevant expectations and roles of both Local Government and State Government in the business case proposals.
- Support for the principle of the GRFMA and councils working with the State Government, to establish a collaborative position to prosecute for maximum funding support from the Federal government. It was noted Local Government has a revenue capacity of 4%.
- In consideration of the above it would be beneficial for GRFMA to with engage councils, so they are informed and have the relevant information to consider the above matters: and to understand the time frames available to consider.