

Effects of Climate Change in Relation to Flood Risk

I am concerned that our DCP28 on Flood Plan and Flood Proofing, which was last updated in 1997, may not be adequate. In particular I am concerned that they do not take into account the latest assessments on the effects of climate change in relation to flood risk.

The NSW government's draft coastal planning guideline to adapting to sea level rise states:

The NSW sea level rise planning benchmarks are an increase above 1990 mean sea levels of ... 90cm by 2100.

Our Emergency Risk Management Plan already states the risk level is high and this evaluation is not based on the latest information. As the sea level rises the ability of storm water to disperse will become more difficult. So we need to redraw our flood plans. We need to think in geological time frames to protect people and environments from storm surge and flooding events in the future.

I cannot vote against our DCP but I am concerned that in the future Canterbury Council could be opened up to damages claims and so we need to change DCP28.

Last week in the St George Leader there was an article stating that people in Kogarah Bay near Muddy's Creek on the lower section of Cooks River, are finding it difficult to get insurance against flooding.

The inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities states:

4.6 Climate change could have adverse impacts on insurance affordability and availability, compounding the problem of under-insurance:

Around 23 per cent of Australian households (1.8 million) are currently without building or contents insurance. As insurance premiums rise, more households may opt out of insuring, putting an added burden on governments and communities when disasters occur.⁸

4.7 A number of submissions to the inquiry noted concerns about insurance coverage for coastal areas: 'I think inevitably we are going to see major changes in the extent to which the insurance industry is prepared to cover these properties in the future'.

I am putting up a motion regarding DCP 28 for next Council. However, I need to have my concern in regard to Gordon St and the other flood affected properties with DA's in East ward, on the record.