

## Media Release: Lord Howe Island Flood Study Review and Update

The Lord Howe Island Board (The Board) has engaged specialist flood consultants WMAwater to provide an improved understanding of flood behaviour and impacts on the Island. A flood investigation was completed in the late 1990's. This project will update the existing study to current conditions, making use of the available modelling techniques and outputs that have been developed since then.

The project will provide detailed mapping, which will allow the Board to make transparent and consistent decisions, ensuring that flood risk is minimised. This project has been titled Lord Howe Island Flood Study Review and Update.

The project is being undertaken in:

- consistency with the NSW Floodplain Development Manual (2005),
- consistency with national best practice,
- compatibility with future climate change scenarios,
- consistency with the transparent mapping needs of the Board.

The study area includes three catchments, King's Beach, Airport and Pinetrees to Steven's Reserve.

Significant rainfall events occurred in 1996 and 1998 in the study area. WMAwater previously undertook an analysis and have a detailed understanding of the mechanisms and consequences of these events.

WMAwater will work with the Board to produce an appropriate Flood Planning Area (FPA) and Flood Planning Levels (FPL) and will investigate various options for developing these with the Board based on the OEH draft methodology.

As part of the study, computer models will be established to determine the extent and nature of potential flooding in the catchment. The first stage of the Flood Study Update will collate and review all available information, and produce detailed information on the extent of flooding and flood hazard areas.

In the second stage, various mitigation measures including those identified by the community, where appropriate, will be assessed. The measures are aimed at managing the current and future flood risk in Lord Howe Island and can be structural and planning measures or 'response' measures.

The results of this assessment are presented in the Lord Howe Island Flood Study Review and Update. A preliminary assessment of mitigation measures will be undertaken. These will be investigated in detail in the next phase (The Floodplain Risk Management Study).



## **What Happens Now?**

This newsletter forms part of our community consultation program to involve the community in the process. The community will be called upon during stage 1 of the study to complete Questionnaires to gather information on their flood experiences. A hardcopy mail out would also be supported by an online version (Survey Monkey) of the newsletter and questionnaire using the Board's website and survey monkey platform. A media release will be coupled with the newsletter/questionnaire to inform on the key facts and aims of the study and identify how input can be provided.

During Stage 4 of the project, a newsletter will be sent to the residents, and a media release will be prepared, to give an update on the study and the upcoming public exhibition and information sessions. A poster presentation will be prepared to summarise the outcomes of the study.

Questions about the Study can be directed to the following contacts at Council or WMAwater:

- John Teague, Lord Howe Island Board, *Tel: (02) 6581 8629*
- Monique Retallick, WMAwater, *Tel: 02 9299 2855*