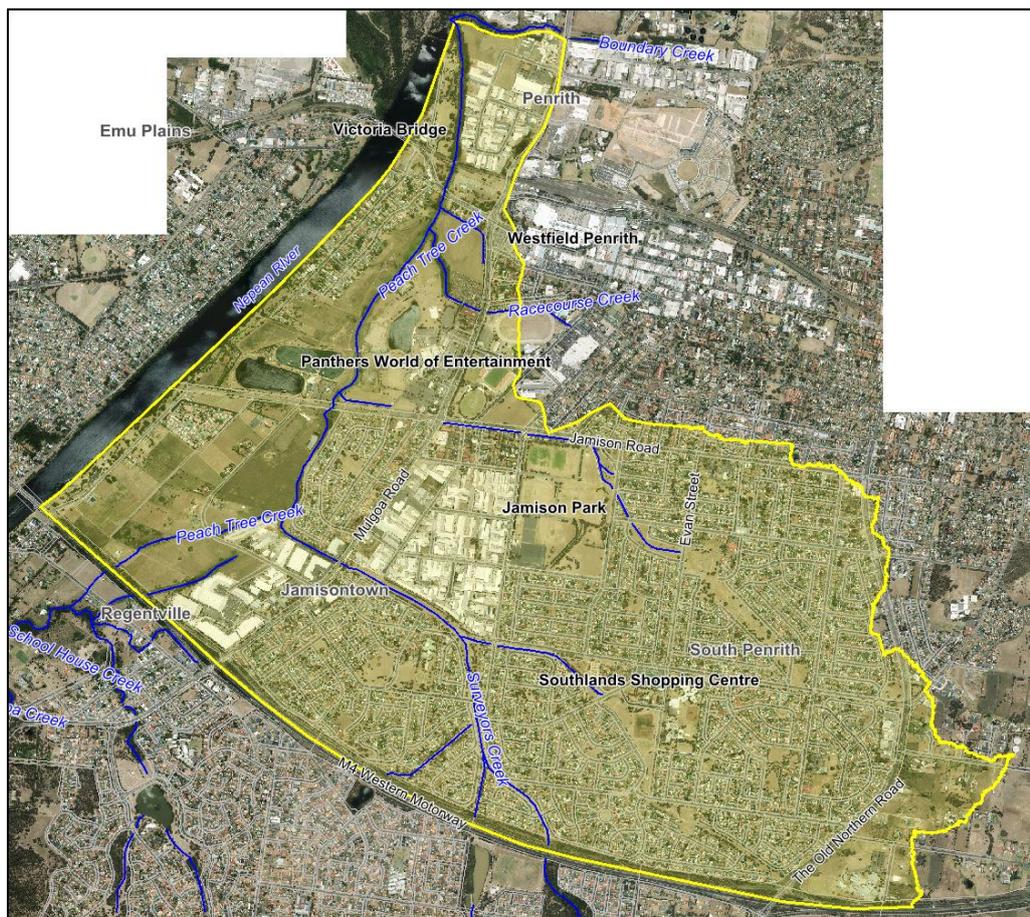


PEACH TREE AND LOWER SURVEYORS CREEK FLOOD STUDY

INFORMATION SHEET

INTRODUCTION

Council is in the initial stages of preparing a flood study for the Peach Tree and Lower Surveyors Creeks catchment. The extent of the catchment is shown in the map below and includes the suburbs of Penrith, South Penrith and Jamisontown. During most rainfall events across the catchment, runoff is carried by the stormwater system into a network of drainage channels which ultimately flow into Peach Tree or Surveyors Creek. But during heavy rainfall there is potential for the capacity of the stormwater system to be exceeded, leading to overland flooding. Flood waters can also overtop the banks of the local creeks as well as the Nepean River during large floods resulting in inundation of the adjoining floodplain.



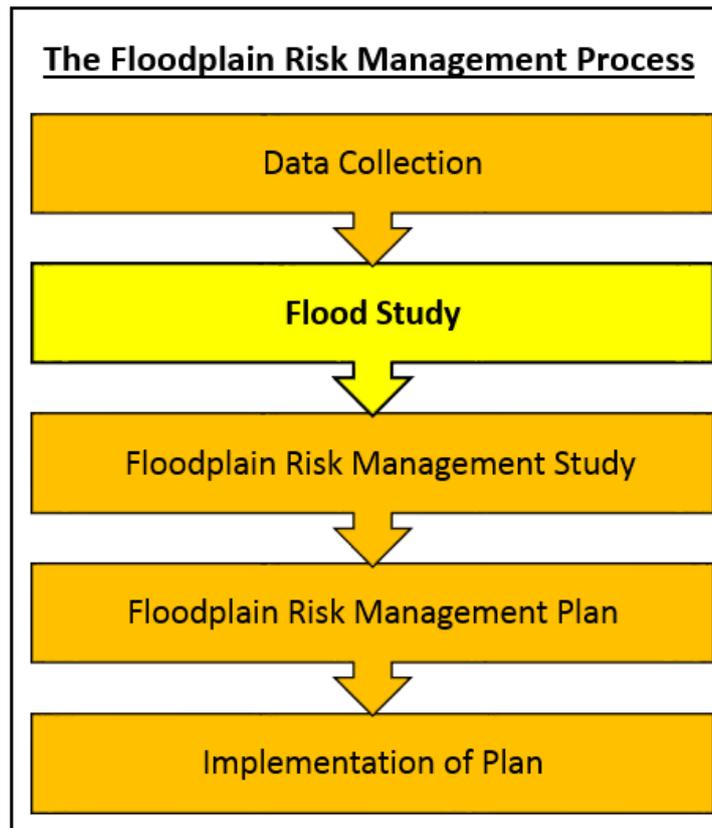
Extent of the Peach Tree Creek and Lower Surveyors Creek study area

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

WHY DO WE NEED TO PREPARE A FLOOD STUDY?

Flooding is the most costly natural disaster in Australia, causing an estimated \$314 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 problem 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 problem. The preparation of a flood study involves a considerable amount of work including the following tasks:

- 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 be distributed 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 community holds important information about past floods that will help identify flooding ‘trouble spots’ and assist in calibrating the computer flood models. The study team will consult with the community at various stages throughout the study to obtain this information:

- a **questionnaire** is included with this information sheet and also available online – we encourage you to complete it to share your flood experiences.
- once the computer model is developed we will meet with interested residents and business owners who have experienced flooding problems to verify the model is replicating these past experiences.
- once the draft flood study report is prepared, the report will be placed on public exhibition and a **community workshop** will be held to give you an opportunity to review the report and associated mapping and ask questions about any aspect of the study. Any comments from the workshop and public exhibition will be reviewed and addressed as part of the final report.

WEBSITE

A website has been established for the study: peachtree.floodstudy.com.au/. The website will provide the latest available information on the study including details of the above community consultations. An online version of the questionnaire is also available on the website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information or to submit any information you think may be relevant to the study, please contact:

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