PUBLIC HEARING - STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE NSW RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY ACT 2022

About Warren

The Warren Shire covers an area of 10,860 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 3,000 people. It is contained within the Orana Region of NSW and is bound by the Shires of Bogan, Brewarrina, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Lachlan, Narromine and Walgett. Within the Shire is the town of Warren on the Macquarie River, population 2,000 and the villages of Collie, population 38 and Nevertire, population 103.

Warren is situated on the Oxley Highway and is 19km off the Mitchell Highway. The town of Warren is on the Macquarie River and the Shire is watered by numerous creek systems. The Shire is situated predominantly on black soil plains with sandy country located generally to the north- east of the Local Government Area.

The Council services an extensive road network with 357 kilometres of regional roads, 936km of rural roads and 31km of urban roads.

The Council operates water supplies for the town of Warren which has both bore and river water reticulation. The villages of Nevertire and Collie are both serviced by bore water reticulation.

A sewerage system operates for both Warren and Nevertire. Warren's and Nevertire's sewage are oxidation pond treatment systems.

The Council is responsible for an extensive network of parks, gardens and facilities including two high quality sporting fields together with the maintenance of the streets and approaches to Warren and the upkeep of the Showground/Racecourse complex.

The Council is responsible for a 17km levee system around the town of Warren to protect the township from flooding.

Natural Disasters in Warren

Flooding

Warren Town is crossed by Macquarie River and Gunningbar Creek.

Flood behaviour is also influenced by Ewenmar Creek which runs east of the town.

The town is often affected by flooding due to excessive rainfall, and due to releases from the Burrendong Dam.

Between 2021 and 2022, the town was declared for flooding disaster in five events - AGRN 960, 987, 1025, 1030 and 1034.

A flood levee protecting the town from flooding was reconstructed between 1996 and 2001.

The flood of record occurred in 1955 at level at the town gauge of 10.008m, and the Flood Frequency Analysis undertaken by NSW Water Resources in 1992 indicated that this was a 1:90-year event. This flood occurred before Burrendong Dam was constructed.

The Macquarie River (Narromine to Oxley Station) Floodplain Management Plan 2008 indicates this is a 0.5% (1:200-year event).

The highest flood on record post Burrendong occurred in 2022 at 9.774m

Estimation of Possible Flood Damages at Warren 1994 indicates that at a 9.9m flood 679 out of 755 buildings (90%) the town of Warren would be inundated above floor level, if the levee was not protecting the town.

Bushfires

The impacts of bushfires are not as prominent as those from flooding.

NSW Rural Fire Service responds to any events.

Council provides plant and equipment and sometimes, operators for the plant.

Storm in Nevertire

The village regularly experiences devastating storm events. The events result in severe damage of property. Severe storms were recorded in 1900s, 1960s and 2020. The latter blew off roofs and decimated a church building and severely damaged the local community hall.

NSW State Emergency Services collaborates with Council in emergency response in such events.