

Retford Farm Detention Basin

What you need to know

Stormwater Management



Construction Works



Flood Reduction



Improved Amenity



Grant Funded



Retford Farm Detention Basin – Artist Impression (Culverts and Scour Protection not shown)

With grant funding now secured, construction of Retford Farm Detention Basin will commence in 2023 to help safeguard Bowral Township against the impacts of flooding.

Impact of flooding on the local community

Homes and businesses across Wingecarribee Shire and particularly Bowral have been impacted by repeated flooding of Mittagong Creek between Old South Road and Mittagong Road (and further downstream). As weather patterns across Eastern Australia have continued to bring a substantial increase in the amount of rainfall experienced, safeguarding against further road closures and flood damage to properties and public infrastructure is a priority.

Flood Modelling to find solutions

Council has identified, through the *Bowral Floodplain Risk Management Strategy* and the *Retford Farm Detention Basin Scoping Study*, that the single most effective measure in reducing the impact of flooding in the Bowral Township is the construction of a stormwater detention basin upstream of Old South Road. The property, historically known as Retford Farm, located opposite the intersection of Old South Road and Merrigang Street, has been selected as the site for the Detention Basin.

Modelling has predicted the following outcomes of the Retford Farm Detention Basin development following completion:

- Bowral Street Bridge will drop by up to 0.4m (100yr flow down to 20yr flow)
- Mittagong Street (near Railway Line) will drop up to 0.2m (100yr flow down to 40yr flow)
- The number of homes and businesses affected by flooding will reduce by 25%
- Reduction in peak flows by up to 40% (effect reduces the further away from the Basin the location is)

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Grant Funding has been secured toward construction

In October 2022 Council was successful in obtaining \$4.6M in Grant Funding for the construction of the Retford Farm Detention Basin through the Commonwealth Government's *National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program* (administered, and supported, by the NSW Department of Planning & Environment). Council is now working with NSW DPE to prepare and submit the necessary documentation to obtain approval to start works.

The scale and function of the basin

The Retford Farm Detention Basin will involve the construction of an earthen embankment wall across Mittagong Creek approx. 430m long and up to approx. 6m high (the top of the wall is flat and level - the height of the wall will vary according to the topography of the existing ground levels). The finished wall will be grass covered to blend in with the surrounding natural environment.

The Detention Basin is proposed to have a storage capacity of up to 320 ML (320 Million Litres) however under normal circumstances the Basin will remain empty. Three large diameter stormwater pipes will penetrate through the embankment wall enabling dry weather and low level rainfall flows along Mittagong Creek to pass through the Detention Basin.

During high intensity rainfall events the Detention Basin will fill up as the stormwater pipes limit the amount of water able to leave the Basin - reducing the amount of water entering Mittagong Creek and lowering potential flood levels.

Indicative Timeframes

Committed to progressing this vital project for the local community as a priority, Council is anticipating running the tender process for the construction of the Retford Farm Detention Basin between February – April 2023, awarding a contract by June 2023 and beginning site works from July 2023 onwards.



Connecting with Council

✉ mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au

☎ 02 4868 0888 (24hr Contact Centre)

☎ 02 4869 1203

📍 PO Box 141 Moss Vale, NSW 2577

📍 (8:30am to 4:30pm Mon – Fri) Civic Centre, 68 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale