

Ocean outlets among options to ease floods

By DIANE GIDDINS

Dredging of Marshalls Creek, reopening ocean outlets and modifying the Kallaroo Circuit bund have been proposed as a solution to flooding in the north of Byron Shire.

If all these options were implemented simultaneously, it would eliminate flooding from Ocean Shores South, South Golden Beach and most of New Brighton, according to the Marshalls Creek Floodplain Management Committee.

Forty-eight options were put through a computer model by Byron Shire Council's engineering consultants Webb McKeown and Associates.

The options were evaluated for cost-effectiveness, community acceptance, environmental impact, and internal and external impact.

After a day-long evaluation of the results on September 1, the committee was sure the solution to flooding of the floodplain was in hand, a

committee spokesman said.

Because the study revealed significant benefits to canegrowers to the north and residents to the south of the bund, the committee had the Canegrowers Union's endorsement to continue studying re-opening the ocean outlets and dredging Marshalls Creek, the spokesman said.

Public discussion on the proposals should be held as soon as possible, the spokesman said.

The committee, appointed by Byron Shire Council, has met regularly during the past year to discuss and prepare a floodplain management plan.

● Byron shire voters on Saturday will be asked to vote on dredging the watercourses.

A poll, in conjunction with the council election, will be held on whether dredging should be carried out of the Brunswick River and its tributaries, Marshalls and Simpsons creeks.