





New South Wales

State and Territory Presentations
Danny Rose



Key Players

1. Local Government
 - Statutory responsibility for land use planning EP&A Act 1979
 - Management of flood prone land primarily with Councils
 - Asset Management
 - Floodplain Management Committees
2. State Government
 - Office of Environment and Heritage
 - Flood Prone Land Policy
 - NSW Floodplain Development Program – grants
 - Floodplain Management in Rural Floodplains under Water Act 1912
 - Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 - Land Use Planning Policies / Guidelines / Directions
 - Strategic Planning / Regional Strategies / Masterplans
 - Consent Authority – Major Projects
3. NSW State Emergency Services
 - Combat Agency for floods under State Emergency Service Act 1989
 - Local Flood Plans – State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989
4. Commonwealth Government – Bureau of Meteorology
 - Forecasts and Weather / Flood Warnings
5. Floodplain Management Association
 - Representation of Members' interests
 - Education
 - Membership and Member Services
 - Representing ALGA on National Flood Risk Advisory Group (NFRAG)




Priority Flood Issues

1. Gauges and warning systems
2. Levee condition auditing
3. Community education and resilience
4. Flood insurance
5. Emergency response – alternatives to evacuation?
6. Climate change – no State Government benchmarks
7. Disaster relief – preventative and betterment works
8. Recruitment, development and retention of Floodplain Managers
9. Impacts of NSW Planning Reforms (White Paper)
 - Regional Growth Plans
10. Impacts of Independent Local Government Review
 - County Councils and Local Boards
11. Land Use Planning – template LEP and standard flood clauses




2013 Snapshot

1. 152 Councils in NSW
2. Majority of Councils have completed riverine flood studies for populated centres
3. Recent studies have included climate change parameters e.g. sea level rise
4. Some metropolitan Councils have completed overland flooding studies, however lower priority for others with riverine problems
5. OEH Statistics
 - 105 Floodplain Risk Management Plans adopted / completed
 - 188 Floodplain Risk Management Studies in progress
 - 170 Implementation projects current
6. Some Risk Management Studies proving costly and time consuming
7. Holding up applications for new works and strategies
8. Delaying land use planning policies



Priority Needs

1. Funding
 - 2012-13: \$24.35 million grants for 101 Councils
 - 50 Natural Disaster declarations for storm and flood in 2013
 - NSW average damage bill \$240 million/year
 - 1:1:1 Commonwealth : State : Council formula
 - Ideal funding ratio 2:2:1
 - Avoidance, prevention and betterment
 - Maintenance – aging infrastructure
2. Dedicated State Agency
 - OEH part of Department of Premier and Cabinet
 - Floodplain Management Program competes with Coastal and Estuary Management
 - Restructuring
3. Climate change policy
4. Policy on alternatives to evacuation
5. Resolution of flood insurance anomalies / inconsistencies
6. Disaster Recovery arrangements
 - Preventative works and betterment
7. Consistent land use planning definitions
 - PMF vs Flood Planning Area



Challenges and Opportunities of a National Approach

Opportunities

1. Optimisation of resources
2. Coordinated voice to Government
3. Future National Conferences – broader networking and ideas sharing
4. International Assistance – ASFPM
5. Private sector investment and partnerships

Challenges

1. Coordination with existing National Bodies (e.g. NFRAG, NCCARF)
2. Sustaining Government interest in flooding
3. Attract new Floodplain Managers
4. Recognition of Floodplain Management in other fields e.g. Town planning