

FLOODPLAIN SUBMISSION WORONORA RIVER

This submission is on behalf of Woronora Valley Residents Association Inc. (WVRA Inc.), whose main concern is with the maintenance and restoration of Woronora River.

We understand that your flood plain management strategy is for the sustainable long-term benefit of the community and environment, involving community resilience to floods.

Our suggestions for the Council are as follows:

1. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance should involve inspection of the River for silting of channels and estuaries. Although dredging is being planned for Woronora, such a huge scale project would have been prevented had regular maintenance and inspections been carried out. Dredging has not been carried out for many years and consequently, the large-scale program now needed is environmentally damaging.

Stormwater drains also require regular maintenance, this includes stormwater in streets and those that directly enter the river.

Improved liaison with residents is essential in reporting any problems that are arising, as they are living with the issues.

Consulting with the residents directly affected, would be an advantage for ongoing maintenance. Maybe this could involve a River Keeper and a Council liaison officer.

2. RESTORATION

This could involve the removal of fallen dead trees and planting more endemic to the region.

Stabilising the steep sides of the valley with suitable vegetation, from large native trees at the top of the valley sides graduating down to native bush, reeds, seaweed, and mangroves. This supports long term sustainable resilience to floods, e.g., Indonesia's coastal village mangrove pilot study combating the effects of flooding and tsunamis with mangrove walls.

We suggest the above for your consideration as a support to the resilience of flooding.

Yours Faithfully,

Marelle Burnum Burnum & Robyn Galvin (WVRA Inc.)