

Foster Flood and Drainage Study

At last week's Council Meeting, a '*Flood and Drainage Study for Foster and Surrounding Catchments*' was formally adopted.

The Study was completed by South Gippsland Shire Council to identify areas susceptible to flooding, and to guide future growth planning in the Foster area. The Study makes a series of recommendations, including the introduction of flood overlay mapping into the South Gippsland Planning Scheme.

The Study was prepared in response to a flooding event in 2016, which impacted the Boundary Road area. Modelling used in the Study showed that 121 existing buildings in Foster would be impacted by a significant (1-in-100-year) flooding event. This data, coupled with the absence of a flood mapping overlay, mean that there is currently a risk of development occurring without appropriate flood mitigation actions being considered.

To assist with the implementation of the flood study into the South Gippsland Planning Scheme, Council has resolved to apply to the Victorian Government's '*Regional Flood-related Amendments Program*'. This program provides funding support for local governments to identify and prepare for future flooding, and to raise community awareness of potential flooding risk.

If the application is successful, Council will work with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) to prepare the required planning scheme amendment, which would then be released for community engagement.

The *Flood and Drainage Study for Foster and Surrounding Catchments* can be viewed via the flood portal on the WGCMA website: wgcm.vic.gov.au/planning-and-advice/my-flood-risk/

Quote attributable to Clare Williams, Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council

"Although we all hope that flooding events won't occur, it is important that we are prepared for them just the same. The Flood and Drainage Study provides valuable information that will inform Council's next steps and help with future planning for Foster and surrounds."

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