



## **APPENDIX A**

### **SECTION 19 REPORT – EGMANTON – NOVEMBER 2019**

#### **Introduction**

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

1. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
  - (a) Which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions.
  - (b) Whether each of those Risk Management Authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
2. Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) of Section 19 it must:
  - (a) Publish the results of its investigation.
  - (b) Notify any relevant Risk Management Authorities.
3. The objective of this report is to investigate which Risk Management Authorities had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in November 2019 and whether the relevant Risk Management Authorities have exercised, or propose to exercise, their risk management functions (as per section 19 (1) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010).
4. The Risk Management Authorities with a duty to respond to this flooding incident are Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Nottinghamshire County Council as Highways Authority (Via East Midlands Ltd.), the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB) and Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC).
5. It should be noted that this duty to investigate does not guarantee that flooding problems will be resolved and cannot force others into action.

#### **Background**

6. On the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019, parts of the East Midlands experienced a month's worth of rainfall in just 24 hours. Via East Midlands Ltd., on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, facilitated 66 road closures across the county, placed over 750 flood signs on the network to warn motorists of issues and delivered over 5000 sandbags. It was reported by the Environment Agency that Nottinghamshire experienced 225% of its average monthly rainfall between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November. A major incident was declared at 09:50 on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November by the Tactical Co-Ordinating Group.

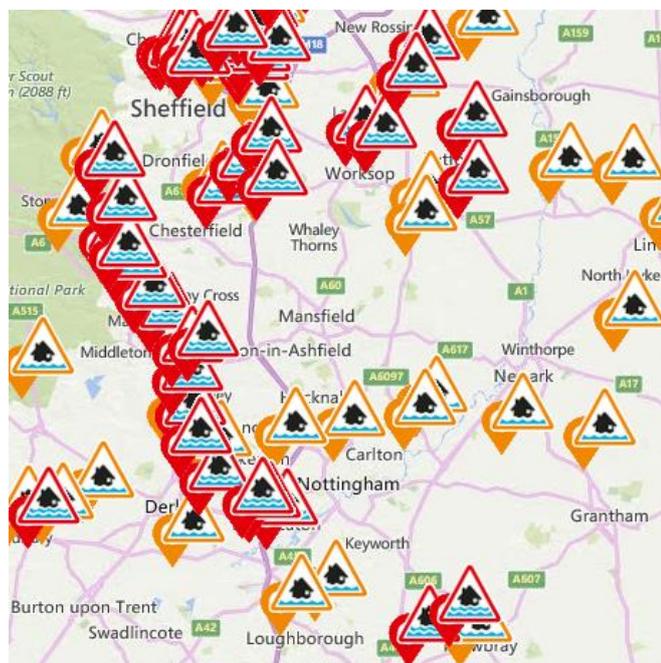
With the ground already saturated following one of the wettest autumn's on record, this resulted in extensive flooding across the Nottinghamshire area, including Egmonton, a small village located in north Nottinghamshire, with a population of 286 at the 2011 Census.



**Figure 1 Location Plan**

The severe weather led to Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum declaring a major incident. In the following days, further intense rainfall caused additional surface water and fluvial (river) flooding.

During this period the Environment Agency monitored water levels constantly and issued 38 flood warnings and 16 flood alerts across Nottinghamshire in November as shown in Figure 2 below.



**Figure 2. Flood Warnings and Alerts Issued during November 2019**

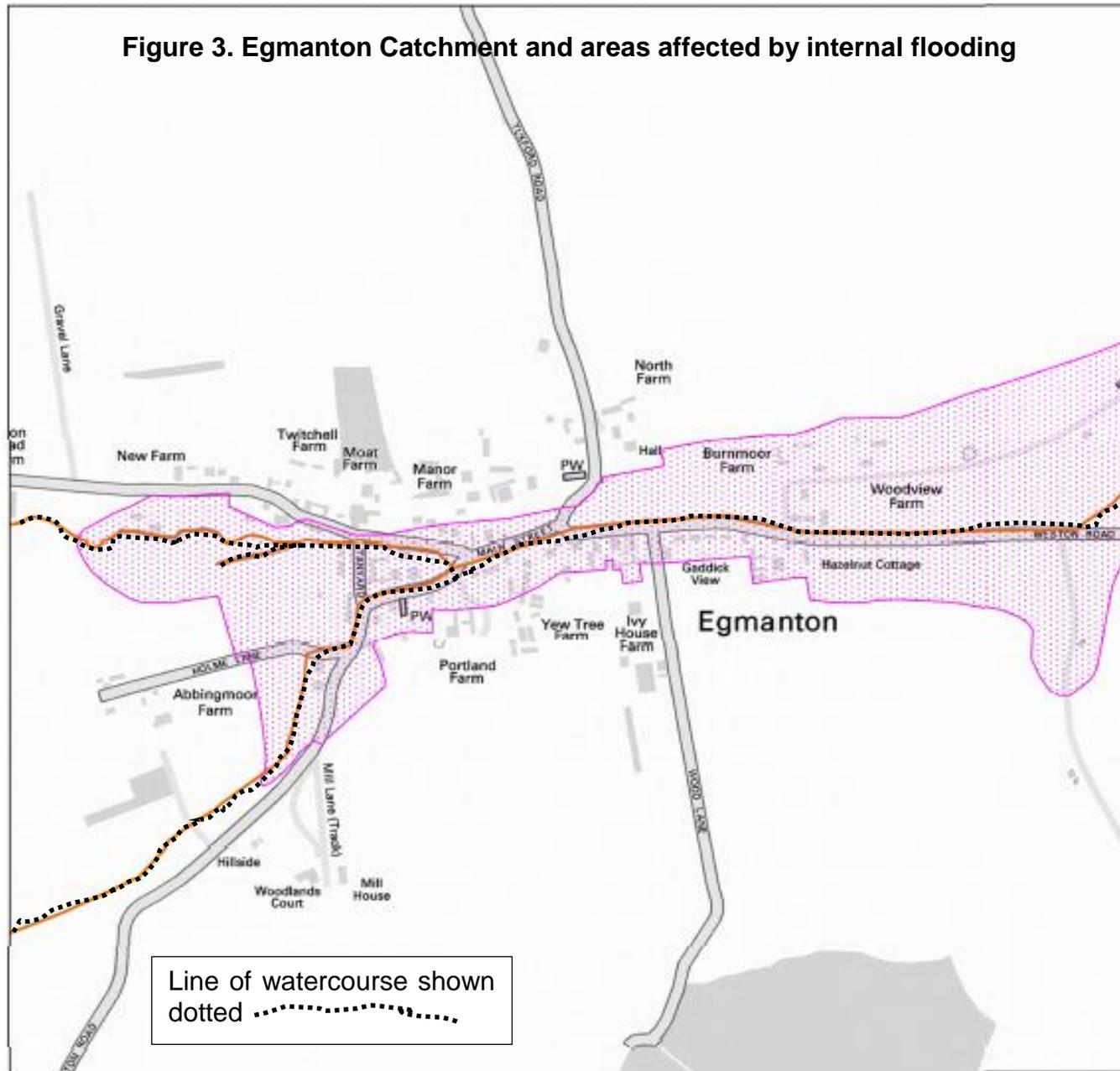
On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 following the prolonged period of heavy rainfall, parts of Egmonton suffered a significant flood event with 17 reported incidents of internal property

flooding. The flooding also affected the public highways in the village and a number of gardens and curtilages.

The village of Egmonton has a history of flooding with records of incidents dating back to 1958 and the last severe event in 2007. The Internal Drainage Board are currently in the process of completing a flood alleviation scheme within the catchment that is designed to control flows in the upper reaches of the catchment. The works site is south of the approach road to Egmonton from Kirton. An earth embankment will be constructed to create upstream storage of water and limit flood peak flows through the village to a manageable level. The catchment area will normally be dry or partially full. An outlet structure will allow passage of normal flow of the Egmonton Dyke uninterrupted but, in high flow events, outflow will be throttled and the storage area impounded.

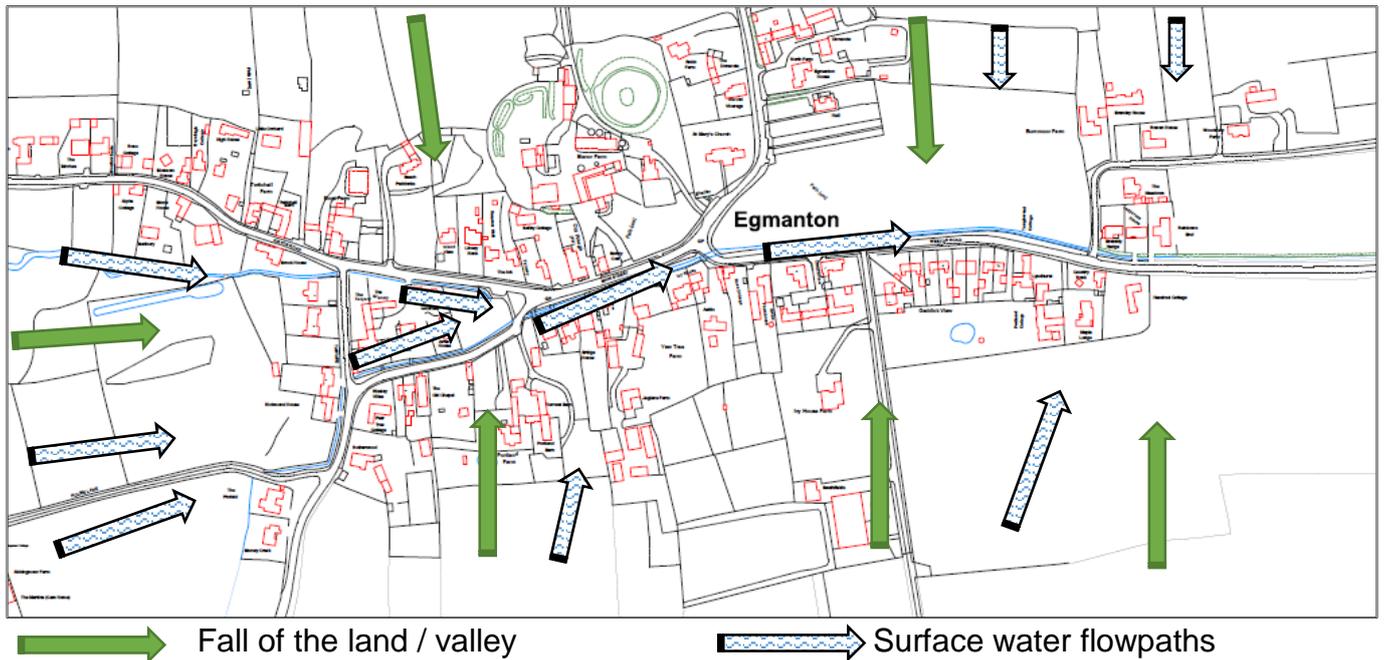
Due to complex land purchase negotiations the scheme has had to be delivered in two phases. The first phase, which consisted of modifications to the flow of surface water coming into the village from Laxton Road was completed in 2018 and the second phase, consisting of upstream flood storage as detailed above, is scheduled for starting in May 2020 with completion late summer.

Figure 3. Egmonton Catchment and areas affected by internal flooding

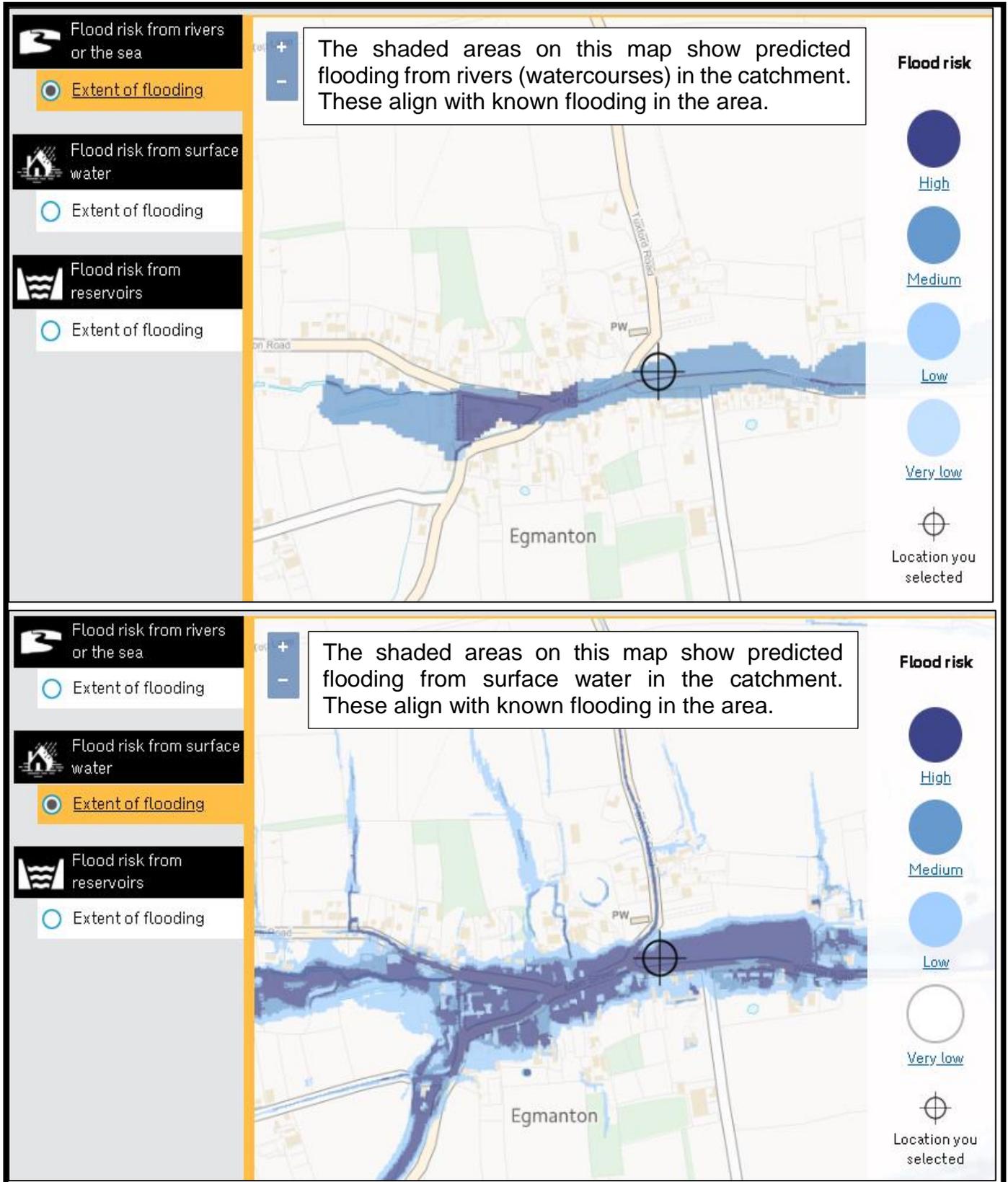


## Summary of flooding and its causes

7. Egmanton is a rural village that sits in a natural valley surrounded by agricultural land. During periods of heavy or prolonged rain the surface water assets, a network of watercourses and highway gullies are overwhelmed resulting in flooding to properties roads and curtilages. Figure 4 below shows the natural valley that Egmanton sits within and how water flows through the village. Figure 5 shows the risk of flooding in the area from rivers and surface water as evidenced on the Environment Agency's flood risk mapping system.



**Figure 4. Egmanton catchment and surface water flowpaths**



**Figure 5. Egmonton flood risk maps**

Both Figures 4 and 5 evidence the natural risk of flooding in the catchment. The maps in Figure 5 show the predicted flooding of the area from Rivers and the Sea (in this instance read Rivers as watercourses) and from surface water. This information supports our understanding of natural flood risk in the area.

## **Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities**

### 8. Nottinghamshire County Council

#### a) Lead Local Flood Authority

- i. Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations.
- ii. Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event.
- iii. Lead Local Flood Authorities also have a duty to determine which risk management authorities have relevant powers to investigate flood incidents to help understand how they happened, and whether those authorities have or intend to exercise their powers.
- iv. By working in partnership with communities, Lead Local Flood Authorities can raise awareness of flood risks.
- v. Lead Local Flood Authorities should encourage local communities to participate in local flood risk management.

#### b) Emergency Planning

- i. If a flood happens, all local authorities are 'category one responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

#### c) Highway Authority (Nottinghamshire County Council / Via East Midlands Ltd.)

- i. Maintenance of the public highways including highway drainage assets.
- ii. Provided site-based presence and investigations immediately following the event.

### 9. Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board

- a) Internal Drainage Boards operate in the low-lying fen and valley areas, maintaining pumping stations and drainage channels to ensure that people are safe and the risk of flooding is greatly reduced.

### 10. Newark and Sherwood District Council

- a) Category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

## **Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood**

### 11. The following lists the actions taken by each Risk Management Authority in response to the flooding both in the immediate aftermath as well as in the longer term:

- a) Nottinghamshire County Council

- i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures including the delivery of sandbags for affected properties.
  - ii. Administered their Flooding Hardship Grant.
  - iii. Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation.
  
- b) Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
  - i. Attended site during event and assisted in coordination of emergency response.
  - ii. Actively engaged in Section 19 report.
  
- c) Newark and Sherwood District Council
  - i. Provided emergency response support in management of flooding event.
  - ii. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.

**Additional information and future actions.**

- 12. The Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board will complete their flood alleviation scheme in summer 2020 with a scheduled start on site of May. This will help reduce the risk of flooding in the area. It must be noted however that Egamanton's geography will always pose a level of risk of flooding to the community.
  
- 13. The community spirit and resilience during the flooding must be recognised as without their efforts the impacts of the flooding could have been worse.
  
- 14. All the Risk Management Authorities involved in this event are committed to continuing the investigations into the causes of this incident. Those investigations may identify further actions not listed below.
  
- 15. The Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board to complete the delivery of their Flood Alleviation Scheme. NCC Flood Risk Management Team to liaise with the community and offer further support and advice on management of flood risk, including the importance of watercourse maintenance in the catchment.
  
- 16. Where appropriate Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency administer a Flood Warden scheme, including supporting the provision of local sandbag stores, and a Community Flood Signage Scheme in communities at risk of potential flooding. All equipment and training is provided for free should there be sufficient volunteer interest in the community. Further information on these services are available on Nottinghamshire County Council's website.
  
- 17. As the Lead Local Flood Authority we have witnessed and have experience of how flooding devastates communities. The most vulnerable in the community will be our priority. NCC will continue to work closely with partners and communities to identify ways of proactively reducing the risk, likelihood and consequences of future flooding events.