

# BLACKWELL CREEK FLOOD STUDY

## INFORMATION SHEET

### INTRODUCTION

Penrith City Council and Advisian are preparing a Flood Study for the Blackwell Creek catchment and would like your help. The study area is located between South Creek and Ropes Creek and includes the residential suburb of St Clair and Erskine Park. The study area includes part of the Western Sydney Employment Lands located between Erskine Park and the Warragamba Pipeline.



### EXTENT OF THE BLACKWELL CREEK STUDY AREA

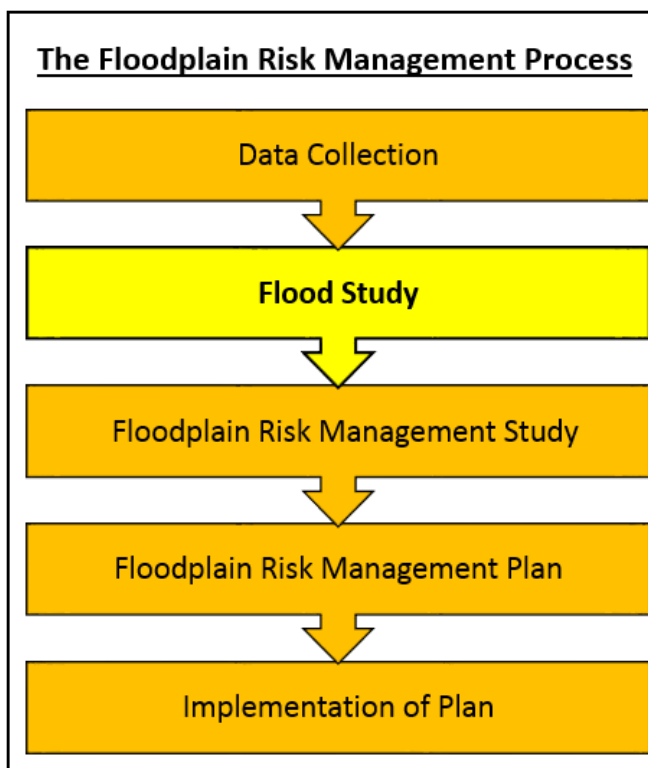
During most rainfall events across the urban portions of the catchment, runoff is carried by the stormwater system into Blackwell Creek. During heavy rainfall there is potential for the capacity of the stormwater system and roadside swales to be exceeded, leading to overland flooding. Floodwaters can also overtop the banks of the natural watercourses during large floods resulting in inundation of the adjoining floodplain.

The study will be overseen by the Penrith Floodplain Risk Management Committee and is receiving financial and technical support from the NSW Government under the Floodplain Management Program.

### WHY DO WE NEED TO PREPARE A FLOOD STUDY?

Flooding is the costliest natural disaster in Australia, causing an estimated \$400 million worth of damage each year. Over 2,000 people have lost their lives due to floods in Australia. However, flooding is also one of the most manageable natural disasters as we can reasonably predict what areas will be subject to inundation.

Under the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy, the management of flood prone land is primarily the responsibility of local councils. The policy specifies a staged process to manage the flood risk. This includes data collection, a flood study, a floodplain risk management study and plan, and implementation of the plan (see flowchart below).



Council will follow this staged process to manage the floodplain in your area. The "Data Collection" stage of work is largely complete, and we are now in the initial stages of the "Flood Study" stage of the process.

The preparation of a flood study will help Council to understand the existing flooding conditions within the catchment. It will also help to identify where flood risk reduction measures may be best implemented to reduce the cost of flooding to the community, assist with emergency management and guide future development.

#### **WHAT IS INVOLVED IN PREPARING A FLOOD STUDY?**

The primary objective of the flood study is to identify the nature and extent of the existing flooding conditions. The preparation of a flood study involves a considerable amount of work including:

- collection and review of all available flood-related information for the area.
- development of computer flood models to simulate the transformation of rainfall into runoff and to determine how that runoff would move across the catchment.
- calibration of the computer models to reproduce historic floods.



- use of the computer models to simulate a range of hypothetical floods from relatively frequent storms right up to the largest flood that could possibly occur.
- preparation of a flood study report and maps summarising the outcomes of all stages of the investigation.

### HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

Council recognises that the local knowledge and personal experience of people in the community is valuable to help identify issues surrounding flooding in the local area. In order to maximise the effectiveness of the Flood Study, it must be based on reliable information and data. This is where YOU can help!

The study team will consult with the community at various stages throughout the study, including:

- the enclosed **questionnaire** (also available via the Your Say Penrith website). We encourage you to complete it and share your flood experiences
  - in order to verify predictions of peak flood extents and levels. We would like to know if you can identify any flood marks within your area that you may have recorded. For example, you may remember how far up a building that these floods reached, or may remember specific roads that were cut off by floodwaters
  - similarly, private rainfall recordings will be highly appreciated if you and others may have kept during any flood event.
- a **public exhibition of the study and community workshop** - once prepared, the report will be placed on public exhibition and a community workshop will be held to provide an opportunity for everyone to review the report and associated mapping and ask questions. Any comments from the workshop and public exhibition will be reviewed and addressed as part of the final report.

### FIND OUT MORE

For the latest information on the study and community consultations, visit the Your Say Penrith website at [yoursaypenrith.com.au/BlackwellCreekFS](https://yoursaypenrith.com.au/BlackwellCreekFS). An online version of the questionnaire is also available via the website. For any questions or to submit any information that you think may be relevant to the study, please contact:

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