41.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WYOMING CREEK

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for:

Gosford City Council 49 Mann Street, Gosford NSW 2250 Telephone (043) 258 397; Facsimile (043) 232 477

Prepared by:

Kinhill Engineers Pty Ltd ACN 007 660 317 645 Harris Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007 Telephone (02) 911 0000; Facsimile (02) 212 6252

> November 1993 \$90052/003

DISCLAIMER

The sole purpose of the services performed by Kinhill and of this report is to prepare a management plan for Wyoming Creek, Gosford, New South Wales, in accordance with the scope of services set out in the contract between Kinhill Engineers Pty Ltd ("Kinhill") and Gosford City Council ("the Client"). That scope of services was defined by the requests of the Client, the time and budgetary constraints imposed by the Client, and the availability of access to the site.

Kinhill derived the data in this report primarily from the survey and mapping provided by the Client, available mapping, visual inspections of the site, results from previous studies and recommended methods and techniques provided in various references identified herein. The passage of time, manifestation of latent conditions or occurrence of future events may require further exploration at the site, analysis of the data, and re-evaluation of the findings, observations and conclusions expressed in the report.

In preparing this report, Kinhill has relied upon and presumed accurate certain information (or the absence thereof) about the mapping and site survey, results from previous studies, and information provided by governmental officials and authorities, the Client and others identified herein. Except as otherwise stated in the report, Kinhill has not attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of any such information. No warranty or guarantee, whether express or implied, is made with respect to the data reported or findings, observations and conclusions based on information not verified.

This report has been prepared on behalf of and for the exclusive use of the Client, and is subject to and issued in connection with the provisions of the agreement between Kinhill and the Client. Kinhill accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for or in respect of any use of or reliance upon this report by any third party.

CONTENTS

i

1

1

7

Section Page **SUMMARY** WY1 **RENWICK STREET AND GLENCOE AVENUE** FLOODWAY AND CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT AREA WY1.1 Description of the problem WY1.2 Recommendations WY1.3 Concise description of the plan 2 WY2 ALAN DAVIDSON PARK FLOODWAY AND DISSIPATOR AREA WY2.1 Description of the problem 3 WY2.2 Recommendations 3 WY2.3 Concise description of the plan 3 WY3 **BOURBON STREET AND DAY STREET FLOODWAY** AND CHANNEL WY3.1 Description of the problem 4 WY3.2 Recommendations 4 WY3.3 Concise description of the plan 4 WY4 CHAMBERLAIN ROAD FLOODWAY AND CHANNEL **IMPROVEMENT AREA** WY4.1 Description of the problem 5 WY4.2 Recommendations 5 WY4.3 Concise description of the plan 5 WY5 **GISELLE AVENUE FLOODWAY AND CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT AREA** WY5.1 Description of the problem 6 WY5.2 Recommendations 6

WY5.3 Concise description of the plan

CONTENTS

Section		Page
WY6	WYOMING CREEK FLOODWAY	
WY6.1	Description of the problem	8
WY6.2	Recommendations	9
WY6.3	Concise description of the plan	9
WY7	FUTURE DEVELOPMENT	
WY7.1	General	10
WY8	PRIORITIES OF WORK	
WY8.1		11

LIST OF TABLES

1

Table		Page
WY1	Recommended works and priority ranking	12
	LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	

Figure		Page
WY1	Recommended works for Wyoming Creek	13
WY2	Management Plan for Wyoming Creek—existing conditions contours	14
WY3	Flood contours at completion of proposed works for Wyoming Creek	16
WY4	Typical cross-sections for Wyoming Creek	18

SUMMARY

Wyoming Creek is a tributary of Lower Narara Creek and has a total catchment area of 2.5 km^2 . The majority of the creek flows are contained within the channel, but there are sections of the creek where the undersized culverts or restrictive channel cross-sections have caused flooding. This flooding is compounded by the high downstream water levels in Narara Creek.

The study area for Wyoming Creek has been divided into five distinct regions. The regions are:

- Renwick Street and Glencoe Avenue floodway and channel improvement area (Area WY1);
- Alan Davidson Park floodway and dissipator area (WY2);
- Bourbon Street and Day Street floodway and channel (Area WY3);
- Chamberlain Road floodway and channel improvement area (Area WY4);
- Giselle Avenue floodway and channel improvement area (WY5).

Figure WY1 indicates the location of these regions.

In addition, a catchment based strategy has been considered for Wyoming Creek (WY6) and for the future development areas (WY7).

Various flood mitigation options were examined in order to provide a basis for the formulation of the Wyoming Creek Floodplain Management Plan and these have been discussed in detail in the Floodplain Management Study.

Key features of the plan are:

- by the formalizing of channels and culvert upgrades, no buildings in habitable areas will be flooded by the designated flood;
- provision for limited development on flood fringe land subject to strict controls;
- lands within the floodway will be maintained in perpetuity for the passage of flood water and a drainage easement dedicated where appropriate;

- a staging of works;
- controls for future development of the upstream catchment.

The recommended works for the plan are shown on Figure WY1 and the Management Plan is shown in Figure WY2 (Council Drawings 4/108/A1 and 4/109/A1). The flood contours shown on the plan are for existing conditions. Flood contours at the completion of proposed works are shown in Figure WY3 (Council Drawings 4/110/A1 and to 4/111/A1). Typical channel cross-sections are shown in Figure WY4.

Benefit-cost ratios have been calculated and included where possible. Where the proposed works do not specifically prevent flooding of houses, rather solve other problems such as scour and erosion of the creek bed, benefit-cost ratios cannot be calculated.

WY1 RENWICK STREET AND GLENCOE AVENUE FLOODWAY AND CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT AREA

WY1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

The existing twin cell 2.1 m by 2.1 m box culvert under the Pacific Highway overtops by 800 mm in a 1% AEP event. This culvert is undersized for the 1% AEP discharge, a problem that is exacerbated by the high tailwater level in Narara Creek.

Upstream, the section of creek between the Pacific Highway and Glencoe Avenue comprises an incised channel that passes along the backs of the properties in Renwick Street and Glencoe Avenue. Some sections of the creek have been lined with concrete blocks to prevent scour and erosion; however, some of these blocks have moved and slipped into the creek bed.

There is no dedicated drainage easement in the area and four properties are flood liable.

WY1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to reduce the flooding problem, it is recommended that the capacity of the Pacific Highway culverts is doubled and the creek be lined from the Pacific Highway to Chainage 280, just upstream of Glencoe Avenue. As a result of these works, the design flood levels would be sufficiently reduced to ensure that no houses are flood liable during a 1% AEP event. However, low lying land will still be inundated by a 1% AEP event.

Concrete is the preferred lining material due to the restrictions in available land. Typical cross-sections for the lining work are shown in Figure WY4. The batter for the proposed concrete channel is approximately 1:1.5 vertical-horizontal. Escape-stairways should be incorporated in the channel walls at safe intervals.

The benefits of this culvert amplification and creek lining cannot be achieved unless the section of Wyoming Creek downstream of the Pacific Highway has been improved. Under the Lower Narara Creek Floodplain Management Plan, it has been recommended that the creek be realigned to create a more direct floodway between the Pacific Highway and the railway line. These works significantly lower the flood levels in this section of the creek.

The estimated cost of these works is \$520,000.

WY1.3 CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

- Double the capacity of the Pacific Highway culverts.
- Line the creek and regrade the channel between the Pacific Highway and Alan Davidson Park.
- Approval from landowners is to be received before works can proceed.
- Existing exposed and covered sewers need to be protected.
- Works identified under the Lower Narara Creek Floodplain Management Plan for the downstream creek must be completed prior to the works at the Pacific Highway.
- Future buildings should be constructed to an appropriate Council specified minimum floor level.

WY2 ALAN DAVIDSON PARK FLOODWAY AND DISSIPATOR AREA

WY2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

Wyoming Creek passes through Alan Davidson Park between Day Street and Glencoe Avenue. The park is a large passive and active recreation area with short, well maintained grass cover. The grassed banks form a natural floodplain and therefore no channel formalization is required. However, sections of the creek are eroding on the outside of the bends and bank protection works would be required there.

Just downstream of the concrete channel at Chainage 696, the creek flow regime changes from supercritical to subcritical flow. This transition has caused erosion and scour.

WY2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended proposal is to provide gabion or sandstone rock protection works at eroding areas and to construct an energy dissipation structure at the discharge point of the existing concrete channel. This work should be undertaken as erosion becomes severe. Every attempt should be made to retain significant trees. The estimated cost is \$160,000.

WY2.3 CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

- Provide gabion or sandstone rock bank protection works at eroding sections of the creek.
- Construct an energy dissipator using rock, gabions or concrete impact blocks.
- Landscaping is required after completion of all protection works.
- Retain significant trees after construction.

WY3 BOURBON STREET AND DAY STREET FLOODWAY AND CHANNEL

WY3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

Upstream of Alan Davidson Park and downstream of Day Street, Wyoming Creek is contained in a concrete channel. Several footbridges and an access bridge span the channel which is sometimes used for skateboarding.

The blockage caused by washed-away bridges lodging at the skateboard ramp at Chainage 797 was the major cause of the flooding in February 1990 to properties adjoining the channel. Three houses adjoining the lined drain would be liable to flooding in a 1% AEP event, if the obstruction reoccurred. The lined drain has the capacity to convey the 1% AEP discharge under supercritical flow with minimal freeboard, but for this to happen, the channel must be free of any obstructions or likely blockages during high flow.

WY3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended work for this section of the creek is for the skateboard ramp at Chainage 797 to be maintained so that it provides minimal flow resistance or it is removed entirely. Any footbridges designed in the future should be subjected to a rigorous hydraulic analysis. Currently, each of the lots adjoining the drain has a simply supported timber bridge for access to the opposite bank which could wash away during high flow. Such crossings should be raised or reconstructed to have a minimum clearance of 500 mm above the 1% AEP flood level and be a single span structure.

The estimated cost of this work is \$40,000.

WY3.3 CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

- Remove skateboard ramp.
- Raise footbridges and access bridges.
- No future obstructions such as service crossings are to be allowed in the flow area unless detailed analysis has been done to assess their impact on the flow regime.

WY4 CHAMBERLAIN ROAD FLOODWAY AND CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT AREA

WY4.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

Upstream of Day Street, Wyoming Creek meanders through a public reserve up to Chainage 1077 before passing through the frontage of some properties on Chamberlain Road. Between Chainage 885 and Chainage 1077 the creek is overgrown and ill defined, and there are some sections where bank erosion is undermining the property boundaries.

Upstream of Chainage 1077, the creek passes through private properties. However, the floodplain has been well maintained and is generally covered in short grass.

No houses are flood-affected along this section of the creek.

WY4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

As no houses are flood liable, only localised bank protection works with an estimated cost of \$59,000 are recommended. These are required just upstream of the Day Street culvert.

WY4.3 CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

- Bank protection required just upstream of Day Street.
- Bank protection to be properly designed to withstand scour and undermining.
- Future buildings should be constructed to an appropriate Council specified minimum floor level.

WY5 GISELLE AVENUE FLOODWAY AND CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT AREA

WY5.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

The house immediately upstream of the Chamberlain Road culvert is liable to flooding in a 1% AEP event under existing conditions because of:

- high tailwater levels downstream of the Chamberlain Road culvert;
- the reduction of the culvert capacity by a tree on the western bank, immediately upstream of the culvert;
- the already restricted culvert entrance.

The owner of the lot upstream of the culvert has also fenced the property and, in doing so has created a restriction for the overflowing water. The vehicular guard rail and mesh railing over the culvert are also potential flow obstructions.

Further upstream of the Chamberlain Road culvert, up to Chainage 1531, bank erosion is also gradually undermining property boundaries.

WY5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended works for this section of the creek are to improve the inlet conditions of the Chamberlain Road culvert and upgrade the culvert. At the inlet to the culverts, the creek would need to be widened and the obstructing tree removed. In addition the vehicular guard rail and mesh railing above the culvert should be replaced with railings that offer minimal obstruction to flows.

It is also proposed to upgrade the existing pipe culverts under Chamberlain Road to twin cell 3.6 m x 1.5 m box culverts. As a result of these works and the channel works recommended downstream, the house at No. 1 Giselle Avenue becomes flood free for the 1% AEP event.

Upstream of the culvert, localised bank protection works are proposed.

The estimated cost of these works is 243,000. The benefit cost ratio is approximately 0.2.

WY5.3 CONCISE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PLAN

- Widen and line creek section in Lots 108, 199, 200 and adjacent to Lots 101 and 502.
- Remove obstructing tree to improve entrance condition to the Chamberlain Road culvert.
- Provide localised bank protection upstream of Chamberlain Road.
- Upgrade existing culverts under Chamberlain Road by box culverts.
- Future buildings should be constructed to an appropriate Council specified minimum floor level.

WY6 WYOMING CREEK FLOODWAY

WY6.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

Wyoming Creek is a reasonably well defined creek that discharges into Narara Creek. The majority of the creek flows are contained within the channel but there are sections of the creek where undersized culverts or restrictive channel cross-sections have caused flooding. Mitigation measures to alleviate these problem areas are discussed in other sections; however the maintenance of the creek as a whole is described here.

A major problem associated with flooding in the Narara Creek tributaries is the heavy vegetation within the creek and the dense bush on the floodplains, resulting in higher than normal flood levels. Removing vegetation and obstructions from the channel can often improve the conveyance of the stream, thus reducing design flood levels. However, any channel clearing and maintenance works should be carefully undertaken so that erosion of channel banks is minimized.

Another common problem in the Narara Creek tributaries is the erosion and scour that occurs. This results from the rapid directional change of the narrow creek as it runs off the steep catchment.

Wyoming Creek floodway can generally be defined as the full extent of the flood liable land. Land use in floodways must also be carefully controlled to ensure that the conveyance of the floodway is not reduced. Neither buildings nor hazardous uses, obstructions or operations likely to impede floodwaters should be permitted in floodways: only land use that is flood compatible or likely to enhance floodway capacity should be allowed.

Floodways may need to be crossed by service installations, such as water, sewer, power, and gas mains. These should be permitted in the floodway provided they are investigated adequately and designed in a manner that does not significantly affect flood flow capacity or flood levels. They should also be designed so as to reduce potential damage to the services to the absolute minimum.

WY6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

A regular maintenance programme is to be established for the creek to ensure that there is no reduction in the conveyance of the creek and in consequence an increase in flood levels. Also the creeks should be regularly inspected to detect any signs of increasing erosion.

The floodway is to be permanently maintained so that there would be no significant development within the floodway to reduce the future capacity of the floodway.

WY6.3 CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The proposed plan for the Wyoming Creek floodway is as follows:

- No work that would impair the passage of floodwaters or increase flood levels so as to adversely affect adjoining properties would be permitted in the floodway.
- Fences of rigid paling, chain wire or similar construction likely to collect debris and/or impair floodwaters would not be permitted.
- All land uses are to be flood compatible.
- A regular creek maintenance programme would be established.
- Proposals to cross the floodway with services would be permitted provided that the proposals were adequately investigated and designed in a manner that did not significantly affect flood flow capacity and levels.

WY7 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

WY7.1 GENERAL

One of the main findings in this study indicates that the present creek system will not be able to sustain any significant increase in flow volumes generated by future developments in the upstream areas. As a result, all future development applications must incorporate suitable water detention facilities before such developments will be approved by Council.

The design of detention facilities requires input of the stage-storage-discharge relationship into an overall established hydrologic model for the whole creek system. The normal method of stipulating that peak developed discharge must not exceed pre-developed discharge may not be entirely applicable for all cases as it does not take into consideration the effect of time. Also, depending on the complexity of the network of basins in a catchment, the positive effects of one basin may be partially or completely neutralised by another basin instead of complementing each other. It is recommended that detention facilities are to be designed by experienced hydrologic and hydraulic professionals in order to realise the full benefits of a network of basins within a catchment.

WY8 PRIORITIES OF WORK

WY8.1

The proposed staging of works is consistent with the provision of a reduced flood hazard and implementation of the plan while being conscious of financial constraints. The proposed priority of works is given in Table WY1. This table is given as a guide should Council have money available at any time then the lower priority works could be undertaken to make use of the financial resources available.

Table WY1	Recommended works and priority ranking for Wyoming Creek			
Location	Description	Cost	Priority	
Renwick St and Glencoe Ave	Lined channel from Ch0 to Ch280	\$430,000	3	
flood way and channel improvement area	Pacific Highway culvert doubled	\$90,000	2	
Alan Davidson Park floodway and dissipator area (Ch280 To Ch690)	Energy dissipator downstream of concrete channel in Alan Davidson Park	\$140,000	6	
	Selective bank protection between Ch280 to Ch690	\$20,000	5	
Bourbon St and Day St floodway and channel (Ch700 To Ch867)	Remove skateboard ramp and timber bridges in lined drain and raise footbridges and access bridges	\$40,000	Completed 1992	
Chamberlain Rd floodway and channel improvement area (Ch885 To Ch1418)	Selective bank protection between Ch885 to Ch1077	\$59,000	4	
Giselle Ave floodway and channel inmprovement area (Ch1432 To Ch1531)	Convert Chamberlain Rd pipe culvert to twin cell RCBC Construct new headwalls upstream and downstream to Chamberlain Road culvert and channel protection works to Ch1513	\$243,000	1	

The upgrading of the Pacific Highway culverts and the lining of the channel in the Renwick and Glencoe Avenue area is not to proceed before the works downstream of the Pacific Highway have been completed













Figure WY4 TYPICAL CROSS-SECTION FOR WYOMING CREEK

WYOMING CREEK, WINGELLO CREEK & BRADYS GULLY CREEK FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT STUDY

End of Report