

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

#### **Flood Mitigation in Alice Springs**

- 1. Please update the Northern Territory Government's work on Flood Mitigation in Alice Springs?**
- 2. What is your Government's plan for Flood Mitigation in Alice Springs?**

The Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee was established in February 2016. A draft report was released in June 2016 for public feedback over a period of 4 weeks. The Committee has finalised its report which is being considered by Government. A copy of the report is available at <https://transport.nt.gov.au/lands-and-planning/flood-mitigation/alice-springs-region>. I have agreed to commit funding immediately towards obtaining the required topographic data for digital testing of structural mitigation measures to inform future decisions.

- 3. What is the timeframe for your Flood Mitigation plans for Alice Springs?**

Government embraces a holistic approach to flood mitigation that addresses immediate, short, medium and long term measures.

An estimated timeframe for the recommendations in the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee's Report ranges from those measures which can be implemented immediately, such as preliminary investigations and those that require some years prior to fruition, such as structural mitigation measures.

I have committed to obtaining the topographic data required for digital testing of structural mitigation measures to inform future decisions. The topographic data will be obtained in the second half of 2017.

- 4. In 2016 the Northern Territory Government undertook a community survey into the Flood Mitigation needs of Alice Springs through the Mount Johns Flood Immunity Project**
  - a) Please provide the outcomes of this survey?**

Broadly based on the public consultation, the connector road options were clearly preferred by the community.

It is intended that findings from this survey will be discussed with the community along with the Stuart Highway duplication through the Gap project over the coming months.

The Mount Johns and Desert Springs areas current access to the single high level bridge crossing on Stott Terrace is through the Sadadeen access road, which is owned by Power and Water Corporation and has not been designed as a public road network. The access road is only opened during periods of flood. The geometry of this access road does not meet current Australian Standards and has known safety issues.

As part of the Mount Johns Flood Immunity Study, five options were reviewed in considerable detail: three connector road options and two bridge options.

- Connector Road Options:
  1. Stephens Road to Sadadeen Road (via saddle)
  2. Stephens Road to Sadadeen Road (eastern route)
  3. Tuncks Road to Sadadeen Road (via Power and Water access)
- High level bridge Options:
  4. Stephens Road: Replacing the existing Taffy Pick causeway
  5. Tuncks Road: Replacing the Tuncks Road causeway

The costs were estimated for comparison of the options:

- Connector road options between \$20 and \$40 million
- Bridge options between \$30 and \$40 million

The community consultation occurred over a four week period commencing 11 July 2016 and concluded 5 August 2016.

Government is reviewing the results of the study and the community feedback, and will be considering the outcomes of the study in the context of the Stuart Highway duplication through the Gap project.

**b) What were the recommendations or findings from this survey?**

Broadly based on the public consultation, the connector road options were clearly preferred by the community.

It is intended that findings from this survey will be discussed with the community along with the Stuart Highway duplication through the Gap project over the coming months.

**c) How much will your Government spend on Alice Springs Flood Mitigation over the next 4 years?**

Government is considering the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee's Report and associated funding requirements for future measures.

The estimated cost to obtain the topographic data and undertake digital testing of structural mitigation measures is \$500 000.

**d) What is the current status of the Mount Johns Flood Immunity Project?**

The study is complete. The findings will feed into the Flood Mitigation work, as well as the Stuart Highway duplication through the Gap project.

**e) What were the outcomes and achievements of the Mount Johns Flood Immunity Project?**

The Mount Johns and Desert Springs areas of Alice Springs have no direct access to the Alice Springs Central Business District (CBD) and the Stuart Highway when the Todd River flows, and the Casino (Taffy Pick) and Tuncks Road causeways are closed. As such, a study was required to evaluate options to improve access from Mount John Valley during periods of flood.

The Mount Johns Flood Immunity Project undertook the initial investigations, technical reviews and consultation that was required, so that a preferred option could be designed and funded in future programs.

**f) What were the recommendations of the Mount Johns Flood Immunity Project?**

Refer to b) above.

**g) Has there been any progress in implementing the recommendations of the Mount Johns Flood Immunity Project?**

All options will require detailed consultation with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) to gain a Sacred Sites Authority Certificate. Sacred sites are located throughout the project area and initial discussions have taken place, however the preferred option will need to be identified and further developed prior to a formal request being submitted, to allow the initial consultation with the custodians to occur.

The findings will feed into the Flood Mitigation work, as well as the Stuart Highway duplication through the gap project.

**h) Please provide a complete update on the status of implementing the recommendations of the Mount Johns Flood Immunity Project.**

Refer above.

The project has been included on the 10 Year Infrastructure Plan as a long term project which will occur within 6 to 10 years.

**i) Exactly what Flood Mitigation projects are being planned or considered for Alice Springs?**

A summary of the key recommendations of the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee's Report is listed in the below table. I have committed to obtaining the topographic data required for digital testing of structural mitigation measures. This is so the plane equipped with the digital capture technology can be up in the air in the second half of 2017.

<b>Key Recommendations</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Preliminary Investigations: Detailed topographic data and flood modelling to support investigations of potential structural mitigation options.	\$500 000
Preliminary Investigations: An assessment of trunk drainage to reduce the frequency and impact of localised flooding.	\$300 000
Structural Mitigation: The construction of strategically located detention basins designed to reduce the effects of flooding by restricting floodwater behind an embankment reducing the peak flow of a flood.	\$30.5 million
Structural Mitigation: The Committee supports the options to provide an improved year round connectivity in Mount Johns via a direct road-link that does not impact on the existing flood profile of Alice Springs.	\$25 million
Structural Mitigation: A future transport solution through the Gap that improves the existing flood profile of Alice Springs as a result of future works in this location.	\$100 million
Structural Mitigation: The removal of any major contributors to flood events associated with bed level crossings in the Todd River to improve hydraulic efficiency.	\$100 000
Flood Resilience: Improving the existing public education program for flood awareness.	\$200 000
Flood Resilience: Undertake a review of the existing flood warning system.	\$250 000
Support Measures: Pre-flood resilience grants that would support flood proofing of businesses to improve business and community infrastructure's immunity to the impact of flooding.	\$1.5 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$158.35M</b>

**j) How much has the Northern Territory Government spent on Flood Mitigation projects in Alice Springs over the past 5 years (from 1 May 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017)?**

The amount spent on Flood Mitigation projects in Alice Springs from 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017 is \$154 811.

**k) Is the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee still operational in Alice Springs?**

The Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee has met the outputs as per the Terms of Reference to produce a final report for consideration by Government.

**l) Who are the members of the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee?**

The members of the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee:

Mayor Damien Ryan (Chair)  
Jimmy Cocking  
Russell Lynch  
Rod Cramer  
Michael Sitzler  
Ken Lechleitner

**m) What reports have been submitted by the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee over the past 12 months?**

A copy of the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee Report is available at <https://transport.nt.gov.au/lands-and-planning/flood-mitigation/alice-springs-region>.

**n) How often has the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee met over the past 12 months?**

The Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee met 9 times between March 2016 and May 2017.

**o) Please provide details of the most current research done into Flood Mitigation in the Alice Springs region.**

The most current research done into Flood Mitigation in the Alice Springs region was undertaken as part of the deliberations of the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee.

The Committee received expert advice from various government agencies, Alice Springs Town Council and consultants WRM Water & Environment, to assist in drafting flood mitigation strategies for the Alice Springs region.

Updated Alice Springs flood mapping was released in February 2016, based on improved data quality and flood modelling technology.