

Collector hear how it's going to be State funding for Flood Risk Management Studies



Collector resident Helen Stephens questioning an Upper Lachlan Shire representative at the consultation held near the partly demolished Collector bridge on Friday 13 August

Press Release

Member for Monaro, Steve Whan has welcomed the announcement of \$21,000 for Palerang Council, Bombala Council and Queanbeyan City Council to assist in understanding and managing the impacts of flooding in their local government areas.

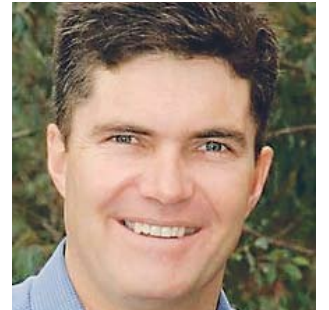
"Palrang Council will receive \$8,000 to undertake a Flood Risk Management Study and Plan for Bungendore, Bombala Council \$8,000 to help complete the Bombala Floodplain Management Plan, and Queanbeyan Council \$5,000 to finalise the Queanbeyan Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan," Mr Whan said.

Floodplain risk management studies and plans address existing, future and continuing flood problems and outline how the floodplain should be managed now and in the future.

It also opens the way for councils to apply for financial assistance from the NSW and Australian governments to carry out works and other measures to reduce flood risk.

The funds come from the NSW Floodplain Management Program. Under this program, the NSW Government contributes 67% of the cost and councils contribute the remaining 33%.

The program is a key compo-



Monaro Member Steve Whan

nent of the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy which aims to provide appropriate levels of flood protection to existing and future development through structural and non-structural flood mitigation strategies.

Climate Change and Water Minister Frank Sartor said this is a continuing program which responds to the severe emotional and economic losses individuals and communities can suffer as a result of floods. "This year grants have been offered to 80 councils and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) for 184 projects with a total NSW Government contribution of \$6.725 million dollars," Mr Sartor said.

"In addition, 15 councils/CMAs also have access to a maximum of \$1 million for voluntary purchase and voluntary house raising projects.

Book launch in Bungendore

Press Release

Author David Mason will be signing his book 'Marching with the Devil: Legends, Glory and Lies in the French Foreign Legion' at the Bungendore Newsagency on Saturday 4 September from 11am to 12 noon.

David who has lived in Bungendore since 1999, has been a part owner of an opal mine, worked on a cattle station and on a prawn trawler.



Author David Mason

After university, rather than pursue a legal career, in he joined the French Foreign Legion. He stayed for five years and served in the Legion's elite Parachute Regiment. In 1998, alone with three camels, David walked across Australia at its widest point, carrying out the first recorded solo east-to-west crossing of the Simpson Desert. For this expedition he was named Australia's Adventurer of the Year and awarded the Gold Medal of the Australian Geographic Society. David works in the Department of Defence as a lawyer, is an Army Reserve Major in the Australian Army Legal Corps and has served tours as a civilian adviser in Bougainville and three times in Iraq. In 2010 he returned from a year-long tour to Iraq, where he led a legal team.

He has been decorated by the Australian, French and United States governments.

By John Mitchell

Collector residents gathered in Murray Street, near the partly demolished Collector Creek Bridge, recently to hear Upper Lachlan Shire Council representatives tell them how things would be.

A nearby sign declares that the road (and bridge) were closed to traffic from Thursday 17 June for approximately 5 months, but that has become more of a statement of hope than likelihood.

The council proposed replacing the bridge with a low level culvert. Residents however have been given legal advice that, under the Roads Act, the approaches to the culvert cannot be lowered without consulting with landowners who may be affected by the work.

The Council belatedly called a roadside meeting. After explaining what they proposed to do a Council representative asked for questions, but after one question said, "We didn't come here to consult; we came to tell you what we're doing."

A resident. "What will the culvert cost?"

Representative. "About \$200,000. Keeping the bridge would have cost \$500,000 more."

A resident. "Now you're following the law and calling for submissions."

Representative. "It's not the law, it's part of the Roads Act."

A resident. "Whatever it is, you can't do work until you've responded to the submissions."

A resident. "When will you be removing the remainder of the bridge structure?"

Representative. "As soon as the water goes down."

A resident. "What will you do with the timbers?"

Representative. "We'll be selling them."

A resident. "I'm sure the community would like to use some. Will you agree not to sell them until you have consulted with us?"

Representative. "I don't have a problem with leaving some for the community. The rest will be sold."

A resident. "Will you consider giving the proceeds to the community?"

Representative. "You can lobby the councillors for the proceeds."

A resident. "Many of us think we are losing something of what we were [with the demolition of the bridge]. We're feeling badly done by. This may be a way for the Council to get back some goodwill."

A resident. "People approaching from the south are told the road is closed. It gives an impression that the town is shut. When will it be reopened?"

A resident. "It must be open by the Pumpkin Festival in [May]."

Representative. "I'm putting my money on it being opened in February."

An earlier article, 'Collector demolition abuse of process, position' (Mirror 28.7.2010) reported a posting on the Collector Voice website which said the Upper Lachlan Council had broken the law in three key areas in its battle with Collector residents over the replacement of the bridge. The posting also said the residents were taking the breaches up with the NSW Minister for Local Government, the NSW Ombudsman, the NSW Attorney General and the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

7th, not *the* Light Horse

The headline 'The Light Horse Goulburn's own' in last week's Mirror should have read '7th Light Horse Goulburn's own'. The story was also wrong in saying the 7th Light Horse was raised from the district around Goulburn. The catchment covered most of south east NSW



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