

Our Ref: D19/27469

28 May 2019

Mr David Hitchcock -Chief Executive Officer  
Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority  
266 Seacombe Road  
SEACLIFF PARK SA 5049

By email: [davidehitchcock@bigpond.com](mailto:davidehitchcock@bigpond.com)

Dear David

**Re: Floodplain Management Australia National Conference 2020**

Council, at its Ordinary Meeting on 27 May 2019, resolved as follows:-

**14.4 2019 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference**

*Moved Councillor Keen Seconded Councillor Parker 2019/212  
“that Council, having considered Item 14.4 - 2019 Floodplain Management Australia  
National Conference, dated 27 May 2019, receives and notes the report and in doing  
so:-*

- 1. Instructs the Chief Executive Officer to apply for membership of Floodplain Management Australia at an annual cost of \$995.00; and*
- 2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to, as part of his role on the Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority, write to the Executive and Member Councils encouraging them to attend the 2020 conference and apply for membership.”*

**CARRIED**

Adelaide Plains Council (APC) sent three delegates to the Floodplain Management Australia Conference held at Hotel Realm, Canberra from 14-17 May 2019 of which an overview of the event was captured in the report as presented to council (attached).

While the conference program was to be commended, it was the ability for APC delegates to network with experts from across the nation and gather information and advice on a multitude of issues affecting our Council that was considered to be of enormous benefit.

It is believed that tapping into this network and fostering relationships across the sector will be beneficial to not only APC but also the Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA) and Member Councils, with the pivotal flood mitigation issues to be faced.

APC encourages the GRFMA and Member Councils to attend next year's conference in Toowoomba, Queensland. The conference will be hosted by *Toowoomba Regional Council* and held at the Empire Theatres from Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 May, with Pre-Conference Workshops on Tuesday 19 May.


Yours sincerely



Rob Veitch  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Enc 14.4 – 2019 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference Report

Cc Adelaide Hills Council  
Town of Gawler  
The Barossa Council  
City of Playford  
Light Regional Council

 <b>Adelaide Plains Council</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>2019 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference</b>
	<b>Department:</b>	<b>Executive Office</b>
	<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>Date: 27 May 2019</b>	<b>Document Ref:</b>	<b>D19/25646</b>

## OVERVIEW

Council, at its meeting held on 15 October 2018, adopted the below resolution:-

### *14.2 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference 2019*

*Moved Councillor Lawrence Seconded Councillor Keen 2018/456  
 "that Council, having considered Item 14.2 – Floodplain Management Australia National Conference 2019, dated 15 October 2018, receives and notes the report and in doing so resolves to send both of its Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority Board Member and Elected Member Proxy Member to the conference, set down for 14-17 May 2019 in Canberra, ACT. In recognition of the abstract submission deadline, Council further resolves to delegate authority to either of its Board Members to submit an abstract to present at the conference by the due date of 29 October 2018."*

**CARRIED**

The 2019 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference was convened at Hotel Realm, Canberra from 14-17 May 2019. In accordance with the aforementioned resolution, Council's delegates to the conference were Councillor Terry-Anne Keen and Councillor John Lush, together with Chief Executive Officer, James Miller. Councillors Keen and Lush, together with the Chief Executive Officer, were nominated to attend by virtue of the positions they hold as Board Members and Deputy Board Members on the Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA).

The conference programme commenced with a series of concurrent workshops on day 1 with the key theme being 'Application of Australian Rainfall and Runoff in Urban Areas.' Floodplain risk management, flood modelling and total flood warning systems were a key focus for the day's programme.

Day 2 marked the official opening of the conference. Local indigenous Elder, Doctor Aunty Matilda House, performed a warm and very entertaining *Welcome to Country*. Following the opening formalities, delegates were briefed by the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Minister who presides over land, water and biodiversity management. It was an informative address to hear the key themes, issues and trends affecting the ACT. Closing out the Plenary was the keynote address of the day, delivered by Sarah Barker, Special Counsel at MinterEllison Lawyers. This address focused on climate change and the associated legal, financial, insurance and liability-related aspects of global warming; a very captivating address indeed.

Concurrent sessions followed the morning session with key themes focusing on:-

- flood policy, guidance and best practice
- communicating flood hazard and risk
- modelling
- emergency preparedness and management

Council's delegates elected to take up the opportunity of a study tour during the afternoon of the both inner and outlying reaches of Canberra, visiting key sites prone to flood inundation and learning of experiences and flood mitigation issues was a key theme. Site inspections of flood mitigation infrastructure, levees and dams was the focus for this study tour.

Day 3 continued the focus on flood policy guidance and best practice, however additional themes were introduced and focused on:-

- national collaboration and coordination
- flood prediction and warning
- land use planning
- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage focus session

Interspersed with the concurrent presentations was a Plenary titled '*State and Territory*' which provided a snapshot of the local landscape and issues affecting NSW and the ACT.

Rounding out the day's programme was the Floodplain Management Australia Annual General Meeting, while for those non-members, a concurrent session on data and better outcomes was workshopped with delegates.

The final day's programme commenced with a keynote address from Harald Drager, President of the *International Emergency Management Society*.

Following the morning keynote address, concurrent sessions centred on:-

- land use planning
- climate change and associated environmental aspects
- social and cultural aspects
- infrastructure projects and asset management
- flood stories and case studies

While the conference program in itself was to be commended, it was the ability for Adelaide Plain Council (APC) delegates to network with experts from across the nation and glean information and advice on a multitude of issues affecting our Council that proved to be of enormous benefit. Contacts have now been forged and relationships will be furthered with land use planners, engineers and water hydrologists, influential in their respective field of employment.

As it relates to APC, delegates firmly believe that tapping into this network and fostering relationships across the sector will hold Council in good stead as we face pivotal flood mitigation issues into the future, be it Gawler River related, the Light River or coastal inundation.

The below recommendation seeks support from the Chamber for APC to become a member of Floodplain Management Australia, with annual costs amounting to \$995.00. Delegates believe the benefits to Council far outweigh the cost, particularly through the ability to obtain regular FMA publications, being on the FMA mailing list, fostering networking opportunities and having the capacity to tap into key stakeholder networks when seeking advice. In addition, it is recommended

that APC encourage the GRFMA (both the Executive and Member Councils) to attend next year's conference in Toowoomba.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**"that having considered Item 14.4 - *2019 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference*, dated 27 May 2019, receives and notes the report and in doing so:-**

- 1. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to apply for membership of Floodplain Management Australia at an annual cost of \$995.00; and**
- 2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to, as part of his role on the Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority, write to the Executive and Member Councils encouraging them to attend the 2020 conference and apply for membership."**