

Towns stock up to prepare for long period of isolation

RESIDENTS of Walgett and Lightning Ridge are stocking up on food and moving farming equipment and livestock to higher ground as floodwater advances slowly towards the NSW towns, which could be cut off for weeks.

The State Emergency Service (SES) is urging residents in the north-western NSW towns to prepare for the worst, as floodwater from the north of the state and Queensland starts to affect the area.

Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Goodooga will be isolated within days, stranding about 6000 people, the SES says.

Lightning Ridge is likely to be cut off for two weeks, but isolation at Walgett could stretch to six weeks and at the Aboriginal township of Goodooga for two months.

"People are doing the right thing and stocking up ahead of this isolation. Which is good, because that isolation could be quite a long one," SES spokesman Phil Campbell said.

Mayor of Walgett Shire Council Gustavus Murray said the levy would protect the main streets of Walgett, but farmers were readying their properties for the major flooding expected on Monday.



BACK HOME: Amy Sheehan, left, and Kody Crawford help Patricia Budd. - Picture by Harrison Saragossi



Planning & Infrastructure

EXHIBITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Riverside at Tea Gardens - Concept Plan

Application No 10_0136
Location Lots 10 & 40 DP 270100 and Part Lot 1 DP 270100 between Myall Street and the Myall River, Tea Gardens
Proponent Crighton Properties Pty Ltd
Council Area Great Lakes

Description of proposal

The proponent seeks concept plan approval for the following:

- 67.1 hectares of community title residential precinct, comprising multiple stages to create approximately 855 dwellings/lots, roads and community facilities;
- 8.1 hectares of tourist/recreational precinct (including a conference centre and accommodation) in the north eastern part of the site for up to 65 tourist units;
- A 5.6 hectare precinct set aside for an unspecified future tourist-related development;
- 2.6 hectares of active open space including pocket parks, children's playgrounds and exercise and recreation equipment;
- 23.1 hectares of Water Sensitive Urban Design measures including the creation of freshwater wetlands and ponds, drains and swales, open space and dry stormwater management devices;
- Retention of the existing 6.7 hectare saline lake and drain to Myall River;
- Conservation land comprising 109.3 hectares of wildlife corridors, buffers, open space and wetlands;
- Road works including construction and upgrading of vehicle access to Myall Street and Toonang Drive and construction of internal roads and cycleways; and
- Associated landscaping and infrastructure works.

Exhibition

A copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) may be viewed on the Department of Planning & Infrastructure's website (majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au). The EA will also be on exhibition from Wednesday 8 February 2012 until Friday 9 March 2012 during regular business hours, at:

- Department of Planning & Infrastructure, Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- Department of Planning & Infrastructure, Newcastle Office, Price Waterhouse Coopers Centre, Level 2, 26 Honeysuckle Drive (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday);
- Great Lakes Council, Administration Offices, Breese Parade, Forster (8.15am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday); and
- Great Lakes Council, Tea Gardens District Office, Myall Street, Tea Gardens (9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday).

Submissions

Submissions on the project must reach the department by close of business on Friday 9 March 2012. Your submission should include:

- Your name and address;
- The name of the application and the application number;
- A statement on whether you support or object to the project; and
- The reasons why you support or object to the project.

Your submission should be marked 'Attention: Tom FitzGerald' and:

- Faxed to (02) 9228 6540;
- Posted to Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning & Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001; or
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au or via the entry for the project on the department's website (majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au)

Persons lodging submissions are required to declare reportable political donations (including donations of \$1000 or more) made in the previous two years. For more details, including a disclosure form, go to www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations

Under Schedule 6A and section 75H of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the Director-General is required to provide copies of submissions received during the exhibition period, or a report of the issues raised in those submissions, to the Proponent and other interested public authorities. It is Departmental policy to also place a copy of your submission on the department's website. If you do not want your name to be made available to the proponent, these authorities, or on the department's website, please clearly state this in your submission.

Enquiries: 1300 305 695 or information@planning.nsw.gov.au

THE flood-damaged towns of Roma and Mitchell in southern Queensland continued their painstaking recovery work yesterday as water began to subside from St George.

The Maranoa Regional Council said 444 properties in Roma were damaged in the record floods, an upward revision of more than 140.

A further 288 properties in the smaller town of Mitchell were affected.

Residents muddling through

Several hundred volunteers, defence force personnel and resource company staff set about cleaning up mud and debris

from the town.

Brigadier Greg Bilton, who is commander in charge of the military response, said his team had complemented the early hard work of the volunteers.

"In the past 24 hours, we've been able to provide relief for some of the heavy lifting that's been done," he said.

"And through our efforts we've been able to ensure that the school at Mitchell will reopen tomorrow."

AAP

Plain model shows flow

Project to determine flood paths

By MATTHEW KELLY
Environment Reporter

THE 2007 Pasha Bulker flood has been recreated as part of a research project designed to improve modelling and flood preparation across Australia.

University of NSW researchers have built a scale model of a 300-metre section of the Merewether flood plain as part of their investigation into floodwater dynamics.

The suburb was among the most severely affected by rising floodwater on evening of June 8, 2007.

"Merewether was very representative of urban flash-flooding; there was a lot of [water] flow between houses," principle researcher Grantley Smith said.

Results from the \$20 million project will be used to inform government policies for planning and construction of housing and infrastructure and emergency response.

Mr Smith said the modelling gave researchers a crucial insight into flow behaviour and associated hazards such as rising water levels, water depth and velocity.

"The models often underpin development, infrastructure and urban planning decisions, determining where houses and buildings should be constructed in zones that may be at risk of



INVESTIGATION: Researchers have recreated a section of the Merewether flood plain.

Warning on risk map coming at a premium

A NATIONAL flood-risk map to be managed by the federal government will be used by insurers as a cover to raise premiums unnecessarily, according to consumer advocates.

As the state government warns flood damage in NSW could exceed \$500 million, and more than 5000 properties remain isolated, concerns have been raised that the federal response to a disaster review will price people out of insurance.

"It's inevitable. Some people will just be

completely out of the market," the principal solicitor at the Insurance Law Service, Katherine Lane, said.

The government has supported a recommendation from the Natural Disaster Insurance Review calling for the creation of a central body to manage all flood-risk data. The data is currently held on an ad hoc basis by councils and in secret by insurers.

Erik Jensen

flooding," Mr Smith said. "They can also influence evacuation and emergency response procedures."

The research will be used in an overhaul of national rainfall and runoff guidelines, funded by the federal Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Engineers Australia and Newcastle City Council are also partners in the project.

"Any errors in the models can have serious implications," Mr Smith said.

"For instance, if flow speeds are underestimated then evacuation routes might be poorly mapped, inadvertently leading people into the pathway of treacherous water."

Watch the video
theherald.com.au