Section of normally dry Finke track on Saturday. Picture: SUPPLIED

Matt Garrick

THE recent heavy rains and flash floods have shone light on the need for better drainage in Alice Springs, says a town councillor.

Former deputy mayor Liz Martin has called for a more “holistic” approach to handling floodwaters in the town.

Cr Martin is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Road Transport Hall of Fame, which was inundated with water during the torrential downpour.

“The ongoing headache of the drains in town absolutely needs to be addressed,” Cr Martin said.

“We really do have to look at drainage everywhere.” She said the issue had to be “taken back to square one, so we can start from the beginning”.

“Be patient while we are doing the clean-up as we can’t attend to all normal services”. GREG BUXTON

PETER CHANDLER

“The town has just sort of grown around the existing natural waterways and drains, and we really need to be a bit more holistic about how we do something.”

She said the NT Government should take the lead in funding better flood management measures.

“I believe it is a government responsibility,” Cr Martin said.

“It should be something that is done collaboratively between council and government.”

Fellow councillor Chansey Paech recently told the Centralian Advocate that council were writing a letter to the chief minister outlining their hopes for how the proceeds from the recent TIO sale should be spent, with funding for better flood mitigation would be top of this list.

NT minister for emergency services and acting chief minister Peter Chandler said given the events of last week, “the government will consider if further works are needed to mitigate flooding in Alice Springs”.

Mr Chandler will be visiting Alice Springs on Monday, where it is expected he will assess water damaged areas and meet with emergency service workers who assisted during the rains.

Dinosaur turns into storm hero

A 1957 fire truck known as Delores the Dinosaur Dodge helped save the National Road Transport Hall of Fame from more significant water damage last weekend.

The hall of fame is an iconic attraction which houses about 300 vehicles.

Up to 10,000 people are expected to attend the site’s 20th anniversary in August.

Chief executive Liz Martin said volunteers were on high alert for four nights when rain threatened to inundate the main shed.

“We didn’t go to bed, we had half-hour checks all night,” she said.

Dolores was key in preventing disaster.

“She’s fitted out with all the new modern equipment, pumps and all, so we use her for our bushfire brigade,” Ms Martin said.

A dam at the top of higher ground above the shed often flows over with heavy rain, running down towards the shed housing relics of Australia’s vehicle history.

“We’ve learnt over 25 years,” Ms Martin said.

“Everything is on besser blocks (inside the shed), because we’ve been flooded and flooded and flooded.”

Pumping 20,000 litres out of the dam to change the direction of the water helped to save the valuable contents from serious damage.

Everything was saved except “a bit of a paperwork and a couple of boxes of stubble coolers.”

Transport Hall of Fame volunteer Anne Dunford was instrumental in saving their library from floodwaters last week.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

Household chemicals that do not go into your wheelie bin are to be disposed of at the Hazardous Compound at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

When: the first Saturday of each month or every Friday starting in the first week of February.

Where: Hazardous Compound off the Regional Waste Management Facility, Commonage Road.

DO NOT dispose of chemicals, oils or paints at the Transfer Station.

Time: 10am till 2pm.

Commercial or industrial chemicals or large quantities of chemicals are not accepted at the Regional Waste Management Facility. For further information and conditions visit the Alice Springs Town Council webpage at www.aliasesprings.asc.nt.gov.au

Joe Mussey
Chief Executive Officer
“An oasis in the Alice”

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