

GAWLER RIVER FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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Dear Member,

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Clause 6 of the Charter that a meeting for the GRFMA Board has been called for:

DATE: Friday 17 July 2020

TIME: 10:00am

PLACE: City of Playford Civic Centre
10 Playford Boulevard, Elizabeth

The purpose of this Special Meeting is to consider and discuss the proposed Stormwater Management Plan for the lower Gawler River and possible complimentary completion of Stage 1 - 30% design of the Northern Floodway project as an aligned process.



David E Hitchcock

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AGENDA

GAWLER RIVER FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

10:00am Friday 17 July 2020

City of Playford Civic Centre – 10 Playford Boulevard, Elizabeth

1. Meeting of the Board

- 1.1 Welcome by the GRFMA Chairperson
- 1.2 Present (please sign the Attendance Register)
- 1.3 Apologies
- 1.4 Appointment of Observers
- 1.5 Declarations of Interest

2. Reports

- 2.1 Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan..... Page 3

3. Closure

Agenda Item:	2
Committee:	Board - Special Meeting
Meeting Date:	17 July 2020
Title:	Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan

Recommendation:

That the GRFMA Board:

1. Proceeds with preparation of a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) for the Gawler River from the junction of the North and South Para to the coast.
 2. In proceeding with the SMP also undertakes completion of Stage 1 - 30% design of the Northern Floodway project as an aligned process.
 3. Endorses the City of Playford offer of in-kind support of a Project Manager for the GRFMA SMP process.
 4. Authorises the establishment of a GRFMA SMP Governance Group to prepare the scope of the proposed SMP including recommendations for its procurement for GRFMA Board consideration as a matter of urgency.
 5. Establishes membership of the SMP Governance Group to include:
 - a) GRFMA Council representatives
 - b) SMA representative
 - c) Green Adelaide Landscape Board representative
 - d) Northern and York Landscape Board representative
 - e) Department of Water representative
 - f) City of Playford Project Manager – GRFMA SMP
 6. Requests the Executive Officer to:
 - a) Facilitate a briefing for the six Constituent Council CEOs to inform them of the establishment of the GRFMA SMP Governance Group to prepare the scope of the proposed SMP, discuss funding implications and receive feedback on issues that the GRFMA Board needs to consider.
 - b) At the appropriate time, following completion of the above, correspond with Constituent Councils advising of the GRFMA Board deliberations, noting cost implications and seeking their support to jointly fund the SMP and completion of Stage 1 - 30% design of the Northern Floodway project.
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Background

At the 11/6/2020 GRFMA Ordinary Meeting the following motion was resolved:

That the GRFMA:

1. *Receives the description of costs to undertake Stage 1 (project scope and 30% design) Northern Floodway Project as provided by Chris Sale Consulting.*
 2. *Notes the presentation by Mr Stephen Hains, Presiding Member, Stormwater Management Authority and requests the Executive Officer to seek response from Mr Hains*
 - a. *confirming the scope of the required SMP; and*
 - b. *providing formal response to the 6 questions previously provided to him for preparation of his presentation.*
 3. *Following receipt of the information from Mr Hains, convenes a Special GRFMA Meeting for the purpose of discussing the identified SMP scope and options for further consideration.*
-

Members noted that Mr S Dilena and Mr G Pattinson would liaise with the Executive Officer to work through and develop a process to identify the SMP scope and how the GRFMA might engage SMA assistance to develop the Plan and subsequently report back to the proposed special meeting.

Actions subsequently undertaken in relation to the above motion include:

1. GRFMA Board Members, Mr G Pattinson, Mr S Dilena, Mr D Hitchcock (GRFMA EO) and Mr I Baldwin (GRFMA Chair) met via zoom meeting facilities to review the 11/6/2020 GRFMA meeting resolution and to consider next steps. It was agreed that Mr D Hitchcock would establish a meeting with Mr David Trebilcock, General Manager, Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) and then report back to the group.
2. The GRFMA Executive Officer met with Mr David Trebilcock, on 18/6/2020 to discuss the proposed Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan (SMP). General notes from that discussion are as follows:
 - SMP can be from Gawler West (North and South Para convergence) to coast and bank to bank of the channel – recognising other SMPs undertaken (or in development) by Councils.
 - Will need to include reference to upper catchment but the SMP can be sub catchment as per SMA SMP guidelines – *does not have to be whole hydrological catchment.*
 - The GFRMA will need to engage with the Northern and Yorke and Green Adelaide Landscape Boards.
 - There is opportunity to access a template project Brief for a Stormwater Management Plan. Relevant experienced consultancies could complete this template in a day.
 - Reasonable for GRFMA to include complimentary components of the Stage 1 Northern Floodway Project (NFP) in scope of the SMP.
 - Steering SMP Governance Group membership as identified by GRFMA is appropriate.
 - View being apply for SMP funding initially from the SMA and then later another application for NFP funding.
 - The table below indicates (those marked with an asterisk *) what GRFMA could include in the SMP from the Northern Floodway project Stage 1.

ITEM	PROFESSION	COST
Concept Design Fees		
Detailed Review of Existing Levees and Area of Proposed Levees	Project Manager	* \$75,000
Service Location	Project Manager/Services Engineer	\$90,000
Heritage Survey	Heritage/Archaeological Consultant	* \$50,000
Native Vegetation Survey	Environmental Consultant	* \$30,000
Geotechnical investigations	Geotechnical Engineer	\$85,000
Consultation with Landholders (land Acquisition and Localised Design Optimisation	Project Manager	* \$50,000
Consultation with Approval Bodies, Authorities, Developers, and Partners	Project Manager	\$90,000
Quantity Surveyor	Quantity Surveyor	\$45,000
Design and Documentation	Civil Engineer	\$200,000
Planning	Planner	\$20,000
Property Consultant and Valuation	Property Valuer	\$40,000
Fee Contingency	-	\$50,000
Total Concept Design Fees		\$825,000

- Possible process from here:
 - Complete SMP application template.
 - Consult with Landscape Board GMs and Council staff plus DEW.
 - David Trebilcock will then assist with review of the template and provide advice on any matters/issues.
 - Finalise Brief.
 - Seek quotations for preparation of SMP as per brief.
 - GRFMA and Constituent Councils agreement to proceed – including funding contributions.
 - Submit SMP application to SMA.
- Will need to consider timing or merit of establishment of a SMP Governance Group and or project manager in context of above.

Overall impression is that SMA is supportive of the GRFMA's interest and views on this project and willing to assist.

3. Correspondence received 24/6/2020 from Mr S Hains, Presiding Member, Stormwater Management Authority, responding to the questions on notice from the 11/6/2020 GRFMA meeting is attached to this report.

A key message from Mr Hains is the comment:

“As previously advised, the SMA is urging the GRFMA to lodge an application for funding to prepare a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) as soon as possible. The SMA shares with your Board an understanding of the importance of progressing flood mitigation works in the Gawler River, and considers that the development and documentation of a detailed works program for the Gawler River within an SMP will facilitate the prioritisation and funding from multiple potential sources including the Stormwater Management Fund. “

4. The GRFMA Executive Officer has discussed the matter of the proposed SMP with Mr Anthony Fox, Regional Manager, Northern and Yorke (N&Y) Landscape Board.
General notes from the discussion are:
 - Mr David Trebilcock, SMA, has also discussed this matter with both Mr Fox and Mr B Greer, Green Adelaide. As a result, a report regarding the GRFMA SMP proposal will be considered by both Landscape Boards in July.
 - Mr Fox has indicated he is well informed of the Northern Floodway proposal and supportive of a GRFMA SMP and in participating in the planned Governance Group.
 - On this basis its reasonable for GRFMA to proceed to initiation of the SMP process, subject to expectation of subsequent endorsement by the N&Y and Green Adelaide Landscape Boards.
5. GRFMA Board Members, Mr G Pattinson, Mr S Dilena and Mr D Hitchcock (GRFMA EO) met again via Zoom meeting facilities on 29/6/2020 to consider comments from the SMA General Manager (Point 2) and SMA Presiding Member (Point 3) and Mr Fox, Northern and Yorke Landscape SA Board.
6. The GRFMA has received a letter of offer from the City of Playford proposing in-kind support of a Project Manager for the delivery of the SMP process.
7. The funding required by the GRFMA to progress the SMP cannot be quantified at this point in time as additional funding may be available from the Landscape Boards and other parties. Further conversations are required with these organisations and the SMA prior to the GRFMA formally endorsing the procurement process to commence the SMP.

8. Recommendations from the group discussion are:

That the GRFMA Board proceeds with preparation of a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) for the Gawler River from junction of the North and South Para(s) to the coast; and

- I. In proceeding with the SMP also undertakes completion of Stage 1 - 30% design of the Northern Floodway project, as a complimentary process.*
- II. Endorses the City of Playford offer of in-kind support of a Project Manager for the GRFMA SMP process.*
- III. Authorises the establishment of a GRFMA SMP Governance Group to prepare the scope of the proposed SMP and identify recommendations for its procurement for GRFMA Board consideration as a matter of urgency.*
- IV. Establishes membership of the SMP Governance Group to include*
 - o GRFMA Council representatives*
 - o SMA representative*
 - o Green Adelaide Landscape Board representative*
 - o Northern and York Landscape Board representative*
 - o Department of Water representative*
 - o City of Playford Project Manager – GRFMA SMP*
- V. Requests the Executive Officer to:*
 - o Facilitate a briefing for the six Constituent Council CEOs to inform them of the establishment of the GRFMA SMP Governance Group to prepare the scope of the proposed SMP and to identify recommendations for its procurement for GRFMA Board considerations.*
 - o At the appropriate time, following completion of the above, correspond with Constituent Councils advising of the GRFMA Board deliberations and flagging cost implications relating to facilitation of the SMP and completion of Stage 1 - 30% design of the Northern Floodway project.*

Commentary provided by Mr. David Speirs, MP, Minister for Environment and Water, is noted in relation to the Constituent Councils needing to undertake further design development work as well as need to have “skin in the game”. The development of this further work being aligned to those expectations which appear required to unlock State Government funding.



DEW-D0013696082

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Chair
Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority

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via email: ijbaldwin.14@bigpond.com

Dear Mr Baldwin,

Thank you for your recent invitation and for the opportunity to address the Board of the Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA) to explain the role and function of the Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) and the Stormwater Management Fund. The SMA's responses to your questions on notice, provided by email dated 3 June 2020, are annexed to this letter.

As previously advised, the SMA is urging the GRFMA to lodge an application for funding to prepare a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) as soon as possible. The SMA shares with your Board an understanding of the importance of progressing flood mitigation works in the Gawler River, and considers that the development and documentation of a detailed works program for the Gawler River within an SMP will facilitate the prioritisation and funding from multiple potential sources including the Stormwater Management Fund. The preparation of an SMP for the Gawler River will also integrate with surrounding SMPs including those prepared for the Gawler township and the Smith Creek catchment.

I understand that your Authority has already undertaken a considerable amount of work that will form an important input to the proposed SMP. I am aware of your concern about any unnecessary delay in starting work, but believe that, partly because of the work you have already undertaken, the preparation of an SMP should not take an inordinate amount of time and will provide a sound basis for works planning and obtaining funding support.

It is important that SMPs are developed in consultation with regional Landscapes Boards (formerly Natural Resources Management Boards). Under the SMA's Stormwater Management Planning Guidelines, a council (or group of councils) should seek agreement from the relevant Landscapes Board(s) for the extent of the catchment area for which an SMP is to be prepared. The SMA supports defining a catchment extent which encompasses the Gawler River proper, being the area downstream of the confluence of the North Para and South Para Rivers through to the Gulf St Vincent. As this would straddle two landscapes regions, the GRFMA will be required to consult with both the Northern and Yorke Landscapes Board and the Green Adelaide Board.

Thank you again for providing us with an opportunity to address the GRFMA. As advised, I would be pleased to attend a further meeting if desired, and to also make myself available to address any of your constituent councils on this important subject. Please contact me to discuss directly on telephone 0401 984 807, or contact the General Manager, Mr David Trebilcock, on telephone 8124 4787 or email david.trebilcock2@sa.gov.au.

Yours Sincerely



Stephen Hains
PRESIDING MEMBER

Date: 24 June 2020

enc Annexure: SMA Response to GRFMA questions on notice

cc Mr David Hitchcock, Executive Officer, Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority
 Mr Stuart Peevor, Adviser to the Minister for Environment and Water
 Mr Anthony Fox, Regional Manager, Natural Resources Northern and Yorke
 Mr Brenton Grear, Director, Green Adelaide

Annexure: SMA Response to GRFMA questions on notice

GRFMA Question 1

The Local Government (Stormwater Management Agreement) Amendment Act 2016, Section 22—Payments out of Fund, provides:

- (1) The Authority may apply any part of the Fund (without further appropriation than this subclause) for any of the following purposes:*
 - (a) the preparation of stormwater management plans (or replacement stormwater management plans);*
 - (b) the carrying out of works or the acquisition of land (including by a council or some other entity) in accordance with an approved stormwater management plan or otherwise for the purpose of stormwater management;*
 - (c) community education and awareness programs related to stormwater management;*
 - (d) projects or measures relating to water quality or pollution abatement...*

Why is the SMA now specifically requesting a Stormwater Management Plan for the lower Gawler River when there is a reasonable interpretation that “or otherwise for the purpose of stormwater management” could be for the purpose of the Northern Floodway project?

SMA Response

The *Local Government (Stormwater Management Agreement) Amendment Act 2016* empowers the Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) to allocate expenditure from the Stormwater Management Fund. The Board of the SMA is accountable to the Minister for Environment and Water for the prudent expenditure of the Fund, and in accordance with the legislation has developed its *Stormwater Management Fund Guide for Applicants* over several years.

While the Act makes provision for flexibility in the way that the Fund is expended, the Board of the SMA has generally required that works considered for funding have first been identified within an SMP. This not only ensures a sound basis for the planning of capital works, but also ensures that other issues of concern to the SMA are included in the planning process. The SMA's Guidelines make it clear that the consideration of works outside of an SMP requires that exceptional circumstances are demonstrated.

The call on the Stormwater Management Fund (and potentially other government funding sources) for flood mitigation works in the Gawler River is likely to be significant. The Board of the SMA is required to exercise diligence in its funding decisions. Over-subscription of the Fund and comments made by the Auditor-General in relation to the SMA's handling of the stormwater management planning process for the Brown Hill Keswick Creek catchment have both had the effect of increasing the level of scrutiny which the Board of the SMA applies over funding applications. In any case, for a project as substantial as the Northern Floodway a level of comprehensive strategic planning could reasonably be expected to be required prior to the undertaking of works.

In a letter dated 14 May 2018, the SMA advised the GRFMA that it supported “a strategic approach... to the identification, prioritisation and funding of the delivery of flood mitigation works and measures within the Gawler River catchment” and that “the identification of a

detailed capital works program would greatly facilitate the prioritisation of funding from potential sources including the Stormwater Management Fund.”

The SMA board remains of a view that developing a stormwater management plan for the whole of the Gawler River Basin (inclusive of both the North Para and South Para Rivers) would be a considerable undertaking, but that development of a targeted stormwater management plan for the Gawler River only is sensible and necessary to document a capital works program and facilitate the prioritisation and timing of funding.

GRFMA Question 2

Will SMA support funding more than 50% of the cost of any required lower Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan?

SMA Response

Funding decisions are made by the Board of the SMA on application. Applications are considered on merit after giving due consideration to other priorities and the available capacity of the Stormwater Management Fund.

There is no precedent for the SMA to contribute more than 50% of the cost of a stormwater management plan and the SMA is unlikely to support funding more than 50% of the cost of a stormwater management plan.

GRFMA Question 3

Will SMA provide technical staff support to assist the process of developing a SMP as required?

SMA Response

The SMA staff comprises a single officer. The SMA does not have the capacity to provide technical staff to assist in developing an SMP.

The GRFMA is advised to engage a consultant with the necessary skills and expertise, and to draw on the considerable engineering skills and expertise held within its member councils.

The SMA will make available a staff member to contribute to any steering group or committee.

GRFMA Question 4

The SMA considers that the development and documentation of a detailed works program within an SMP would facilitate the prioritisation and timing of funding from multiple potential sources including the Stormwater Management Fund.

The GRFMA has previously developed the 35 page Northern Floodway Project Prospectus which clearly outlines the project objectives and implementation schedule.

Will the SMA support funding (via the Stormwater Management Fund) for implementation of initial works identified in the Northern Floodway Project Prospectus at item 7.1

Implementation costs, page 37: as this will provide the detailed and costed work program necessary to commence the project rather than undertaking a new Stormwater Management Plan for the same purpose?

SMA Response

The SMA notes that further work is required to develop the Northern Floodway Project Prospectus into documentable and 'construction ready' schedules, designs and specifications for works.

The SMA is supportive of any work that will refine the implementation approach for the Northern Floodway project. In its letter to the GRFMA dated 14 May 2018, the SMA stated that it "would be keen to explore how flood mitigation early works might be delivered in parallel with the development of... [an] SMP". This remains the case, and the SMA believes that the development of an SMP is complementary to preliminary surveys, inspections, assessments and consultation that will be required to design the Northern Floodway.

GRFMA Question 5

The Stormwater Management Fund Guide for Applicants provides there is no upper or lower limit to the amount of funding that can be applied for. The SMA ordinarily funds 50% of the total cost of eligible projects with the remainder to be matched by the applicant, however, the SMA has discretion to fund more or less than 50% of the cost of eligible projects.

Will SMA support funding more than 50% of the eligible project costs of the Northern Floodway project in relation to:

- A) Completion of item 7.1 Implementation costs (known as stage 1)?*
- B) Subsequent construction of the Northern Floodway Project (based on costs subsequently identified by completion of stage 1)?*

SMA Response

Funding decisions are made by the Board of the SMA on application. Applications are considered on merit after giving due consideration to other priorities and the available capacity of the Stormwater Management Fund.

There is no precedent for the SMA to contribute more than 50% of the cost of stormwater management works and the SMA is unlikely to support funding more than 50% of the implementation or construction costs of the proposed Northern Floodway.

GRFMA Question 6

In relation to cost contributions by applicants is it acceptable to include contributions by other parties, such as private developers and the Federal Government, within the applicant contribution?

SMA Response

The conventional expectation, outlined in the SMA's *Stormwater Management Fund Guide for Applicants* is that subsidies provided through the Stormwater Management Fund are at least matched dollar for dollar by the applicant. The SMA is not concerned with how the applicant raises matching funds.

In situations where financial contributions been provided through another level or arm of government, for example through a regional Natural Resources Management Board or a Commonwealth Government grants program, it had been usual to split the costs equally among the parties.

CALL

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7 July 2020

Ian Baldwin
Chair
Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority

Email: ijbaldwin.14@bigpond.com

Dear Ian,

Stormwater Management Plan and Northern Floodway

I am writing to you regarding progressing the Northern Floodway project and the requirement of the Stormwater Management Authority for the GRFMA to do a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) to secure funding from the State Government. The delivery of the Northern Floodway project is a key priority for protecting the township of Virginia and the horticultural industry in the Virginia area and north of the Gawler River.

I understand that the GRFMA will be formally considering the commencement of a SMP at the next board meeting. The City of Playford would like to offer the GRFMA in kind support through the allocation of a project officer, Mr Braden Austin, to deliver the SMP and progress the Northern Floodway project. This is in addition to any direct funding that the GRFMA may request from the City of Playford to progress the SMP.

Braden is an engineer and has significant experience in stormwater management and the delivery of SMPs. He is currently finalising the Smith Creek, Adams Creek and Greater Edinburgh Parks SMP in conjunction with the City of Salisbury and Town of Gawler. It is estimated that half his time would be allocated to the SMP, understanding that this will fluctuate through different stages of the project.

Appropriate governance arrangements will need to be put in place by the GRFMA to provide Braden appropriate direction in relation to the delivery of the SMP. Council reserves the right to review or modify this offer at any time, but assure the GRFMA that appropriate notice would be given to enable the GRFMA to put in place alternative arrangements.

Please contact Dale Welsh on 8256 0105 or by DMWelsh@playford.sa.gov.au if you require any further information and to confirm acceptance of the offer.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Pelle
GENERAL MANAGER STRATEGY AND CORPORATE