



Vincent Street  
CESSNOCK 2325

26 May 2008

To All Councillors

*You are hereby notified that the next Meeting of the Infrastructure & Services Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, on Wednesday, 4 June 2008, commencing at 6.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the undermentioned business.*

**B R MORTOMORE  
GENERAL MANAGER**

**AGENDA:**

PAGE NO.

**(1) APOLOGIES**

**(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Infrastructure & Services Committee  
Meeting held on 21 May 2008.

**(3) OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**

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**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**

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**(4) QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

## **OFFICER'S REPORTS**

### **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 37/2008**

**SUBJECT:     REPORT OF THE BADDELEY PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
                  MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2008**

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A meeting of the Cessnock City Council Baddeley Park Management Committee was held on 21 May 2008 and reports as follows:

Attendees at the meeting included The Mayor, Councillor Clarence (in the chair), Cllr Pynsent, Mr L Oldfield (DIS), Ms N Benson (RCSM), Mr G Jack (CRLFC), Mr M McLennan (CRLFC), Mr D Cleaves (CRLFC), Ms K Jordan (CFP).

Apologies for the meeting were received from Councillor D Troy and Mr R Nickerson (CRLFC).

Prior to the Officer's Report the Mayor thanked previous CRLFC President, Gary Jack for his selfless dedication to the Cessnock Sportsground (old and new) and local rugby league for a period extending beyond 40 years.

#### **OFFICER'S REPORT**

##### ***DIS 1/2008 Baddeley Park Sportsground information update***

The RCSM explained that the purpose of the report was to outline usage at Cessnock Sportsground for the past 18 months or so; and to highlight opportunities for Council to commence collecting funds to be held in reserve for the ongoing maintenance and development of the facility. It was noted that Council has not yet made any profits from events held at the facility and this has been attributed to the nature of events either being coordinated for charity purposes or being of a smaller, local scale.

The DIS advised that a detailed report would be prepared for a future committee meeting regarding future maintenance of the facility and that a methodology would be developed to ensure adequate funds were set aside for this purpose. It was noted that opportunities exist to host additional larger one off events at the facility and that if consideration were given by event promoters to setting affordable ticket prices the number of events and spectators could expect to increase significantly.

Following advice from the RTA that they would not consider the installation of three (3) directional signs to Baddeley Park on Aberdare Road, it was determined that Council would amend its street signage to clearly define the route to Cessnock Sportsground.

Cessnock Rugby League Football Club are attaining proofs for proposed signage and naming of bays in the grandstand at the sportsground. The Baddeley Park Management Committee will consider the proposed names prior to installation.

Due to the high profile nature of the facility and increased use by non rugby league organisations, the committee will meet in July and December each year with a view to review operational costs, future events and general operation of the venue.

**RECOMMENDED** that:-

1. The information be noted
2. A \$1,500 hire fee payable to Cessnock City Council and held in the Baddeley Park Reserve and retention of food and beverage profits by CRLFC be negotiated with the Newcastle Jets for use of the facility in July 2009
3. A \$2,500 hire fee payable to Cessnock City Council and held in the Baddeley Park Reserve and retention of food and beverage profits by CRLFC be negotiated with the National Rugby League for use of the facility in March 2009
4. A \$2 entry fee per person to the ground (ie participant or spectator) be paid to Cessnock City Council and held in the Baddeley Park Reserve
5. The facility be referred to as Cessnock Sportsground and street signage be changed to reflect this
6. The Baddeley Park Management Committee consider proposed naming of bays and/or the stadium prior to installation of signage
7. The Baddeley Park Management Committee meet bi-annually in July and December

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. USE OF THE CESSNOCK SPORTSGROUND BY JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE**

It was note that Junior Rugby League teams would be permitted to use the Cessnock Sportsground if no conflict with regular usage occurs and if ground conditions permit. This should be arranged with CRLFC executive members.

**RECOMMENDATION** that Council endorse the report of the Cessnock City Council Baddeley Park Management Committee held on 21 May 2008.

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 4 June 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
26 May 2008

## **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 38/2008**

**SUBJECT: GRETA CENTRAL OVAL (GRETA) DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT AND MASTERPLAN**

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Facilities Officer, Mr G Young, reports:-

### **BACKGROUND**

Greta Central Oval (Greta) is a 12.46 hectare multi use outdoor sporting facility utilised by local sporting and community groups and schools year round for cricket, football, tennis, horse sports, dog exercising and passive recreation. A number of facilities are provided to cater for these activities including sporting ovals, tennis courts, a horse sport area, skate park, open space for passive recreation, and off leash dog exercise area and amenity buildings.

In line with Council's Management Plan a review of all major recreational settings has been undertaken over the past three (3) years. Through this review the recreational and sporting opportunities available within Greta Central Oval were identified and are now presented within a draft Plan of Management (PoM). The draft PoM forms the basis for the development of a Masterplan for Greta Central Oval. The Masterplan compliments and supports the draft PoM and specifically outlines a number of works to be completed at the site.

Both the draft PoM and Masterplan for Greta Central Oval are presented within this report and copies of each document have been included within the Enclosure Documents.

### **REPORT**

#### Draft Plan of Management

The Local Government Act (1993) requires Council to prepare PoM for all its Community land. To date Council has reviewed and adopted a number of sites specific PoMs including; Howe Park (Abermain), and Varty Park (Weston).

The draft PoM developed for Greta Central Oval is a legal document that provides a clear framework for the future management of the site. The plan contains detailed information relating to the present use of the land and intentions about future development, planned usage as well as current and proposed leases and licenses over the site.

In preparing the draft plan, consultation with the key stakeholders of the site was undertaken including Cessnock District Cricket Association, Greta Branxton Colts Rugby League Football Club, Greta Tennis Club, Heddon Greta Cricket Club, Greta Branxton Horse Sports Club, Council Officer's and the general public.

The draft PoM will be utilised in conjunction with the Masterplan to achieve each of the objectives listed within the action plan for Greta Central Oval. The PoM will ultimately act as a guide for all future development within the site.

Masterplan

An assessment of the future direction of Greta Central Oval (Greta) commenced in 2007 culminating in the development of a draft Masterplan for the site. Consultations continue with all identified sporting groups including Cessnock District Cricket Association, Greta Branxton Colts Rugby League Football Club, Greta Tennis Club, Heddon Greta Cricket Club, Greta Branxton Horse Sports Club, Council Officer’s and the general public.

The creation of the draft Masterplan is recognition of the opportunities that exist for Greta Central Oval and the capacity for the site to further address the recreational needs of the local community. The draft Masterplan incorporates a number of completed and proposed works to be undertaken over a period of years. It is important to note that all costs provided from 2009/2010 onwards are estimates only and will be confirmed as part of the preparation of future budgets. It should be further noted that a number of partnerships have already been forged with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation who are assisting with floodlighting costs and the Greta Tennis Club who are partnering Council in the installation of synthetic surfacing on the tennis courts.

<b>Component of Masterplan</b>	<b>Estimated cost \$\$\$</b>	<b>Year</b>
The installation of two (2) floodlighting poles on the main rugby league field	\$55,000	2007/08
Stage 1 fencing upgrade	\$25,000	2007/08
Installation of synthetic surfacing on tennis court	\$20,000	2008/09
Stage 2 fencing upgrade	\$20,000	2008/09
Formalisation of carparking	\$40,000	2009/10
Stage 3 fencing upgrade	\$20,000	2010/11
Installation of floodlighting on main cricket field	\$50,000	2011/12
Installation of automatic irrigation on main rugby league field	\$40,000	2011/12
Field improvements to main cricket field	\$30,000	2013/14
Earthworks associated with the expansion of the cricket oval	\$80,000	TBD
Demolition and relocation of skate park to a centralised area	\$200,000	TBD
Demolition and replacement of cricket nets	\$35,000	TBD
Construction of a sporting amenity block to incorporate storage area, two (2) changerooms, kiosk, referees room/ first aid room and an accessible toilet adjacent to the cricket fields	\$300,000	TBD
Construction of a concrete concourse and mounded seating around the rugby league field	\$70,000	TBD
Construction of a sporting amenity block including storage area, male, female and accessible toilets and kiosk adjacent to horse sports area	\$200,000	TBD
Installation of a synthetic cricket wicket on the bottom playing field	\$30,000	TBD
<b>Estimated total cost of Masterplan</b>	<b>\$1,215,000</b>	

The PoM and Masterplan will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with the preparation of prioritised capital works programs. The annual review will determine actual costs and timeframes associated with each specific component of the project.

In line with the Local Government Act (1993) it is proposed to place the draft PoM and Masterplan on public exhibition for forty-two (42) days. Hard copies of the plans will be placed on exhibition at Council’s administration building, Kurri Kurri Library, Branxton Post Office, Greta Arts and Sports Community Hall and Cessnock Library. In addition the plans will be linked to Council’s homepage and all identified key stakeholders will be notified of the exhibition period.

**RECOMMENDATION** that:-

1. Council place the draft Plan of Management for Greta Central Oval (Greta) on public exhibition for a period of forty-two (42) days;
2. Council place the draft Masterplan for Greta Central Oval (Greta) on public exhibition for a period of forty-two (42) days; and
3. At the conclusion of the exhibition period a further report is prepared for Council's consideration.

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 4 June 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
26 May 2008

# **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 39/2008**

**SUBJECT: NORTH ROTHBURY PLAYGROUND/TENNIS COURT DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

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Trainee Recreation & Community Officer, Ms E Peel, reports:-

## **BACKGROUND**

North Rothbury Playground (0.56 hectares) is parkland containing a passive recreation area, a playground and former tennis facilities. The playground and passive areas are utilised year round by local residents. The North Rothbury Tennis Club disbanded in 2001 and the tennis courts have been used for netball training since then. The tennis court surface and club house are aged and in a poor condition and have not been operational for some time.

To continue updating Council's Plans of Management (PoM) and to guide future development within North Rothbury Playground, a draft PoM for the site is presented within this report. A copy of the draft document has been included within the Enclosure Documents.

## **REPORT**

The Local Government Act (1993) requires Council to prepare PoM for all its Community land. To date Council has reviewed and adopted a number of site specific PoM including, Howe Park (Abermain), Baddeley Park (Cessnock) and Varty Park (Weston).

The draft PoM developed for North Rothbury Playground is a legal document that provides a clear framework for the future management of the site. The plan contains detailed information relating to the present use of the land and intentions about future development, planned usage as well as current and proposed leases and licenses over the site.

Within the draft Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan (2008), the northern portion of North Rothbury Playground (tennis court and club house) has been identified as excess to Council's needs. It is recommended within the draft plan that this land be reclassified from 'Community' to 'Operational' land with funds from the sale of the land being utilised to fund future upgrades at the site (e.g. playground upgrade). This recommendation follows thorough investigations on current demand for tennis facilities in the North Rothbury area, past and current usage of the tennis facilities and other recreation planning data. For example, it was found that the tennis courts at Miller Park are utilised by North Rothbury residents.

A number of works for North Rothbury Playground are identified within Council's draft Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan (2008) to be completed over the next five (5) years. These include:

- Demolition of existing tennis courts;
- Improvements to fencing and landscaping;
- Playground upgrade, consolidation and installation of rubber wetpour safety surfacing; and
- Installation of picnic shelter and seating.

Community consultation is vital to ensuring that the current management of the site and future proposed works are in line with community needs and expectations. As the key stakeholders of the site are local residents, it is proposed that consultation be undertaken via a mail out to all residents in the North Rothbury area in the first instance, followed by a site meeting with residents if necessary.

In line with the Local Government Act (1993) it is proposed to place the draft PoM on public exhibition for forty-two (42) days. Hard copies of the draft plan will be placed on exhibition at Council's administration centre, Branxton Post Office, Kurri Library and Cessnock Library. In addition the plans will be linked to Council's homepage.

Following the exhibition period a further report will be prepared for Council's consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION** that:-

1. Council place the draft Plan of Management for North Rothbury Playground on public exhibition for a period of forty- two (42) days.
2. At the conclusion of the exhibition period a further report be prepared for Council's consideration

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 4 June 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
26 May 2008

# **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 40/2008**

**SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF CROWN PUBLIC ROADS TO COUNCIL AT MULBRING**

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Engineering Survey Officer, Mr D Latter, reports:-

## **PURPOSE**

For Council to resolve to request the Department of Lands to transfer to Council the control of a number of Crown Roads in the Village of Mulbring (as shown on the enclosed map from Council's GIS System) which Council maintains.

## **BACKGROUND**

Council has allocated funding under the Drainage Construction Program to upgrade trunk drainage infrastructure to alleviate drainage and flooding problems in the Mulbring Main Drain, Mulbring. The nature of the proposed works includes the removal of existing inadequate drainage where necessary and the installation of proposed underground stormwater drainage pipes and pits to complement the existing or proposed overland flow paths. These works are to take place within the existing road reserves and also traverse through private property. Easements are to be established over the drainage and overland flow paths passing through private property.

## **INFORMATION**

The roads and laneways included in the proposed drainage works are constructed Crown Public Roads which Council has maintained for many years. It is an oversight that these roads currently have the status of Crown Roads.

Council should have control of the roads which it maintains. Legal authority to act as the "roads authority" to manage and control the actions of others which may impinge upon their works is provided under Section 7 of the Roads Act 1993. Currently the Minister is the roads authority for all Crown Roads under Section 7. It is proposed that Council request the Department of Lands to transfer to Council the control, under the provisions of Section 151 of the Roads Act 1993, of these Crown Roads which Council maintains. Council would then be legitimately placed to manage the drainage infrastructure and public road network in keeping with its traditional role.

There are no fees involved in the proposed transfer of control.

**RECOMMENDATION** that in accordance with Section 151 of the Roads Act 1993, Council request the Department of Lands to transfer to Council the control of the constructed Crown Public Roads in the Village of Mulbring shown hatched on the enclosed plan.

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 4 June 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
26 May 2008

# **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 41/2008**

**SUBJECT: TENDER FOR CONSULTING SURVEYING SERVICES**

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Engineering Survey Officer, Mr D Latter, reports:-

## **PURPOSE**

To obtain Council's approval to invite open tenders to compile a list of preferred consultants for the provision of surveying services to Council for a period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2010 with an option for a 12 month extension.

## **BACKGROUND**

Council's current surveying services have been provided for by contract with a list of preferred consultants for a period of 2 years with the option of a 12 months extension. The current contract has operated successfully since July 2005 utilising the 12 month option and is due to expire 30 June 2008.

The tender and tender documents together with the notice in writing of acceptance of the tender constitute a Contract between the Principal (Council) and the successful Contractor for the provision of surveying services.

The panel contract providing a list of preferred firms was initiated due to the problems encountered in meeting changing resource demands to meet survey requirements to complete design for the multiplicity of projects funded under Council, RTA and other programs. The use of a panel contract simplifies the process of engaging a number of survey firms for simultaneous jobs. It saves valuable staff time and avoids the inconvenience and delays involved in calling individual contracts to engage survey firms for additional projects. Rates payable are also defined prior to engagement.

The current Consulting Surveying Services Contract is due for renewal. The new Contract is to run until 30 June 2010 at a fixed rate and allows for a 12 month extension with the adjustment of the tender rates (for the period of the extension) in line with the Consumer Price Index. The option of a 12 month extension allows some flexibility in the timing of the tender process in calling and implementation of the replacement contract.

## **TENDER PROCESS**

Prior to the calling of tenders the process of assessment including scoring and weighting of the assessment criteria shall be formulated. Also the requirements of typical surveys shall be determined as part of the assessment process for price.

Before the close of tenders an assessment panel is to be nominated that shall include Council's Engineering Survey Officer. The assessment panel shall undertake a comprehensive assessment of the tenders received.

Successful tenderers are to be placed on the preferred list of firms in order of ranking. The work will be allocated to the contractors on the basis of availability and performance in addition to the tender assessment criteria. This allows Council to meet peaks in demand for consulting surveying services by engaging more than one firm to supply multiple survey teams for multiple Council projects.

**RECOMMENDATION** that approval be granted to invite open tenders to compile a list of preferred consultants for the provision of surveying services to Council for a period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2010 with an option for a 12 month extension.

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 4 June 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
26 May 2008

## **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 42/2008**

**SUBJECT: FOOTBRIDGE OVER SOUTH MAITLAND RAILWAY, STATION STREET WESTON – ISSUES**

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Roads Bridges & Drainage Manager, Mr J Booth, reports:-

### **PURPOSE**

To respond to a Question without Notice from Councillor J Maybury regarding the future of the footbridge over the South Maitland Railway, Weston.

### **BACKGROUND**

At the meeting of 7 May 2008 Councillor J Maybury stated that *“the walk bridge, almost to the southwest and over the train line, is in a very dilapidated condition. Can Councillors be provided with an update on what is planned for the bridge?”*

The bridge over the South Maitland Railway at the end of Station Street, Weston has been the subject of previous reports to Council.

Director Works Report 8/96  
Director Works Report 44/98.  
Director Works Report 18/98  
Director Strategic & Community Services Report 228/2001  
Director Strategic & Community Services Report 19/2002  
Director Strategic & Community Services Report 50/2005  
Director Strategic & Community Services Report 136/2005

At its meeting on 14 December 2005 (reference Director S&CS Report 136/2005) Council adopted the recommendation that :

Funding in an amount of \$15,000 be provided from Council's Bridge Maintenance and Improvement Program 2005/2006 to:

1. Construct a footpath with at grade pedestrian crossing of the South Maitland railway to connect Station Street, Weston with the path connecting to the southern approach to the existing footbridge;
2. Provide appropriate signposting “Railway cross bucks”, “Stop” and “Look for Trains” and linemarking in accordance with AS 1742.3; and
3. Close the existing pedestrian footbridge to traffic.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

The work approved in the above resolution was completed in early 2006. Currently the SMR is contained in a railway easement through land owned by HEZ. The required easements to construct a footpath to join Station Street with the path connecting to the southern approach to the existing footbridge were obtained by Council from HEZ and the South Maitland Railway. The railway footbridge has been decommissioned and closed to traffic since that time and pedestrians have used the at grade pedestrian facility. The only known issues are vandalism of the level crossing signage.

The Weston railway footbridge is part of the infrastructure associated with the South Maitland Railway (SMR), which is heritage listed. Inspections of the footbridge have been undertaken periodically and the structure continues to deteriorate. However as the bridge is not trafficked, the structure is only required to sustain its own dead load.

Based on information available from the traffic study produced by Parsons Brinckerhoff for the Hunter Economic Zone, a light vehicle access to the HEZ is proposed to connect to Station Street, Weston and cross the SMR via an at grade crossing. This proposal has not yet been brought before Council. The concept will involve closure of the existing at grade crossing and incorporation of this pedestrian facility into a full at grade crossing of the extension of Station Street, Weston.

Such an extension of Station Street to provide light vehicle access to the commercial centre of Weston requires relocation of the South Maitland Railway water tank and water crane. Relocation onto the existing station platform has been suggested, but will require heritage assessment. The Weston pedestrian footbridge will also require demolition, as its structural condition would not allow for it to be relocated. All such works would be required to be fully funded by HEZ, as a condition of development consent.

Therefore the construction of the light traffic access by extension of Station Street, the associated treatment of the SMR infrastructure affected and its timing are matters to be addressed by HEZ as part of the development process.

The principal current risk posed by the Weston railway footbridge is that a piece of spalled concrete may strike a train or pedestrian below. The risk is considered to be low, given the low incidence of pedestrians or trains (two per day at present on the day's coal is hauled from Austar's Pelton Colliery) passing under the structure. Apart from frequent inspections, the most cost effective approach would be to fence off the areas under the bridge apart from the railway line.

Given the demands on Council's funding for current bridge projects such as Cunneens Bridge, Wollombi, Dill Street, Kurri Kurri and Whitebridge, Mulbring such works are a low priority.

**RECOMMENDATION** that:-

1. The above be noted and taken into account in considering any proposal to extend Station Street, Weston to access Hunter Economic Zone; and:
2. Council continue to inspect Weston Railway Footbridge

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 4 June 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
26 May 2008

# **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 43/2008**

**SUBJECT: SWAMP/FISHERY CREEK FLOODING ISSUES AT ABERMAIN AND WESTON – PROGRESS REPORT**

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## **PURPOSE**

This report is to provide additional information regarding flood investigation in the Wallis Creek and Swamp/Fishery Creeks catchments.

## **BACKGROUND**

Flooding in the Wallis Creek and Swamp/Fishery Creeks catchments particularly in the Abermain and Weston areas in the June 2007 storm flood event has been the subject of previous reports to Council.

A number of houses were flooded in Abermain, Weston and South Cessnock. This report focuses on the impact on Abermain and Weston and the flooding emanating from the Swamp/Fishery Creek catchment.

Previous significant flood events in this area occurred in 1955, 1978 and 1990. The 1990 flooding caused substantial damage and personal loss to many residents living on the banks of the creek at Abermain and Weston.

The relevant flood studies covering Abermain and Weston are:

- Wallis and Fishery Creeks Total Catchment Management Strategy November 2000 for Hunter Catchment Management Trust;
- Wallis and Swamp/Fishery Creeks Flood Study October 2005 for Cessnock City Council.

As a result of the extensive additional information Council has collected from the June 2007 storm flood event, Council requested Patterson Britton & Partners to include the event's data into the report, as well as recalibrating the model itself, a more accurate model of flood behaviour in this catchment should result.

Council will request the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) to fund this additional work, DECC Officers have indicated that additional funding meets the guidelines and the application will be considered quickly. Council's consultant is currently preparing the brief and fee structure.

However a review of the two (2) current flood studies in November 2000 and October 2005 has shown that a priority strategy common to both studies is to:

“undertake a floodplain management study for Swamp / Fishery Creek to investigate planning and structural options that could be implemented to reduce flood damages incurred by property owners adjacent to the creek”. The floodplain management study to assess:

1. Potential structural flood damage reduction options (*in order of provisional priority*) include:
  - Creek improvements such as vegetation clearing, dredging, channel realignment;
  - Construction of flood control dams or retarding basins;
  - Installation of levees along the creek banks.

2. Potential non-structural measures that could be implemented to minimise flood damage (in order of provisional priority) include:
- House raising;
  - Property buy back scheme;
  - Flood proofing of flood effected buildings;
  - Planning Controls that set minimum habitable floor levels based on the flood hazard and modify land-use zonings upstream of the perceived flood problem to ensure that future development is not incompatible with flooding and that future development does not worsen flooding in downstream areas.
  - Provide flooding evacuation routes;
  - Undertake flood awareness campaigns and develop a suitable flood warning system.

However the time and resources necessary to complete a floodplain management study will take too long given the immediate action required to address the threat of the predicted repeat of the June 2007 storms. It is considered that a small improvement can be gained by undertaking point one (1) of the strategy above that is “creek improvements such as vegetation clearing, dredging, channel realignment”.

The current model using the existing flood model undertaken by Worley Parsons indicated that channel clearing might only impact on the flood level by a minimal amount, with most threatened properties still at risk of flooding. The reduction of the channel roughness and clearing will not increase flood heights and in some cases flood heights may be reduced by 200 mm to 500 mm.

It should be noted that much of the land containing the natural creek channel is in private ownership and that the approval of the owners would be required to undertake any work. In addition the approval of agencies such as the DECC, HCRCMA, Department of Fisheries and DOL may be required as part of the environmental assessment of any proposed works within the water course and within 40 metres of the top of bank.

The length of Swamp Creek from say 200 m north of William Street Bridge, Abermain to Fourth Street Weston which has the greatest impact on adjoining properties is 4.0 kilometres long. The cost to remove trees and clear vegetation is estimated to be \$200,000 over this length.

The provision of a low flow concrete channel would be preferred in the vicinity of Williams Street, Abermain because of limited access and allow silt to be removed so that the profile of the bed remained stable. The cost of this channel is estimated to be an additional \$500,000. In the vicinity downstream of Cessnock Road to Fourth Street Bridge a small earth channel would suffice given the ease of access.

Given the amount of funds estimated for these works above there will be a need for more survey and detailed design / construction analysis. It is considered that in the short term that Council complete clearing of trees and similar vegetation along a small width of the central watercourse to reduce obstructions should June 2007 event occur in the next 2 to 3 months. It is anticipated in the order of \$100,000 would be required for this first stage clearing which would include some selected extra clearing at Weston. Of course approvals would need to be obtained from the relevant land owners and Government Departments. These funds up to \$100,000 are available from the stormwater drainage program as there has been delays in the design and acquisition of some projects. These projects will be completed in 2008/09 Programs.

**RECOMMENDATION** that Council in recognition of strategies recommended in the flood studies completed in November 2000 and October 2005 adopt the following actions for Swamp / Fishery Creek:-

1. Undertake detailed design and costing for the construction of a small concrete lined channel and associated vegetation removal 200 metres north of Williams Street Bridge and earth channel with associated vegetation removal between Cessnock Road, Abermain and Fourth Street, Weston.
2. Undertake clearing of vegetation to reduce obstructions 200 metres north of Williams Street Bridge Abermain to 100 metres downstream of Fourth Street Bridge to the value of \$100,000 funded from the Drainage Program.
3. All legislative approvals from relevant government departments and residents / owners to be obtained prior to commencement of the works outlined in point 2 above.
4. A further report to be submitted to Council following point 1 above.

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 4 June 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
26 May 2008