

**MINUTES OF EMERGENCY ANZAC PARK PRECINCT MEETING
WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2024
ROS CRICHTON PAVILION**

ATTENDEES 16 : SW, JB, TC, MDS, JO, AH, PG, SB, DC, SOC, AO, PYH, MT, NC, AD, SH.

APOLOGIES: 10: JD, DD, VN, ND, BD, SR, TO, CB, PB, LVA

GUEST SPEAKER: COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR, OPEN SPACE & INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICE UNIT MGR, ENGINEER

COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR, OPEN SPACE & INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICE UNIT MGR, explained the logistical & physical issues relating to the Lytton St situation being located at the lowest point of a large catchment with a powerpoint presentation.

Rain Event on 5-6 April 2024 was a "Significant" one.

1% chance of it every 100 years (but this is a totally misleading measurement).

Lytton Street is at the lowest point of catchment but that was not recorded officially on relevant survey documentation until late 2023 and Council advised at this Meeting that they "drew a line in the sand" in 2023.

The area' drainage dates to the 1900s, 900mm pipes still in operation. To upgrade these would cost multimillion \$\$s but still restricted by what happens further on. It is Sydney Waters responsibility as well.

6-8 months ago, there was an inspection of these pipes. Camera was put down the very large Pipe that is 1m in diameter & it was not blocked, is rarely blocked...water was flowing well.

Future Drainage budgets @ Council have not yet been determined.

4 Year Program to be determined by a New Council.

Catchment Area: There are a number of local creeks. Also, there is much more development and roads, hard surfaces. Plus seeing more rain events. Warringah Freeway has increased the size of pipes but not enough as far as the Council is concerned.

Bund location proposed in St Leonards Park around the Music Shell will be about 2m high, catchment would be approx. 15 hectares. It will impact detrimentally on the usability of the Music Shell in that location.

Council have \$150k funding & are seeking funding \$150k from the State Govt but are not hopeful they should hear by end of the year.

The council assert that building a Bund will not eliminate the issue.

KEY ISSUES

- Two homes have been uninhabitable for 10 weeks! Others have had to engage in massive cleanup work in Lytton St & Bardsley Gardens.

- PYH told the Meeting that No 22 Lytton which is uninhabitable has a family with a baby & a 2 y.o. and no other relatives/family in Sydney
- COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR, OPEN SPACE & INFRASTRUCTURE said that Flood Plans did not exist back in time, so no Development Controls were in place to prevent excavations in that low point of the Flood Plain in Lytton St.
- He also advised that Council drew a Line in the sand in 2023 - there was never a full detailed flood study until 2023.
- Owner PYH advised that No 22 Lytton St was purchased in Feb 2023 before Council updated the Planning Certificate in Oct 2023 with the actual specific relevant Flood Plain details to show that it was in a deemed Flood Zone or that they were subject to high risk of flooding being at the lowest point despite the 2018 monster flood there.
- SOC stated that No 22 & 26 Lytton St both have additional excavated lower floors containing Lounge, Kitchen areas etc. which were flooded & the DAs for these Works in a known Flood Plain were approved by Council Planners some 10 years ago for No 22 Lytton St & approx. 20 yrs. ago for No 26 Lytton St.
- When Precinct queried how this DA approval could have been given in view of the totality of the area, COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR, OPEN SPACE & INFRASTRUCTURE suggested that their "Planning Department probably did not consult engineers." When Precinct expressed astonishment at this, given it is a flood zone, COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR, OPEN SPACE & INFRASTRUCTURE said that "there are no engineers in that particular Department." Attendees were not surprisingly dissatisfied with this response/outcome, as given the potential impact of the DA approval there should have been records of consultation with Council engineers even if they were from a different Department.
- PYH stated that No 22 have repeatedly been told by Hydraulic Engineers that they do not work with individuals, only with commercial bodies. This leaves the affected residents stranded yet again.
- **85mm of rain over a 45 min period storm** is what the residents experienced & are looking at going forward. There is a 200mm drop in a massive storm surge like the one that flooded Lytton St.
- It amounts to over 100 mm of rain in a day in a super storm surge like the one Lytton St residents faced 10 weeks ago.
- The reason that that huge volume of water dissipated so quickly was identified by resident SH .it went down the sewers as well.
- Sydney Water 's position re replacing the existing old pipes & widening the drains etc. was that they have other priorities.
- If water ingress in a super storm surge is only from St Leonards Park, then installing a Bund should address the main problem for Lytton St residents who experience the flooding.
- **Insurers want evidence of an Action Plan from Council** to continue insuring these properties.
- **THE BARK FLOW CREATING MAJOR BLOCKAGE OF TORRENTIAL WATER FLOW:** SH & SOC & JO on behalf of many Bardsley Garden Residents described all the bark being dumped with water into Bardsley Gardens - and it all came from St Leonards

Park and blocked the drainage everywhere, on Falcon St, Bardsley Gardens etc. - so Council need to address that immediately when it happens. Council's position is that they are unable to mobilise workers to get the drains cleared in that amount of time.

ACTION ITEMS:

Precinct noted that unfortunately, Council had no solution or assistance to offer these detrimentally impacted & distressed residents in this situation.

There was also no possibility of any immediate assistance or solutions that could be offered by Council to these residents.

Lytton St & Bardsley Gardens Residents to:

- Obtain a list of key players to lobby -from COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR, OPEN SPACE & INFRASTRUCTURE
- pursue assistance from Council to enable insurers to continue insuring them.
- Lobby Council to address the barrier to any viable water release created by the massive amount of Bark in St Leonards Park...this causes huge blockage of the drains.
- Lobby Council about it being worth Council looking at any contributing factor AND focus on controlling the mulch e.g by building a barrier in St Leonards Park to its escape, say along Falcon St or somewhere...as per SH' recommendation at the Meeting.
- follow up ..SH' strongly argued point that Council give serious and due attention to doing something at the point where the water gathers the most & creates the shocking damage. They could, for example, be installing new 1500 mm Pipe PLUS 2x 300 mm pipes at the lowest point in Lytton St where the homes get flooded so heavily. They may need to liaise with Sydney Water for this.
- lobby Sydney Water to increase the size of the whole network & look at diverting pipes.
- investigate hydraulic expert contacts forwarded by SH [Lillis St];
- investigate Buy Back by Council in the case of No 22 in particular, given the unique situation there.
- look at State Government Buy Back- would they qualify?

Next Anzac Park Precinct meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 31 July 2024 at the Ros Crichton Pavilion.