1. After ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald devastated the Bundaberg Region in January 2013, Bundaberg Regional Council (the Council) established the Burnett River Floodplain Action Plan Community Reference Group to develop the Burnett River Floodplain Action Plan.
2. The Council engaged international services provider GHD who undertook an analysis of the Reference Group’s final report and identified measures/options for the Council’s action plan. These included early warning and emergency response initiatives and flood mitigation projects such as a levee, dredging activity and a review of existing weirs.
3. The Bundaberg Flood Protection Scoping Study will enable further consideration of existing studies and their relationships for Bundaberg and ensure the full matrix of potential flood mitigation options are understood, assessed, and costed. The study will build on the work undertaken by GHD and re-engage with the Council and the community to develop and prioritise mitigation proposals and articulate the projects to be included in a 10-year action plan.
4. The scoping study will be completed in two stages. Stage 1 will incorporate an independent desktop review of the Burnett River Flood study, floodplain risk management study and floodplain risk management plan and any related community flood reports produced in connection with these studies/plan. An independent peer review of the community engagement and consultation program will be completed to identify any limitations or gaps in existing information. Extensive community engagement will be undertaken to identify all proposed options and offer alternative suggestions that can be tested against a validated flood model. The consultation will focus on eliciting local community knowledge through targeted public meetings and consultation with smaller groups as required. The timeframe for State 1 is estimated at 8-12 weeks.
5. Stage 2 will involve refinement of work already undertaken incorporating further and updated information acquired through Stage 1. Dissemination of information and results of the refinement work to the community will complete Stage 2. The timeframe for Stage 2 is estimated at 20 weeks.
6. The scoping study will lead to the creation of a blueprint for implementation and delivery of flood mitigation projects and measures for Bundaberg over the next 10 years and prioritisation of the most cost-effective solutions.
7. Cabinet noted that the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning would undertake the Bundaberg Flood Scoping Study to develop a 10-year action plan for major flood mitigation works and measures in Bundaberg.
8. *Attachments*
* Nil.