



Council Policy

Lake Macquarie Waterway Flooding and Tidal Inundation Policy

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Policy	2
Policy Objectives.....	2
OUR COMMITMENT	2
OUR GOAL.....	2
Policy Statement.....	2
OUR PLAN	2
GUIDELINES.....	2
Controlled Document Information	4

This is a controlled document. Before using this document, check it is the latest version by checking it on Council's intranet. Unless otherwise shown, printed or downloaded versions of this document are uncontrolled.

Policy

Policy Objectives

OUR COMMITMENT

Lake Macquarie City Council is committed to working with its residents to identify and respond to emerging hazards and risks associated with sea level rise (SLR). We are committed to preparedness and adaptation responses informed by environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

OUR GOAL

To provide a policy framework to assist Council and Lake Macquarie residents, as stewards of our City's environment, to respond responsibly and proactively to emerging flooding and sea level rise hazards and risks.

Policy Statement

OUR PLAN

To achieve this, Council:

1. Has adopted the *NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement (2009)* sea level rise benchmarks of a rise from 1990 levels of 0.4 metres by 2050 and 0.9 metres by 2100 as the basis for Council staff and the community to proceed with risk assessment, policy development, community empowerment, and planning and development decisions.
 2. Will continue to monitor, review, and manage the risks associated with climate change relating to local government functions.
 3. Will review the above benchmarks if and when the NSW Government recommends a new level under its planning policies, guidelines, or manuals, and/or in the light of new scientific evidence.
 4. Will continue to undertake community consultation and community empowerment activities in partnership with Lake Macquarie residents and other stakeholder partners.
-

GUIDELINES

The following interim guidelines are provided to assist staff in implementing this Policy:

1. Council has to consider the effect of climate change when determining development applications.
2. Required floor levels for buildings will be considered in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) Each DA is to be considered on a case-by-case basis (as is required by law).
 - (b) Flood planning levels are based on the findings of the *Lake Macquarie Waterway Flood Study (2012)*, incorporating the *NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement* benchmarks (see Policy Statement above), and adding 0.5 metres freeboard as recommended in the *Flood Risk Management Guide: Incorporating sea level rise benchmarks in flood assessment*. For habitable dwellings the flood planning levels are:

Risk measure	Planning level for asset life to 2050	Planning level for asset life to 2100
1:100 year lake flood (including sea level rise of 0.4 m by 2050) 1.86 m AHD	1.86 m AHD + 0.5 m freeboard = 2.36 m AHD	n/a
1:100 year lake flood (including sea level rise of 0.9 m by 2100) 2.32 m AHD	n/a	2.32 m AHD + 0.5 m freeboard = 2.82 m AHD

For ease of calculation, it is assumed that sea levels and lake flood levels will increase linearly between these benchmarks.

- (c) Planning and development assessment guidelines will include criteria for the three risk areas identified in the *Lake Macquarie Waterway Flood Risk Management Study and Plan (2012)*:
- “high lake hazard” area below 1.0 metre AHD
 - “high flood hazard” area below 1.5 metres AHD
 - “low flood hazard” area for flood-affected properties above 1.5 metres AHD and below 3.0 metres AHD.
- (d) If the developer seeks to fix a lower level for their proposal, or propose alternative methods to deal with the flood and inundation risk, they will submit a site-specific flood study, which enables Council to evaluate the proposal on its merits. However, Council reserves the right to submit the study to peer review or evaluation by an independent expert.

Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

This document is a controlled document. Before using this document, check it is the latest version by referring to the TRIM controlled document folder identified below or Council's intranet. Unless otherwise shown, printed or downloaded versions of this document are uncontrolled.			
Folder No:	F2008/01589	TRIM Record No:	D02378559
Audience:	External – Residents of Lake Macquarie area		
Department:	Sustainability		
Officer:	Climate Change Adaptation Officer - Greg Giles		
Review Timeframe: Max < 4 years	4 Years	Next Scheduled Review Date:	27 January 2016
Authorisation:	Adopted by Council - 23 July 2012		
REPOL Date of Endorsement:	25 June 2012	REPOL Report TRIM Record No:	D02377164
Authorisation - Council Adoption Date:	23 July 2012		

Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	(Legislation)	(Relationship/Context)
Related Policies (Council & Internal):	(Policy Name & TRIM Document No.)	(Relationship/Context)
Related Procedures, Guidelines, Forms, WHS Modules/PCD's, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements:	(Document Name & TRIM Document No.) Assessing Development Proposals on Land Affected by Sea Level Rise D02584322 Lake Macquarie Waterway Flood Study D02609705 Lake Macquarie Waterway Flood Risk Study and Management Plan D02609729	(Relationship/Context)
Standards COP's & Other References	(Standard, COP or Other References)	(Relationship/Context)

Definitions

Term / Abbreviation	Definition
SLR	Sea Level Rise
DA	Development Application
AHD	Australian Height Datum

This is a controlled document. Before using this document, check it is the latest version by checking it on Council's intranet. Unless otherwise shown, printed or downloaded versions of this document are uncontrolled.

Version History

Version No	Date Changed	Modified By	Details and Comments
1	September 2008	Neale Farmer	Original version based on Council resolution of 25 August 2008
2	June 2012	Greg Giles	Name change and incorporation of 2011 Lake Waterway Flood Study and Flood Risk Management Plan