

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Taken from the NSW Floodplain Development Manual (April 2005 edition)

Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)

The chance of a flood of a given or larger size occurring in any one year, usually expressed as a percentage. For example, if a peak flood discharge of 500 m³/s has an AEP of 5%, it means that there is a 5% chance (that is one-in-20 chance) of a 500 m³/s or larger event occurring in any one year (see ARI).

Australian Height Datum (AHD)

A common national surface level datum approximately corresponding to mean sea level.

Average Recurrence Interval (ARI)

The long term average number of years between the occurrence of a flood as big as, or larger than, the selected event. For example, floods with a discharge as great as, or greater than, the 20 year ARI flood event will occur on average once every 20 years. ARI is another way of expressing the likelihood of occurrence of a flood event.

Catchment

The land area draining through the main stream, as well as tributary streams, to a particular site. It always relates to an area above a specific location.

consent authority

The Council, government agency or person having the function to determine a development application for land use under the EP&A Act. The consent authority is most often the Council, however legislation or an EPI may specify a Minister or public authority (other than a Council), or the Director General of DIPNR, as having the function to determine an application.

development

Is defined in Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act).

infill development: refers to the development of vacant blocks of land that are generally surrounded by developed properties and is permissible under the current zoning of the land. Conditions such as minimum floor levels may be imposed on infill development.

new development: refers to development of a completely different nature to that associated with the former land use. For example, the urban subdivision of an area previously used for rural purposes. New developments involve rezoning and typically require major extensions of existing urban services, such as roads, water supply, sewerage and electric power.

redevelopment: refers to rebuilding in an area. For example, as urban areas age, it may become necessary to demolish and reconstruct buildings on a relatively large scale. Redevelopment generally does not require either rezoning or major extensions to urban services.

Discharge

The rate of flow of water measured in terms of volume per unit time, for example, cubic metres per second (m³/s). Discharge is different from the speed or velocity of flow, which is a measure of how fast the water is moving for example, metres per second (m/s).

effective warning time

The time available after receiving advice of an impending flood and before the floodwaters prevent appropriate flood response actions being undertaken. The effective warning time is typically used to move farm equipment, move stock, raise furniture, evacuate people and transport their possessions.

emergency management

A range of measures to manage risks to communities and the environment. In the flood context it may include measures to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from flooding.

flash flooding

Flooding which is sudden and unexpected. It is often caused by sudden local or nearby heavy rainfall. Often defined as flooding which peaks within six hours of the causative rain.

Flood

Relatively high stream flow which overtops the natural or artificial banks in any part of a stream, river, estuary, lake or dam, and/or local overland flooding associated with major drainage before entering a watercourse, and/or coastal inundation resulting from super-elevated sea levels and/or waves overtopping coastline defences excluding tsunami.

flood fringe areas

The remaining area of flood prone land after floodway and flood storage areas have been defined.

flood liable land

Is synonymous with flood prone land (i.e. land susceptible to flooding by the probable maximum flood (PMF) event). Note that the term flood liable land covers the whole of the floodplain, not just that part below the flood planning level (see flood planning area).

flood mitigation standard

The average recurrence interval of the flood, selected as part of the floodplain risk management process that forms the basis for physical works to modify the impacts of flooding.

floodplain

Area of land which is subject to inundation by floods up to and including the probable maximum flood event, that is, flood prone land.

flood proofing

A combination of measures incorporated in the design, construction and alteration of individual buildings or structures subject to flooding, to reduce or eliminate flood damages.

flood prone land

Is land susceptible to flooding by the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) event. Flood prone land is synonymous with flood liable land.

flood risk

Potential danger to personal safety and potential damage to property resulting from flooding. The degree of risk varies with circumstances across the full range of floods. Flood risk in this manual is divided into 3 types, existing, future and continuing risks. They are described below.

existing flood risk: the risk a community is exposed to as a result of its location on the floodplain.

future flood risk: the risk a community may be exposed to as a result of new development on the floodplain.

continuing flood risk: the risk a community is exposed to after floodplain risk management measures have been implemented. For a town protected by levees, the continuing flood risk is the consequences of the levees being overtopped. For

an area without any floodplain risk management measures, the continuing flood risk is simply the existence of its flood exposure.

flood storage areas

Those parts of the floodplain that are important for the temporary storage of floodwaters during the passage of a flood. The extent and behaviour of flood storage areas may change with flood severity, and loss of flood storage can increase the severity of flood impacts by reducing natural flood attenuation. Hence, it is necessary to investigate a range of flood sizes before defining flood storage areas.

floodway areas

Those areas of the floodplain where a significant discharge of water occurs during floods. They are often aligned with naturally defined channels. Floodways are areas that, even if only partially blocked, would cause a significant redistribution of flood flows, or a significant increase in flood levels.

freeboard

Freeboard provides reasonable certainty that the risk exposure selected in deciding on a particular flood chosen as the basis for the FPL is actually provided. It is a factor of safety typically used in relation to the setting of floor levels, levee crest levels, etc. Freeboard is included in the flood planning level.

hazard

A source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss. In relation to this manual the hazard is flooding which has the potential to cause damage to the community. Definitions of high and low hazard categories are provided in the Manual.

hydraulics

Term given to the study of water flow in waterways; in particular, the evaluation of flow parameters such as water level and velocity.

hydrograph

A graph which shows how the discharge or stage/flood level at any particular location varies with time during a flood.

hydrology

Term given to the study of the rainfall and runoff process; in particular, the evaluation of peak flows, flow volumes and the derivation of hydrographs for a range of floods.

local overland flooding

Inundation by local runoff rather than overbank discharge from a stream, river, estuary, lake or dam.

local drainage

Are smaller scale problems in urban areas. They are outside the definition of major drainage in this glossary.

mainstream flooding

Inundation of normally dry land occurring when water overflows the natural or artificial banks of a stream, river, estuary, lake or dam.

major drainage

Councils have discretion in determining whether urban drainage problems are associated with major or local drainage. For the purpose of this manual major drainage involves:

- \$ the floodplains of original watercourses (which may now be piped, channelised or diverted), or sloping areas where overland flows develop along alternative paths once system capacity is exceeded; and/or
- s water depths generally in excess of 0.3 m (in the major system design storm as defined in the current version of Australian Rainfall and Runoff). These conditions may result in danger to personal safety and property damage to both premises and vehicles; and/or
- major overland flow paths through developed areas outside of defined drainage reserves; and/or

\$ the potential to affect a number of buildings along the major flow path.

7.1.1.

mathematical/numerical/co mputer models

The mathematical representation of the physical processes involved in runoff generation and stream flow. These models are often run on computers due to the complexity of the mathematical relationships between runoff, stream flow and the distribution of flows across the floodplain.

minor, moderate and major flooding

Both the State Emergency Service and the Bureau of Meteorology use the following definitions in flood warnings to give a general indication of the types of problems expected with a flood:

minor flooding: causes inconvenience such as closing of minor roads and the submergence of low level bridges. The lower limit of this class of flooding on the reference gauge is the initial flood level at which landholders and townspeople begin to be flooded.

moderate flooding: low-lying areas are inundated requiring removal of stock and/or evacuation of some houses. Main traffic routes may be covered.

major flooding: appreciable urban areas are flooded and/or extensive rural areas are flooded. Properties, villages and towns can be isolated.

modification measures

Measures that modify either the flood, the property or the response to flooding. Examples are indicated in Table 2.1 with further discussion in the Manual.

peak discharge

The maximum discharge occurring during a flood event.

Probable Maximum Flood (PMF)

The PMF is the largest flood that could conceivably occur at a particular location, usually estimated from probable maximum precipitation, and where applicable, snow melt, coupled with the worst flood producing catchment conditions. Generally, it is not physically or economically possible to provide complete protection against this event. The PMF defines the extent of flood prone land, that is, the floodplain. The extent, nature and potential consequences of flooding associated with a range of events rarer than the flood used for designing mitigation works and controlling development, up to and including the PMF event should be addressed in a floodplain risk management study.

Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP)

The PMP is the greatest depth of precipitation for a given duration meteorologically possible over a given size storm area at a particular location at a particular time of the year, with no allowance made for long-term climatic trends (World Meteorological Organisation, 1986). It is the primary input to PMF estimation.

probability

A statistical measure of the expected chance of flooding (see AEP).

risk

Chance of something happening that will have an impact. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood. In the context of the manual it is the likelihood of consequences arising from the interaction of floods, communities and the environment.

runoff

The amount of rainfall which actually ends up as streamflow, also known as rainfall excess.

stage Equivalent to Awater level@. Both are measured with reference to a specified

datum.

stage hydrograph A graph that shows how the water level at a particular location changes with time

during a flood. It must be referenced to a particular datum.

survey plan A plan prepared by a registered surveyor.

water surface profile A graph showing the flood stage at any given location along a watercourse at a

particular time.





		Relative Difference (m) (Post - Pre SWRL)			
					10% Climate Change
Cross Section	Pre-SWRL Peak Water	9 x 3.6m x 1.8m	25% Blockage of	50% Blockage of	No Blockage of
Reference	Level (mAHD)	Culvert	Culvert	Culvert	Culvert
XS11.1	79.34	negligible	negligible	negligible	negligible
XS11.3	78.43	negligible	negligible	negligible	0.16
XS11.4	77.69	negligible	negligible	negligible	0.05
XS11.5	76.27	-0.01	0.01	0.37	0.03
XS11.6	75.93	-0.07	0.08	0.67	0.02
Waterway Crossing 11					
XS11.7	75.76	-0.06	-0.07	-0.07	-0.02
XS11.8	74.98	negligible	negligible	negligible	0.07
XS11.9	74.43	negligible	negligible	negligible	0.16
XS11.10	74.42	negligible	negligible	negligible	0.16
XS11.11	74.34	negligible	negligible	negligible	0.22

		Relative Difference (m) (Post -		Relative Difference (m) (10%
		Pre SWRL)		Climate Change Post - Pre SWRL)	
			Approx 20m Bridge		Approx 20m Bridge
Cross Section	Pre-SWRL Peak Water		with Crossing 12		with Crossing 12
Reference	Level (mAHD)	Approx. 20m Bridge	Diversion	Approx. 20m Bridge	Diversion
XS13.1	78.13	negligible	negligible	negligible	negligible
XS13.2	77.40	negligible	negligible	0.07	0.06
XS13.3	76.42	-0.71	-0.69	-0.61	-0.59
Waterway Crossing 13					
XS13.4	75.27	-0.26	-0.19	-0.13	-0.07
XS13.5	74.39	negligible	0.06	0.15	0.22
XS13.6	73.75	negligible	0.03	0.05	0.10
XS13.7	73.22	negligible	-0.06	-0.09	-0.13

		Relative Difference (m) (Post - Pre SWRL)	Relative Difference (m) (10% Climate Change Post - Pre SWRL)
Cross Section Reference	Pre-SWRL Peak Water	Approx 25m Pridgo	Approx 25m Bridge
XS14.1	Level (mAHD) 78.70	Approx 25m Bridge negligible	0.05
XS14.2	76.97	negligible	0.14
XS14.3	78.32	negligible	0.09
XS14.31	77.57	-0.01	0.27
XS14.32	76.84	0.06	0.18
XS14.4	76.69	0.00	0.11
Waterway Crossing 14			
XS14.5	76.47	-0.09	-0.07
XS14.6	75.69		0.06
XS14.7	14.7 75.21		0.05
XS14.8	74.54	negligible	negligible
XS14.9	74.20	negligible	negligible