PREPARING FOR FUTURE WEATHER EVENTS WITH BUOYANT BARRIERS

In this day and age of unpredictable weather events, effective risk reduction leverages from hazard isolation, preparation, and, where possible, integrating self-operating solutions.

Many councils are looking to implement smart solutions that integrate into existing properties, proactively protecting people and property without any human intervention.

Much of New South Wales and Victoria have recently experienced water ingress from a variety of sources, including rain events, rising river levels, stormwater backflow, flash flooding and hail storms.

As all levels of government learn more about this age of unpredictable weather they find themselves in, it has become clear that permanent, flood mitigation measures assist in saving lives and assets.

BUOYANT FLOOD BARRIERS

AWMA Water Control Solutions' latest range of modern, Australian-made flood barriers have been designed to be buoyant.

This allows them to self-deploy and protect critical infrastructure from groundwater ingress 24/7, without the need for human intervention.

The barriers can be integrated into a Building Management System (BMS) to identify when potential flooding is occurring, triggering an alarm system and alerting users when the water has activated and then deactivated the barrier.

The implementation of a Flood Mitigation Response Plan often follows a weather event, when local flood risks have been identified and the unique dangers to the community are witnessed first-hand.

Flood mitigation plans often mention the immediate protection of critical infrastructure – aiming to ensure public spaces such as medical facilities, power sources and shopping centres can remain operational during, or immediately following, weather events and power outages.

Allowing facilities to reopen as soon as accessible, with minimal downtime or damage, is vital for community safety.

CASE STUDY: SET AND FORGET FLOOD PROTECTION

Melbourne's Karingal Hub Shopping Centre recently identified the lowest level of its multi-level basement car park as prone to water inundation.

AWMA's FloodFree Passive Tilting Flood Barriers were selected to be retrofitted into existing entrances.

The tilting barriers are easily retrofitted as they require minimal depth to be concealed within entrances or driveways, and are low maintenance.

The passive titling flood barriers are buoyant and self-operating – designed to automatically deploy once water goes into the barrier drain, causing the barrier to rise and isolate flood waters.

The passive tilting flood barrier (pictured), is 2700mm wide x 500mm high and situated in an area of high foot traffic.

It has been custom designed to include features such as non-slip surface coatings.

Other barriers on-site include a 6340mm wide x 500mm high passive tilting flood barrier which protects the escalator lobby.

Karingal Hub management have since ordered additional barriers for other areas of the precinct.

All AWMA's FloodFree barriers are tailor-made to suit site and operational requirements including manual and automated options.

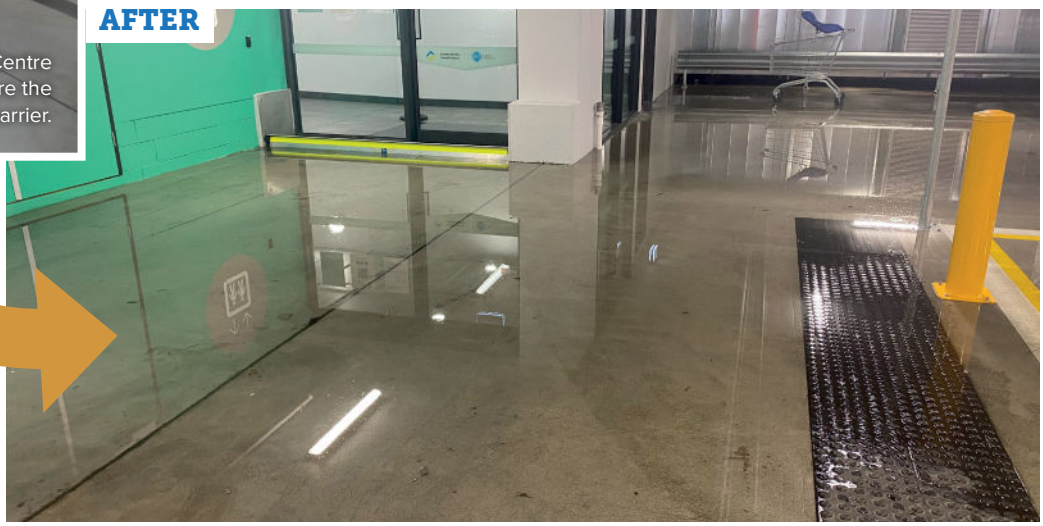
Product extras include alarm systems, colours and surface finishes, allowing the barriers to integrate seamlessly into surrounding infrastructure and aesthetics.

For more information, please visit **www.awmawatercontrol.com.au.**

BEFORE

The Karingal Hub Shopping Centre basement car park before the flooding triggered the barrier.

AFTER



The Passive Tilting Flood Barriers deployed when flood waters entered the The Karingal Hub Shopping Centre.