



**Memo to:** Councillor Jurd

**Copy to:** Mayor Watton, all Councillors, General Manager, Directors, Senior Leadership Group, and Communications & Engagement Team

**From:** Paul McLachlan, Director Works and Infrastructure

**Subject:** South Cessnock Flood Mitigation Project

**Date:** 22 January 2026

**Reference:** CRM 78/2026 - DOC2026/006113

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Dear Councillor Jurd,

I refer to your enquiry on behalf of a resident, regarding the South Cessnock Flood Mitigation Project.

*“forwarding this email, can i get an update on south cessnock flood wall, & also can we look into the flooding this resident mentions, as i did see this street and the rain they were talking about, it was not as heavy as we have had and it did almost flood homes.”*

Council officers have investigated the subject matter and advise as follows:

The following provides an update on the project and outlines Council's assessment related to the resident's enquiries through established complaints and review processes.

- Stage 1 (diversion channel) and Stage 2 (bund wall) were completed in April 2024 and May 2025 respectively. Stage 3 has no commencement date. An internal review post-construction identified that the completed works were effective in mitigating the flood risk. Raising Quarrybylong Street was no longer a priority, and funding for Stage 3 had been reallocated to other road priorities.
- The Cessnock LGA Overland Flood Study is underway and expected to be completed to be adopted by Council in the second half of 2026.
- The resident has been advised that elevated water levels and ponding in the Oliver Street area is expected due to it being a natural low point. Council confirmed that the absence of future planned levee and road-raising works did not contribute to this event. Quarrybylong Street has not been overtopped by overflow from the diversion channel since the project has been completed.

Please note a copy of this memo will be uploaded to the Council website.